

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2025 **Grace Church Caversham (registered charity number: 1158041)**

Governing Document

Grace Church Caversham was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in July 2014 and is governed by a constitution as of that date. The CIO is the successor charity to the Charity of Ann Burchett (charity registration number 233776).

Vision and Objects

As a church our vision is:

To see Jesus glorified in everything we do:

- In preaching the gospel and seeing lives transformed by God's Word and Spirit
- In serving the community and reaching out to all including the poor and marginalised
- In actively encouraging and promoting mission throughout the world to extend God's Kingdom.

This vision aligns with the objects of the CIO, which are set out in the constitution:

- i) To advance the Christian faith, in accordance with the church's Statement of Beliefs, in the local community and elsewhere; and to
- ii) To relieve persons who are in conditions of need or hardship or who are aged or sick and to relieve the distress caused thereby in the local community and elsewhere.

Through the activities of the church as described below, the trustees consider that the church has provided a public benefit to the local community and beyond, and with respect to this the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance, and particularly the specific guidance given to charities on the advancement of religion.

Overview of Activities

A congregation has been meeting at Grace Church Caversham (formerly known as Caversham Hill Chapel) since the 1820s. Grace Church Caversham has a congregation of around 80 people, and the key activities of the church, all of which are of public benefit are:

- Weekly Sunday morning worship and teaching services open catering for all sections of the local community.
- Church groups that focus on meeting the needs of different sections of the public within the local community (e.g. Pop-In Café, Toddlers group, Wellbeing Café) continue on a weekly basis.
- Youth clubs run during term time for young people of primary and secondary school age from the local community.
- Provision of ongoing pastoral care and practical help for members of the church and more widely within the local community (e.g. support from a pastoral team and others) focussing particularly on those who are isolated and providing practical support as necessary.
- Support for the work of various ministries and other charities whose objects are aligned with those of Grace Church Caversham and who are serving the public generally or sections of the public within the localities where they are based.

During the year the pastor and the youth worker, both full-time employees, left Grace Church Caversham. The church administrator remains employed part-time. The church is currently seeking a replacement pastor. Together the employees, the other elders and other members of the congregation have all continued to contribute to the various activities described above.

Church Partnerships

Grace Church Caversham continues to be a member of the Evangelical Alliance and is part of the Commission network of churches, part of Newfrontiers. Grace Church Caversham also participates in the Reading Churches Network (Transform Reading) and supports the local work of Churches Together in Caversham.

GRACE CHURCH CAVERSHAM

Financial Review

The underlying level of donations to the church has remained relatively consistent from the previous year with the majority of the church's income being donations from members of the congregation. The largest areas of church expenditure continue to be staff salaries, building repair and maintenance costs and grants to mission partners.

The CIO aims to maintain £25,000 in General Reserves to meet any unexpected expenditure or to offset any irregularities in regular income. This represents approximately three months of normal church total expenditure.

Trustees

The trustees of Grace Church Caversham during the period were:

Mr. D. Steed (Elder, Chair) – resigned July 2024

Mr. K. Saynor (Elder) – resigned April 2024

Mr. N. King (Elder)

Mr. N. Barnett

Mrs. M. Clarke – resigned April 2024

Mrs. C. Lamsdale – appointed July 2024

Mr. J. Crozier (Treasurer)

According to the constitution, new trustees are appointed by the existing charity trustees.

Governance

Pastoral and spiritual leadership for the church is provided by the elders who meet on a regular basis to discuss the direction of the church and other matters arising. The trustees provide oversight of the operation of the church and for all legal and financial matters. The trustees meet regularly throughout the year to review operations of the church and its financial position. During the year the trustees continued to review and update the policies and procedures put in place to govern the activities of the church. The church's risk assessment is included in the above reviews and any findings are addressed on an ongoing basis.

