



## Trustees' annual report (including Directors' report) for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1	January	2020		31	December	2020

**Charity name** The Group-based Open Learning Discipleship Project

**Registered charity number  
(if any)** 1166567

## Objectives and activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

The objects of the CIO are:

- (1) the advancement of the Christian religion both in the United Kingdom and in other parts of the world by:
  - (a) the provision of interactive self-study courses and programmes to be undertaken at home but supplemented and supported by a tutor and interactive group discussions designed to increase understanding of the Bible, Christian doctrine and related subjects and thereby better equip students for discipleship, ministry (whether ordained or lay) and mission in various Christian denominations;
  - (b) such other exclusively charitable means as the trustees may from time to time determine.
- (2) the advancement of education by assisting in the training of men and women in their understanding of the Christian religion to equip them better for discipleship, ministry (whether ordained or lay) and mission in various Christian denominations.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.

In order to help Christians grow and apply their faith at home, in the church and society, the GOLD project:

- a) provides interactive learning resources to enable systematic study of the Bible and other theological subjects;
- b) appoints and trains tutors to organise and run local study groups;
- c) runs regional study days for the benefit of students, tutors and other Christians;
- d) publicises its activities and runs promotional events in local churches.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

The GOLD Project is established for the benefit of the public in the areas of education and the advancement of the Christian religion. In setting up the charity, the trustees consulted with the Charity Commission in both of these areas. The Charity seeks to follow best educational practice and is open to work with various Christian denominations.

## Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policy on grant making

Policy on social investment including program related investment

Contribution made by volunteers

Other

As reported in previous years, the charity maintains a policy on grantmaking to ensure transparency and openness in assigning bursaries from the restricted fund (the Monica Fund) set up for this purpose (December 2015). This policy was reviewed and revised by the Trustees in September 2019.

The Trustees continue to invest a significant amount of the GOLD Project assets (c£47,860) in an Ethical Investment Fund. In 2019, the Trustees have also decided to pursue a policy to ensure that paper and resources used in course materials take into consideration their environmental impact. The graphic design of new courses has deliberately sought to consider issues faced by learners with dyslexia and dyspraxia.

Each learning group is tutored by voluntary tutors who are appointed based on their theological qualifications and their experience. For each new tutor references are sought. Training is given to Tutors on a regular basis.

The Director of the GOLD Project gives 2 ½ days per week as a volunteer.

## Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

The GOLD Project's main activity in 2020 has been to continue to support the learning of our Study Groups by providing materials and supporting the voluntary tutors who run the groups. From March 2020, we faced significant challenges as our face-to-face learning groups were not able to continue owing to the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown. The immediate effect was that all but four of our study groups suspended their studies until they were able to find alternative, online ways of meeting. We were able to conduct two meetings on Zoom for our GOLD Leaders to encourage them to run their groups online. By September the number of groups meeting online had risen to seven with the hope of more groups running in the coming year.

In the course of the year, we have been following up with various opportunities to connect with Dioceses, theological colleges and churches to make our courses more widely known. We have three significant contacts with chaplains in different prisons that we hope to follow up in the coming year depending on restrictions with the pandemic. We have also begun running Taster Sessions online for those interested in studying our courses.

Coronavirus also affected our regular study days and we were forced to cancel the Study Day in June and postpone the Study Day planned for October. This will be rescheduled for next year.

With lockdown, we transferred all our office work and administration so that it was possible to work from home. Subsequently, we moved our office from Stockton House in Fleet, to Bristol with our administrator working remotely from home near Oxford. Owing to generous regular donations, we have been able to employ a part-time course editor to help us make new courses available in partnership with SEAN UK and in line with our strategic plan to offer courses at three levels.

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	<p>Within the constraints of lockdown and restrictions as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, our goals for 2021 will be focused around taking forward the following strategic objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Course design and reformatting – Completion of the redesigning and reformatting the remaining SEAN courses to match the brand template; begin to reformat GOLD's present courses to match the new brand.</li> <li>2. Recruiting and training group leaders – Finalise strategic steps for Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 'GOLD leader' training and begin to implement; Encourage our present GOLD Leaders and trustees to identify potential 'group leaders' in their groups and churches; Working with church leaders, dioceses and others to identify and train potential 'GOLD leaders' especially at Level 1 and Level 2; Identify and develop links with organisations/networks/churches to select and train group leaders.</li> <li>3. Promotion among national and local churches - Harness the potential of our GOLD Leaders and students past and present to promote the courses in their churches; Promote 'Snapshots from the Life of Christ' as a taster course (perhaps for Lent); Make use of newly designed (SEAN) courses create new connections for discipleship at Level 1 and 2.</li> <li>4. Course development and revision – Incorporating new assessment into Discover Christian Living 1 and 2 (and reformatting); Revision (and reformatting) of part two of Prophecy in the Old Testament (New title: Recovering God's Vision 2).</li> </ol>
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	
Investment performance against objectives	
Other	

