



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' annual report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1	January	2023		31	December	2023

Charity name The Group-based Open Learning Discipleship Project

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

Objectives and activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	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 programme related investment	Para 1.38	The Trustees continue to invest a significant amount of the GOLD Project assets (c£45,000) in an Ethical Investment Fund. The publishing and delivery of our courses seek to take account of their environmental impact and our printing partner invests 10% of their profits in supporting work amongst the homeless in Oxord. Our courses deliberately seek to consider issues faced by learners with dyslexia and dyspraxia as well as other learners who have traditionally been excluded from Christian and theological studies.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Each learning group is led by voluntary group leaders who are normally selected by the local church and trained by GOLD Project. In addition to the specific services he is paid for by the Charity, the Director of the GOLD Project continues to give up to 2 days per week as a volunteer.
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	<p>The GOLD Project's main activity in 2023 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 several groups have been meeting face to face. However, some groups continue to have met on Zoom which allows people from various locations to join a study group. In 2022, we saw some significant work in one prison where the chaplaincy supported a group of 4 men through one of our courses.. We have continued to support our GOLD Leaders through ongoing training and meetings.</p> <p>An ongoing concern which we began to address in 2022 is that GOLD Leaders were struggling to attract new people to their groups. In order to address this and also to promote GOLD Project among churches, the Trustees appointed a part-time Marketing Officer. The Marketing Officer spent 2023 making connections with churches and individuals and in updating our communications systems.</p> <p>In 2023 we saw the start of several groups at Level 1 and Level 2 using the courses that we have adopted from SEAN. We have,</p>

unfortunately, continued to see a decline in the number of students on our Level 3 courses, but we hope to address this in the coming year.

In 2023 we ran the first of three Study Days on the theme of 'The role of Small Group Bible Study in Discipleship.' This took place at Trinity College Bristol with a view to strengthening the work of the Charity in the Bristol area.

In 2023, our administrator resigned and we appointed a new administrator. The handover between the roles was hampered by severe and chronic back issues that were suffered by the Director in the latter part of the year. The Director's incapacity also had an impact on other areas of the work. The Trustees continue to 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 continue to review and implement the Strategic Plan set out in 2019. The clear goals of the plan are reviewed at each meeting of the Trustees in terms of Course Design and Formatting, Recruiting and Training GOLD Leaders, Promotion amongst national and local church leaders. In the coming year, we will continue to focus on increasing the reach and recognition of the Charity's activities with a view to a significant growth in student numbers over the coming three years. We have again received a significant donation from a supporter who has given specifically towards the salary of the new Marketing Officer and we have begun to invest some of our assets in the employment of the Marketing Officer in line with our Strategic Plan.
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 £29,676.41 including an interest free loan and the realisation of some of our investment funds. Without these additional funds, our receipts would have been £12,405.45 (down from £18,090). Receipts from course fees and study days were approximately £3250 (up from £1,835 in 2022). In accordance with the Trustees plan to invest our assets in the development of GOLD Project, the total payments for 2023 were £30,871 (up from £16,960 in 2022).
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 2024 anticipates a total annual operating expenditure of £34,224 which means that the reserve for the coming year should be set at £17,112.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Unrestricted Cash funds at 31/12/2023 were: £5,197. Restricted Cash funds (bursary fund) at 31/12/2023 were: £2,154. COIF Ethical Investment fund at 31/12/2023 was valued at: £49,088. (restricted £4,060 and unrestricted £45,028).
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, 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 in the coming year.

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. We anticipate that we will need support from grant-making trusts and other organisations to strengthen and develop the work in the future until we can reach a point where we are self-sufficient.

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. We continue to try to balance the need for compliance with increasing regulations while focusing on our charitable objectives.
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. In the coming year, we hope to develop links with other churches and interdenominational 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 are members of NCVO and will be seeking to create links with other related organisations in the coming year.

