



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES



Trustees' annual report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1	January	2022		31	December	2022

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	SORP reference	
	Para 1.17	<p>The objects of the CIO are:</p> <p>(1) the advancement of the Christian religion both in the United Kingdom and in other parts of the world by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(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. <p>(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.</p>

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.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>In order to help Christians grow and apply their faith at home, in the church and society, the GOLD project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	Para 1.18	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:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	The charity maintains a policy on grant making 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 updated by the Trustees in September 2022. This policy is due for review in 2025.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	The Trustees continue to invest a significant amount of the GOLD Project assets (c£50,200) 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.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>Each learning group is led by voluntary group leaders who are normally selected by the local church and trained by GOLD Project.</p> <p>Until the end of August 2022, the Director of the GOLD Project has given 2 ½ days per week as a volunteer. From September 2022, the Trustees decided to pay him for certain specific agreed services. In addition to these services, he continues to give a significant amount of time to the GOLD Project in a voluntary capacity.</p>
Other		

Achievements and performance

SORP reference

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.

Para 1.20

The GOLD Project's main activity in 2022 has continued to be the support of learning in our Study Groups by providing materials and supporting the voluntary tutors who run the groups. In 2022 we have seen several groups return to meeting face to face. However, some groups continue to have met on Zoom which has allowed people from various locations to join a study group. We have also seen the revival of some of the work in prisons where students are again able to meet. We have continued to support our GOLD Leaders through ongoing training and meetings.

An ongoing concern since the beginning of lockdown is that GOLD Leaders are struggling to attract new people to their groups. In order to address this and also to promote GOLD Project among churches, the Trustees agreed to appoint a part-time Marketing Officer. The role started in October 2022 and we look forward to an increase in awareness of our work in the coming year and also an increase in student numbers and new groups. We are developing a five year marketing strategy which will start in 2023.

During 2022, we completed the pilot group for our new Level 2 course materials on the Life of Christ. This brings to a conclusion our adaptation of SEAN courses for use within the UK. The part-time editor completed her role in updating and editing these SEAN courses and her role came to an end in July 2022.

In October 2022, we were able to hold our first face-to-face Study Day since the beginning of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Students gathered together at St Mary's Church Welwyn to consider think theologically about technology. We were also able to make the Study Day available via Zoom for those who could not attend in person.

The Trustees continue to work assess the work of the Charity in relation to our Strategic Plan and are considering how best to take forward the marketing of the Charity in the coming year.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	The Trustees have set a Strategic Plan which is reviewed at each meeting against the budget. This Strategic Plan sets out clear goals in terms of Course Design and Formatting, Recruiting and Training GOLD Leaders, Promotion amongst national and local church leaders. Each of these are considered in relation to the budget. In the coming year, we will be focussing on how to increase the reach and recognition of the Charities activities with a view to a significant growth in student numbers over the coming three years. In 2022, we have received more funds than anticipated as the result of a one off grant from a trust that was closing down and also a significant donation from a supporter who has given specifically towards the salary of the new Marketing Officer. Our financial investments have not done as well in the current year as previously.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial review

	SORP reference	
Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	During the accounting period, the GOLD Project had total receipts of £18,090 (down from £18,700 in 2021). Receipts from course fees and study days were £1,835 (down from £4,420 in 2021). In accordance with the Trustees plan to invest our assets in the development of GOLD Project, the total payments for 2022 were £16,960 (down from £18,390 in 2021). Of this amount, the Trustees invested £1,683 in specific development activities in addition to the salaries of an editor and a marketing officer. The Charity continues to have significant assets in its investments.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Trustees of GOLD Project have an agreed a policy to hold six months' operating costs as reserves. With the addition of the salary for a part-time Marketing Officer, the budget for 2023 anticipates a total annual operating expenditure of £34,000 which means that the reserve for the coming year should be set at £17,000.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Unrestricted Cash funds at 31/12/2022 were: £2,142. Restricted Cash funds (Marketing Officer's salary + bursary fund) at 31/12/2022 were: £6,675. COIF Ethical Investment fund at 31/12/2022 was valued at: £50,208.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	As Trustees, the global coronavirus pandemic had a significant impact on our activities in 2020 to 2022. However, owing to generous donations and anticipated income from grants along with increase fee income, we are confident that we can minimise the impact of this in 2023. 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:

	SORP reference	
The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The Charity has three main sources of funds for its operations. First, the fees charged to students for studying courses and attendance at Study Days. Our intention is to grow the income from fees over the coming years by additional students and study groups. Second, we have a small group of donors who give regularly to the work of the charity and a couple of donors who make significant donations, including giving towards the salary of the Marketing Officer from 2022 to 2024. Third, we plan to seek some support from grant-making trusts.

Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	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	Para 1.46	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:

	SORP reference	
Type of governing document: for example, trust deed, memorandum and articles of association etc	Para 1.25	Constitution (Charitable Incorporated Organisation 2016)
How is the charity constituted? for example limited company, unincorporated association, CIO	Para 1.25	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	Para 1.25	Trustees

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Potential Trustees are invited to attend meetings of the Trustees as observers. Once they become Trustees they are given access to the Charity's governing documents, policies and meeting minutes and are encouraged to read information from the Charity Commission such as "The essential trustee".