**Financial review**

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	<p>During the accounting period, the GOLD Project had total receipts of £7,452 (up from £6,464 in 2019). Receipts from course fees and study days were £3,460 (down from £5,516 in 2019). In accordance with the Trustees plan to invest our assets in the development of GOLD Project, the total payments for 2019 were £15,231 (up from £13,904). Of this amount, the Trustees invested £2,865 in specific development activities including graphic design, course formatting and a new website. The Trustees also decided to employ a part-time editor on a one year contract starting in September for a total of £5400 (of which £1,800 has been spent in the current year).</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	<p>On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the Trustees of GOLD Project agreed a policy to hold six months' operating costs as reserves. The budget for 2021 anticipates a total annual operating expenditure of £18922 which means that the reserve for the coming year should be set at £9,461</p>
Amount of reserves held	<p>Unrestricted Cash funds at 31/12/2020 were: £4 ,394</p> <p>Restricted Cash funds (editor's salary + bursary) at 31/12/2020 were: £3,400</p> <p>COIF Ethical Investment fund at 31/12/2019 was valued at: £47,860.26</p>
Reasons for holding zero reserves	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	N/A

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern

As Trustees, the global coronavirus pandemic had a significant impact on our activities in 2020. However, owing to generous donations and changes in our operations we are confident that we can minimise the impact of this in 2021. As it stands, we are confident that we have adequate reserves and assets to ensure that our charity continues to be a going concern. While the Trustees have committed to invest our assets in strategic aspects of developing the GOLD Project, there is presently no concern about the charity as a going concern.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)

The Charity's principal source of ongoing funds are the fees charged to students for studying courses and attendance at Study Days. In addition to small group of donors who give regularly to the work of the charity, we have had significant commitments from individual giving towards the salary of a part-time editor in 2021. We have agreed to partner with SEAN International in the coming year in the graphic design of some of our courses.

Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted

GOLD Project received a significant donation at its inception. A significant part of this has been invested in COIF Ethical Investment fund in keeping with the values of the Charity. The Charity will seek to use its assets in furthering the aims and objectives of the GOLD Project.

A description of the principal risks facing the charity

The principal risks facing the charity are the ability to recruit, train and retain suitable leaders to ensure the consistent quality of the learning experience. Ongoing challenges face the charity in persuading churches and individuals to invest time and money in significant study of the Bible and other Christian disciplines at a time when people face the pressure of time and finances. The GOLD Project seeks to develop significant links with national and local churches to mitigate against these risks.

Other

## Structure, governance and management

### Description of charity's trusts:

Type of governing document:

for example, trust deed, memorandum and articles of association etc

Constitution (Charitable Incorporated Organisation 2016)

How is the charity constituted?

for example limited company, unincorporated association, CIO

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees

Trustees

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

Our membership of Advice for the Voluntary Sector (now renamed Trust Advice) has given us access to Trustee training in significant areas of governance.

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works

GOLD Project seeks to work with various churches but has no formal connection with any particular denomination. In the course of the year, the charity has sought to strengthen and establish links with the Church of England and various dioceses.

Relationship with any related parties

GOLD Project has a formal agreement with SEAN UK to offer their courses at different levels for use by local churches. We have also agreed to partner with SEAN International for the graphic design of some of our courses.

Other

## Reference and administrative details

Charity name	The Group-based Open Learning Discipleship Project
Other name the charity uses	GOLD Project
Registered charity number	1166567
Charity's principal address	10 Moorend Gardens, Lawrence Weston, Bristol BS11 0JL

## Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1.	Rev Dr John Nolland	Chair		Trustees
2.	Mrs Samantha Dorothy Hands			Trustees
3.	Rev Dr George Michael Butterworth		Retired September 2020	Trustees
4.	Dr David Mark Ball	Director/ Secretary		Trustees
5.	Ben Stansfield			Trustees
6.	Rev Christopher Jolyon Trickey			Trustees
7.	Mrs Victoria Kim Adamson			Trustees

## Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name	
N/A	

## Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
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Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects

N/A

Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets

N/A

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Voluntary Sector Advice	Trust Advice CIC (formerly Advice for the Voluntary Sector)	Unit 2, The Broadbridge Business Centre, Delling Lane, Bosham, PO18 8NF

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (optional information)

Dr David Mark Ball (Director)

### Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

### Other optional information

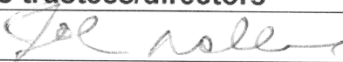
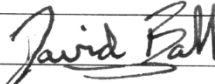
N/A

### Declarations

The company has taken advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the report above.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report (including directors' report) above.

#### Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees/directors

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	John Leslie Nolland	David Mark Ball
Position (for example Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Director
Date	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2021

**The Group-based Open Learning Discipleship (GOLD) Project**  
Charity number 1166567

**Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020**

	2020	2020	2020	2020	2019	2019	2019
	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts:</b>							
Donations	840.00	2,500.00	-	3,340.00	760.01	-	760.01
Gift aid	160.00	475.00	-	635.00	160.00	-	160.00
Course fees	3,460.00	-	-	3,460.00	4,524.82	-	4,524.82
Study day fees	8.00	-	-	8.00	992.00	-	992.00
Bank interest	7.38	-	2.08	9.46	23.92	3.66	27.58
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>4,475.38</b>	<b>2,975.00</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>7,452.46</b>	<b>6,460.75</b>	<b>3.66</b>	<b>6,464.41</b>
<b>Payments:</b>							
Course printing & photocopying	1,966.84	-	-	1,966.84	2,697.77	-	2,697.77
Course fee refunds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tutor support	147.48	-	-	147.48	169.70	-	169.70
Study days	-	-	-	-	909.65	-	909.65
Publicity & marketing	400.79	-	-	400.79	530.69	-	530.69
Office rent	480.00	-	-	480.00	600.00	-	600.00
Other	506.28	-	-	506.28	449.22	-	449.22
Postage, photocopying & stationery	444.29	-	-	444.29	206.20	-	206.20
Royalties	90.00	-	-	90.00	-	-	-
Administration support	5,400.00	1,800.00	-	7,200.00	5,280.00	-	5,280.00
Tax recoverable	225.15	-	-	225.15	-	-	-
Insurance	258.95	-	-	258.95	244.93	-	244.93
Travel & accommodation	86.40	-	-	86.40	188.42	-	188.42
GOLD trustees expense & meeting costs	184.20	-	-	184.20	363.70	-	363.70
Bank charges	66.15	-	-	66.15	60.00	-	60.00
Professional services	180.00	-	-	180.00	-	-	-
Development costs:							
Website, branding and graphic design	250.00	-	-	250.00	905.15	-	905.15
Course formatting	2,614.98	-	-	2,614.98	1,050.00	-	1,050.00
Course writing and development	-	-	-	-	248.49	-	248.49
<b>Payments subtotal:</b>	<b>13,301.51</b>	<b>1,800.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,101.51</b>	<b>13,903.92</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,903.92</b>
Asset purchases: computer equipment	129.00	-	-	129.00	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>13,430.51</b>	<b>1,800.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,230.51</b>	<b>13,903.92</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,903.92</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,955.13</b>	<b>1,175.00</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,443.17</b>	<b>3.66</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>125.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>125.00</b>
Cash funds last year end	13,329.57	-	2,341.82	15,671.39	20,647.74	2,463.16	23,110.90
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>4,394.44</b>	<b>1,175.00</b>	<b>2,323.90</b>	<b>7,893.34</b>	<b>13,329.57</b>	<b>2,341.82</b>	<b>15,671.39</b>

**The Group-based Open Learning Discipleship (GOLD) Project**  
Charity number 1166567

**Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2020**

	2020	2020	2020	2020	2019	2019	2019
	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds:</b>							
Bank account	328.73	1,175.00	-	1,503.73	795.33	-	795.33
Savings account	4,060.28	-	2,323.90	6,384.18	12,532.90	2,341.82	14,874.72
Petty cash	5.43	-	-	5.43	1.34	-	1.34
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>4,394.44</b>	<b>1,175.00</b>	<b>2,323.90</b>	<b>7,893.34</b>	<b>13,329.57</b>	<b>2,341.82</b>	<b>15,671.39</b>
<b>Investment asset:</b>							
COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund	44,439.70	-	3,420.56	47,860.26	40,605.52	3,125.44	43,730.96

The investment was purchased in December 2017 for £35,000; the market value at 31 December 2020 was £47,860.26 (£43,730.96)

**Other assets:** as at 31 December 2020, fixed assets principally comprise computer equipment costing £1,119.71 and office furniture. There are also sundry other assets and liabilities, which are not considered material.

**Notes**

1. The Group-based Open Learning Discipleship (GOLD) Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in England on 15 April 2016.
2. The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.
3. There is no independent examination in respect of 2020 (the fee for the independent examination in respect of the year ended 31 December 2019 was £150 plus VAT, ie £180).
4. The "Monica Fund" was established in memory of Monica Hollingsworth. The Fund exists to provide financial support for students who are in need who would otherwise be unable to enrol in GOLD Project courses, acquire relevant reading materials, attend tutorials or participate in associated events. The funds transfer represents bursaries granted to attend GOLD Project courses.
5. Donations that have been received in order to support specific salaries are also shown as restricted items.

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees on

19/6/2021

*Je nola*

*David Ball*