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.	Rev Richard Moy			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

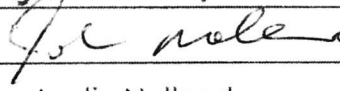
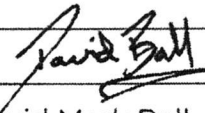
N/A

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 director 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	26/10/2024	

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022	2022
	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL
Receipts:	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	2,804.64	6,200.00	-	9,004.64	1,120.00	6,100.00	-	7,220.00
Grants	-	-	-	-	6,074.52	-	-	6,074.52
Gift aid	-	-	-	-	220.00	1,550.00	-	1,770.00
NEAN International Rebranding Project	-	-	-	-	1,162.50	-	-	1,162.50
Course fees	3,132.69	-	-	3,132.69	1,640.99	-	-	1,640.99
Study day fees	118.00	-	-	118.00	195.00	-	-	195.00
Bank interest	47.62	30.00	72.50	150.12	12.00	6.14	9.79	27.93
Interest free loan from a trustee	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00	-	-	-	-
Sale of investment	7,000.00	-	-	7,000.00	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	23,102.95	6,230.00	72.50	29,405.45	10,425.01	7,656.14	9.79	18,090.94
Payments:								
Course printing & photocopying	2,297.73	-	-	2,297.73	1,737.70	-	-	1,737.70
Course fee refunds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tutor support	106.22	-	-	106.22	136.87	-	-	136.87
Study days	456.80	-	-	456.80	377.55	-	-	377.55
Publicity & marketing	211.59	-	-	211.59	496.82	-	-	496.82
Other	602.58	-	-	602.58	-	-	-	-
Postage, photocopying & stationery	503.26	-	-	503.26	-	-	-	-
Royalties & subscriptions	266.60	-	-	266.60	123.00	-	-	123.00
Administration support	7,660.53	10,758.34	-	18,418.87	6,212.90	5,402.80	-	11,615.70
Tax recoverable & pension asset increase	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	289.58	-	-	289.58	289.58	-	-	289.58
Travel & accommodation	520.50	-	-	520.50	155.25	-	-	155.25
GOLD trustees expense & meeting costs	-	-	-	-	11.20	-	-	11.20
Bank charges	60.00	-	-	60.00	84.50	-	-	84.50
Professional services	6,859.45	-	-	6,859.45	1,928.99	-	-	1,928.99
Development costs:								
Website, branding and graphic design	287.89	-	-	287.89	-	-	-	-
Course formatting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Course writing and development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments subtotal:	20,112.73	10,758.34	-	30,871.07	11,556.36	5,402.80	-	16,959.16
Asset purchases: computer equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	20,112.73	10,758.34	-	30,871.07	11,556.36	5,402.80	-	16,959.16
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,990.22	4,528.34	72.50	1,485.62	1,131.35	2,253.34	9.79	1,131.78
Transfers between funds	55.00	-	55.00	-	50.00	-	50.00	-
Cash funds last 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
Cash funds this year end	5,197.02	0.00	2,154.53	7,351.55	2,141.80	4,528.34	2,147.03	8,817.17

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

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2023

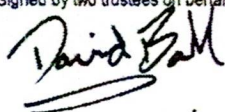
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022	2022
	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL
Cash funds:	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank account	716.43	-	-	716.43	-	1,808.71	-	1,808.71
Savings account	4,477.49	-	2,154.53	6,632.02	2,119.40	2,719.83	2,147.03	6,986.06
Petty cash	3.10	-	-	3.10	22.40	-	-	22.40
Cash funds this year end	5,197.02	-	2,154.53	7,351.55	2,141.80	4,528.34	2,147.03	8,817.17
Investment asset:								
COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund	£45,027.70	-	£4,060.72	£49,088.42	46,819.23	-	3,586.32	50,207.55
The investment was purchased in December 2017 for £35,000; 14.7% of this was sold for £7,000 in January 2023; the market value at 31 December 2023 was £49,088.42 (2022: £50,207.55).								
Interest free loan from a trustee	£10,000.00	-	-	£10,000.00	-	-	-	-

Other assets: as at 31 December 2023, 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

- The Group-based Open Learning Discipleship (GOLD) Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in England on 15 April 2016.
- The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.
- The fee for the independent examination in respect of 2023 will be £240 (2022: £240).
- 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.
- 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



Dr David Ball

28/10/2024



Rev Dr John Nolland



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

THE GROUP-BASED OPEN LEARNING DISCIPLESHP
PROJECT

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1166567

Set out on pages

/

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Patrick F O'Connor BSc FCA

Date:

25/10/2024

Name:

Patrick F O'Connor BSc FCA

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ICAEW

Address:

51 Downs Park West

Bristol

BS6 7QL