Address

Grace Church Caversham
119 Peppard Road
Emmer Green
Reading
RG4 8TR

Bankers

Barclays Bank
90-93 Broad Street
Reading
RG1 2AP

Independent Examiner

Mr. R. Smyth
4 Chatsworth Close
Caversham Park Village
RG4 6RS

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Mr. N. King (Trustee)
14th December 2025

GRACE CHURCH CAVERSHAM

(registered charity number 1158041)

Financial Accounts

**Year ended
31 March 2025**

Receipts and Payments Account
For the financial year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total FY25 £	Total FY24 £
Receipts						
Donations and tax refunds	2	81,268	-	6,983	88,252	114,915
Investment income	3	16,813	5,700	-	22,513	18,998
Grants		-	-	1,332	1,332	870
		<u>98,081</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>8,315</u>	<u>112,097</u>	<u>134,783</u>
Income from sales of assets		-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts		<u>98,081</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>8,315</u>	<u>112,097</u>	<u>134,783</u>
Payments						
Reaching the Community		2,430	-	4,157	6,587	4,676
Church costs		10,674	-	-	10,674	9,771
Mission grants	4	7,218	-	-	7,218	9,677
Staff costs	5	43,965	-	-	43,965	82,712
Facilities		11,956	13,597	-	25,552	49,762
		<u>76,243</u>	<u>13,597</u>	<u>4,157</u>	<u>93,997</u>	<u>156,598</u>
Asset purchases		-	-	-	-	-
Paying down liabilities		-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments		<u>76,243</u>	<u>13,597</u>	<u>4,157</u>	<u>93,997</u>	<u>156,598</u>
Net Receipts		<u>21,838</u>	<u>(7,897)</u>	<u>4,158</u>	<u>18,099</u>	<u>(21,815)</u>
Transfers between funds		<u>(11,500)</u>	<u>11,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>10,338</u>	<u>3,603</u>	<u>4,158</u>	<u>18,099</u>	<u>(21,815)</u>
Total cash funds b/f (at 1 April 2024)		<u>12,009</u>	<u>21,409</u>	<u>5,184</u>	<u>38,601</u>	<u>60,415</u>
Total cash funds c/f (at 31 March 2025)		<u>22,347</u>	<u>25,012</u>	<u>9,342</u>	<u>56,701</u>	<u>38,601</u>

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by John Crozier (Treasurer)
Date: 24th October 2025



**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31 March 2025**

Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total FY25 £	Total FY24 £
Cash funds					
Bank and cash	9,646	25,012	8,592	43,250	34,239
Investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	12,970	-	750	13,720	4,374
Total cash funds	<u>22,616</u>	<u>25,012</u>	<u>9,342</u>	<u>56,970</u>	<u>38,613</u>
Assets retained for the charity's own use					
Land and buildings	-	310,000	800,000	1,110,000	1,110,000
Computers and other equipment	7,908	-	-	7,908	7,908
Total assets retained for the charity's own use	<u>7,908</u>	<u>310,000</u>	<u>800,000</u>	<u>1,117,908</u>	<u>1,117,908</u>
Total assets	<u>30,524</u>	<u>335,012</u>	<u>809,342</u>	<u>1,174,878</u>	<u>1,156,521</u>
Liabilities	(270)	-	-	(270)	(12)
Total net assets	<u>30,255</u>	<u>335,012</u>	<u>809,342</u>	<u>1,174,609</u>	<u>1,156,509</u>

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by John Crozier (Treasurer)
Date: 24th October 2025



Notes to the Accounts
For the financial year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting Policies

a) Basis of Preparation

The accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Charities SORP.

b) Donations, legacies and other income

Donations, legacies and other income is accounted for when received. Tax reclaims on donations are accounted for in the same period as the donations to which they relate.

c) Grants

Grace Church Caversham makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for in the period in which they are paid.

d) Assets

The church buildings are valued at their insurance value. The church manse at Fraser Avenue, Caversham, is valued as at its transfer value. Quoted investments are stated at market value.

