

## GRACE CHURCH WHITEHAVEN

### CHARITY INFORMATION Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Charity Number	1164923
Principal office	Grace Church Whitehaven 14 West Row Whitehaven Cumbria CA28 9AU
Trustees	Mr Chris Moss Mr Allen Rossi Miss Kim McKenzie (14 September 2023) Miss Caroline Lowman (14 September 2023)
Eldership team	Mr Allen Rossi
Bankers	National Westminster 71 Lowther Street Whitehaven CA28 7AH
Solicitor	Ms Katie Douglas Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP 134 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2ES
Independent Examiner	Steven Kirkbride Armstrong Watson LLP Carleton House 136 Gray Street Workington Cumbria CA14 2LU

## GRACE CHURCH WHITEHAVEN

### TRUSTEE REPORT Year Ended 31 December 2023

**Structure, governance and management.** The charity is governed by a constitution dated 23 November 2015.

1. New trustees are recruited from within the Eldership/Spiritual leadership team who are members of the congregation. The aim of there being at least three trustees.
2. The trustees met during the year to discuss safeguarding policy, finances, rented venues and employee issues. Day-to-day organisation of the church's activities, spiritual leadership, care and vision is the responsibility of the church leaders.
3. Whilst autonomous, the church is part of the Christ Central sphere of the New Frontiers group of churches and is actively involved with member churches throughout Cumbria, the UK and internationally with interaction being voluntary. However, the charity makes use of the assistance available from such a group particularly when dealing with challenging issues. The church attends many events throughout the year.
4. Part of the trustees' responsibilities is the review of risk factors and the Safeguarding is constantly under review with training provided for children and youth workers. Miss Karen Messenger and Sarah Rossi are our safeguarding officers who regularly reviews all operational risks, policies and procedures. Sarah Rossi is also appointed as deputy Safeguarding Officer.
5. The trustees are to work on annual appraisals for all fulltime staff. Alongside annual reviews of salary and expenses. This year, we updated expense allowances, employee contracts and a wage review and rise for our full time elder.

#### Objectives and activities

The primary object is the advancement of the Christian faith for the public benefit.

To achieve this aim the charity has carried out the following main activities.

1. The meeting of church members for regular worship, teaching, outreach and prayer. This is undertaken weekly at Mayfield school, member's homes and various community venues.
2. Pastoral support throughout the church and the locality as required or requested.
3. Attending major Christ central events elsewhere in the country.
4. Working with and establishing new church plants in the county, UK and other nations.
5. Operating various small groups and outreach during the week.
6. Supporting Churches Together in the Whitehaven Area.
7. Supporting and working with a local youth residential centre for the ages of 16-25 who have been in care and homeless.
8. Developing contacts with Christians in the local area, county and other nations, particularly into Mexico and Germany.

A considerable amount of work is carried out by volunteers who support the Vision and Values of the church and desire to achieve the primary object which is gratefully acknowledged by the trustees.

**Achievements:**

The trustees and elder/leadership team are satisfied that the objectives are being achieved and happy with the progress that the Church has made during this year.

The church has maintained a majority of our members, with new people joining throughout the year and becoming part of the church. Normally, throughout the year, the church and individual members support Christian outreach and social action projects that we organise and run. This year, we have managed to continue connections with the following:

1. We have continued our parent and toddler group and have over 70 parents on the books. We are now using a new premises which is another local church building just outside of the town. We invited these parents to our Christmas carol service, where many attended.
2. We have strengthened the leadership of the church with a leadership team working with the elder and a wider leadership team who lead departments in the church, with oversight from the elder and leadership team.
3. We continue to build leadership on a Sunday with a welcome team, leading of meetings and preaching team.
4. We continued 6 small groups and continue to release and develop over 25 small group leaders. Training nights have been organised to do this and this continues throughout the year.
5. We continue to develop and release people in the church to serve on Sundays and within the community of the church and wider community.
6. We planned a weekend away in the future with a plan to gather and build the relationships of the church community.
7. We took a break this year with the community hampers but instead, invested into our little monkeys group and invited them to our Christmas celebrations.
8. In 2023, we have continued to commit extra support for other Churches outside of Grace Church Whitehaven through Allen Rossi who works at supporting and helping churches in Cumbria, Lancashire and Mexico. This includes eldership training, leadership support and input to churches.
9. We were also able to give to wider work in our movement of churches, to help support churches, projects and charities.

**Financial Review**

1. In 2023 we are working well with our finances. We were able to set up more online giving opportunities through our website.
2. We were pleased that a number of members added to the list of monthly standing order donations, even though we did lose some giving from some people leaving the church, which happens at certain points in the of the church. The detailed figures are set out in the pages that follow this report.
3. The trustees are satisfied with the current finances of the church and are satisfied with the current reserves that are held in the bank.
4. The Church plans to continue Sunday meetings at Mayfield School. The same will apply to other meetings of small groups, youth and outreach work.
5. We continue to provide management accounts which aid decision making and expense monitoring. In 2023, we employed Jenny Moss who continues the book-keeper role, to help sharpen our expense monitoring, finances and yearly bookkeeping. This has proved to be an excellent decision and we are now operating finances and budget through QuickBooks.
6. Reserves are in the trustees' opinion at a good/healthy level. No Investments are held and surplus cash funds are retained pending investment decisions.
7. We will continue in the future to hold gift days towards certain projects and church work.

8. The trustees wish to place on record their thanks to the employees and Eldership team for their work on behalf of the trust.

Approved by the board of trustees and signed on behalf of the trustees.

X 

12/03/2025

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Allen Rossi

Allen Rossi (Trustee)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 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 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 respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



Steven Kirkbride BFP ACA ATT MAAT  
Armstrong Watson LLP  
Carleton House  
136 Gray Street  
Workington  
Cumbria  
CA14 2LU

12 March 2025

GRACE CHURCH WHITEHAVEN  
CHARITY NO. 1164923  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Income		
Donations and legacies	60,356	44,371
George Street Room Hire	-	-
HMRC Gift Aid	2,398	8,641
Little Monkeys Subs	1,057	1,388
Services	9,938	17,095
Total Income	<u>73,749</u>	<u>71,495</u>
Total	<u>73,749</u>	<u>71,495</u>
Expenditures		
Departments	2,348	2,183
Family Fund Gifts	-	-
Insurances	311	308
Marketing	-	-
Office/General Administrative Expenses	1,467	866
Outreach Departments	10,629	4,872
Professional Services	2,629	2,530
Purchases	-	-
Rent or Lease of Buildings	7,578	9,298
Travel and Accommodation	3,842	2,918
Wages & Salaries	62,979	32,946
Office equipment additions	-	-
Total Expenditures	<u>91,783</u>	<u>55,921</u>
Net Operating Income	<u>- 18,034</u>	<u>15,575</u>
NET other income/expenditure	<u>- 300</u>	<u>177</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)	<u>- 18,334</u>	<u>15,752</u>
Bank Balances 01/01/23	63,516	47,764
Net income/expenditure	- 18,334	15,752
Petty cash movement	-	-
Bank Balances 31/12/23	<u><u>45,182</u></u>	<u><u>63,516</u></u>

GRACE CHURCH WHITEHAVEN  
 CHARITY NO. 1164923  
 STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
 YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Cash funds</b>		
Bank current account	45,182	63,516
<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		
Equipment	16,530	16,080