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

Para 1.51

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 as well as with other Christian organisations.

Relationship with any related parties

Para 1.51

GOLD Project has a formal agreement with SEAN UK to offer their courses at different levels for use by local churches. We also had a project 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.	Dr David Mark Ball	Director/ Secretary		Trustees
4.	Ben Stansfield			Trustees
5.	Rev Christopher Jolyon Trickey			Trustees
6.	Mrs Victoria Kim Adamson		Until 3/5/2022	Trustees
7.	Rev Richard Moy		From 3/5/2022	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

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

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	25th October 2023	

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

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021	2021
	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts:								
Donations	1,120.00	6,100.00	-	7,220.00	6,430.00	5,200.00	-	11,630.00
Grants	6,074.52	-	-	6,074.52	1,162.50	-	-	1,162.50
Gift aid	220.00	1,550.00	-	1,770.00	190.00	1,300.00	-	1,490.00
SEAN International Rebranding Project	1,162.50	-	-	1,162.50	-	-	-	-
Course fees	1,640.99	-	-	1,640.99	3,862.27	-	-	3,862.27
Study day fees	195.00	-	-	195.00	558.00	-	-	558.00
Bank interest	12.00	6.14	9.79	27.93	0.56	-	0.34	0.90
Total receipts	10,425.01	7,656.14	9.79	18,090.94	12,203.33	6,500.00	0.34	18,703.67
Payments:								
Course printing & photocopying	1,737.70	-	-	1,737.70	2,969.07	-	-	2,969.07
Course fee refunds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tutor support	136.87	-	-	136.87	172.20	-	-	172.20
Study days	377.55	-	-	377.55	550.00	-	-	550.00
Publicity & marketing	498.82	-	-	498.82	254.38	-	-	254.38
Other	-	-	-	-	518.28	-	-	518.28
Postage, photocopying & stationery	-	-	-	-	706.92	-	-	706.92
Royalties	123.00	-	-	123.00	141.00	-	-	141.00
Administration support	6,212.90	5,402.80	-	11,615.70	5,400.00	5,400.00	-	10,800.00
Tax recoverable & pension asset increase	-	-	-	-	48.60	-	-	48.60
Insurance	289.58	-	-	289.58	273.85	-	-	273.85
Travel & accommodation	155.25	-	-	155.25	144.90	-	-	144.90
GOLD trustees expense & meeting costs	11.20	-	-	11.20	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	84.50	-	-	84.50	128.84	-	-	128.84
Professional services	1,928.99	-	-	1,928.99	-	-	-	-
Development costs:								
Website, branding and graphic design	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Course formatting	-	-	-	-	1,682.59	-	-	1,682.59
Course writing and development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments subtotal:	11,556.36	5,402.80	-	16,959.16	12,990.63	5,400.00	-	18,390.63
Asset purchases: computer equipment	-	-	-	-	520.99	-	-	520.99
Total payments	11,556.36	5,402.80	-	16,959.16	13,511.62	5,400.00	-	18,911.62
Net of receipts/(payments)	-	1,131.35	2,253.34	9.79	-	1,100.00	0.34	-
Transfers between funds	50.00	-	50.00	-	137.00	-	137.00	-
Cash funds last year end	3,223.15	2,275.00	2,187.24	7,685.39	4,394.44	1,175.00	2,323.90	7,893.34
Cash funds this year end	2,141.80	4,528.34	2,147.03	8,817.17	3,223.15	2,275.00	2,187.24	7,685.39

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

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2022

	2022	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021	2021
	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds:								
Bank account	-	1,808.71	-	1,808.71	25.12	2,275.00	-	2,300.12
Savings account	2,119.40	2,719.63	2,147.03	6,986.06	3,197.84	-	2,187.24	5,385.08
Petty cash	22.40	-	-	22.40	0.19	-	-	0.19
Cash funds this year end	2,141.80	4,528.34	2,147.03	8,817.17	3,223.15	2,275.00	2,187.24	7,685.39
Investment asset:								
COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund	£46,619.23	-	£3,588.32	£50,207.55	51,822.24	-	3,988.80	55,811.04

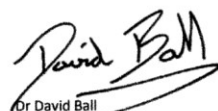
The investment was purchased in December 2017 for £35,000; the market value at 31 December 2022 was £50,207.55 (2021: £55,811.04).

Other assets: as at 31 December 2022, fixed assets principally comprise computer equipment costing £1,641 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. The fee for the independent examination in respect of 2022 will be £240.
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.
6. The Trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantee to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the CIO.

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees on 25th October 2023


Or David Ball


Rev Dr John Nolland

**Independent Examiner's Report to the
Trustees of The Group-based Open Learning Discipleship Project
Charity no. 1166567**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Group-based Open Learning Discipleship Project for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

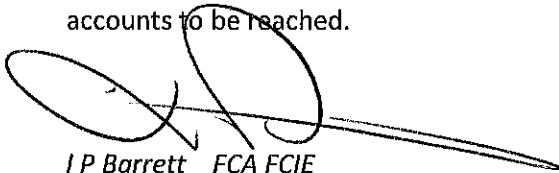
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



I P Barrett FCA FCIE

Barretts

Chartered Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisers

22 Union Street

Newton Abbot

Devon TQ12 2JS

25th October 2023