2 Donations and tax refunds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total FY25	Total FY24
Donations	68,298	-	6,233	74,531	97,115
Tax refunds	12,970	-	750	13,720	17,800
Total	81,268	-	6,983	88,252	114,915

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total FY25	Total FY24
Bank interest	13	-	-	13	45
Income from other investments	-	-	-	-	353
Rental income	16,800	5,700	-	22,500	18,600
Total	16,813	5,700	-	22,513	18,998

4 Mission grants paid in furtherance of the charity's objects

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total FY25	Total FY24
Operation Mobilisation	6,080	-	-	6,080	6,000
Churches Together in Caversham	933	-	-	933	926
Newfrontiers/Catalyst/Commission	-	-	-	-	500
Naomi House	-	-	-	-	891
Aggregated other grants less than £1,000	205	-	-	205	1,360
Total	7,218	-	-	7,218	9,677

5 Staff costs and trustee expenses

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total FY25	Total FY24
Salaries	40,581	-	-	40,581	74,121
Social security costs	-	-	-	-	1,826
Pension costs	3,385	-	-	3,385	6,765
Total	<u>43,965</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,965</u>	<u>82,712</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 2 (FY24: 3 employees). No employee received emoluments in excess of £50,000 during the year (FY24: none). No sums were reimbursed to the trustees for their work as trustees (FY24: none).

6 Restricted Funds

The Contributions fund is used to track contributions towards church activities participated in by the contributees (e.g. church trips and events).

The Reaching the Community fund is used to track donations specified for the support of work in the community in the UK and overseas.

The Building fund is used to track donations specified for improvements to the church buildings.

The Care fund is used to track donations specified for the support of those in need.

Fund	Contributions Fund	Reaching the Community Fund	Building Fund	Care Fund	Total
Balance as at 1st April 2024	840	1,095	-	3,248	5,184
Incoming resources	2,783	1,472	1,250	2,810	8,315
Resources expended	(2,396)	(961)	-	(800)	(4,157)
Balance as at 31st March 2025	<u>1,227</u>	<u>1,607</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>5,258</u>	<u>9,342</u>

The balance of these funds is all held in Bank and cash.

The Church Buildings fund is used to account for the main church buildings.

Fund	Church Buildings Fund
Balance as at 1st April 2024	800,000
Incoming resources	-
Resources expended	-
Balance as at 31st March 2025	<u>800,000</u>

The balance of this fund represents the value of the main church land and buildings.

7 Designated Funds

The General Reserve fund represents the reserves for the church for large or unexpected future expenditure items and the trustees are satisfied that a balance representing approximately three months expenditure is sufficient to be able to respond to unexpected changes in incoming resources and expenditure. The Property Fund represents income and expenditure related to the church manses.

Fund	General Reserves	Property Fund	Total
Balance as at 1st April 2024	25,000	306,409	331,409
Incoming resources	0	17,200	17,200
Resources expended	0	(13,597)	(13,597)
Balance as at 31st March 2025	<u>25,000</u>	<u>310,012</u>	<u>335,012</u>
Represented by:			
Bank and cash	25,000	12	25,012
Investment assets	-	-	-
Land and Buildings	-	310,000	310,000
Liabilities	-	-	-
Balance as at 31st March 2025	<u>25,000</u>	<u>310,012</u>	<u>335,012</u>

8 Related Charities

As the successor charity to the Charity of Ann Burchett (charity registration number 233776), during FY16 the ongoing assets of the Charity of Ann Burchett were transferred to the CIO as per resolutions of the trustees. During FY16 the main church premises were held in trust by the FIEC as holding trustee. The church premises were transferred into the ownership of the CIO during FY17 and are reflected in the accounts as such.

Grace Church Caversham is in association with the Catalyst Network of Churches, Newfrontiers International, and is a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

9 Guarantees and Debts

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at 31st March 2025, Grace Church Caversham did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties or any debts secured on assets of the CIO.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Grace Church Caversham

I report on the accounts of Grace Church Caversham for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

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) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011have 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:



Date:

24th November 2025

Name:

Roy Smyth

Address:

4 Chatsworth Close, Caversham Park Village, RG4 6RS