



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES



Trustees' annual report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1	January	2024		31	December	2024

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£40,000) 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 Oxford. 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 has been 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 2024 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 2024 we have continued to see a mixture of face-to-face and online groups which allow people from various locations to join a study group. In addition to our regular groups, we have continued to work with prison chaplains to support the study of students in two prisons. We have continued to support our GOLD Leaders through ongoing training and meetings.</p> <p>In 2022, the Trustees appointed a part-time Marketing Officer to encourage the growth of groups around the country. This has not reaped the benefits that we had hoped and the cost of employing the Marketing Officer has become unviable. We have got rid of this role at the end of 2024 and are now looking at other ways to promote our courses.</p> <p>In 2024 the majority of our groups have been at Level 1 and Level 2 using the courses that we have adopted from SEAN. Despite</p>

efforts to address this, we have continued to see a decline in the number of students on our Level 3 courses.

In 2024 we had two further Study Days on the theme of 'The role of Small Group Bible Study in Discipleship.' The first of these was online and was well attended. The second was in Bristol and the attendance was disappointing. However, we have seen one new study group start as a result of this Study Day.

Following the severe and chronic back issues that were suffered by the Director in the latter part of 2023, the Director had back surgery early in 2024. His incapacity for several months had a negative impact on the work.

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 the strategic direction of the Charity in terms of achieving the objectives of the Charity. Increasing costs and the challenges of running a small charity owing to the burden of compliance, the Trustees are looking at the possibility of strategic partnerships in the coming year to ease the administrative and governance burden on the charity.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		In 2024, the Trustees cashed in some of its assets and was also the beneficiary of a significant donation to enable the activities of the charity to continue. In 2025, the Trustees have planned to reduce costs significantly by making one staff member redundant and by not paying the Director for any of his services. The Trustees are looking at other ways to enable the Director to continue his role, potentially by him being employed by a Christian mission agency as part of his wider role in supporting the work of Christian discipleship around the world.

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 £31,786 including the realisation of some of our investment funds. Without these additional funds, our receipts would have been £15,031 (up from £12,405). Receipts from course fees and study days were approximately £3,530 (up from £3250 in 2023). In accordance with the Trustees plan to invest our assets in the development of GOLD Project, the total payments for 2024 were £31,786 (up from £30,871 in 2023).
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 2025 anticipates a total annual operating expenditure of £16,475 which means that the reserve for the coming year should be set at £8,238.

Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Unrestricted Cash funds at 31/12/2024 were: £ 504.15. Restricted Cash funds (bursary fund) at 31/12/2024 were: £ 2,091.55. COIF Ethical Investment fund at 31/12/2024 was valued at: £39,529. (restricted £4,292 and unrestricted £35,236.90). Liabilities of £10,000 from an interest free loan mean that the overall assets of GOLD Project as of 31/12/2024 stood at £32,124.
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 seeking ways to ensure that our charitable objects can continue in the future. As it stands, the Charity is seeking partners with whom we can pool our assets going forward. If these efforts are not successful, the Trustees will need to consider whether the charity is viable.

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 two main sources of funds for its operations. First, the fees charged to students for studying courses and attendance at Study Days. Second, we have a small group of donors who give regularly to the work of the charity.
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 financial and administrative burden of running a small charity with very few staff. The ability to recruit, train and retain suitable leaders to ensure the consistent quality of the learning experience needs time, energy and finance. The renewal and revision of courses and learning materials also requires significant investment. 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 struggle 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 UK churches by becoming members of both the Evangelical Alliance (https://www.eauk.org/) and the Churches together in England (https://cte.org.uk).
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. We have also sought to create links with the wider theological world by becoming associate members of the European Council for Theological Education (ECTE).
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

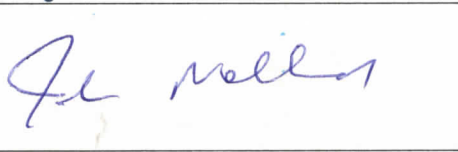
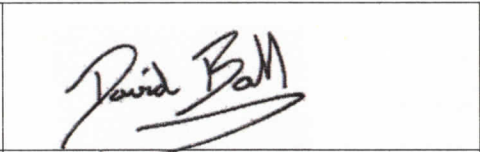
N/A

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 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	21st July 2025	

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

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023	2023
	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts:								
Donations	2,914.13	5,000.00	-	7,914.13	2,804.64	6,200.00	-	9,004.64
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gift aid	2,227.11	1,250.00	-	3,477.11	-	-	-	-
SEAN International Rebranding Project	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Course fees	3,493.33	-	-	3,493.33	3,132.69	-	-	3,132.69
Study day fees	36.86	-	-	36.86	118.00	-	-	118.00
Bank interest	62.05	-	47.02	109.07	47.62	30.00	72.50	150.12
Interest free loan from a trustee	-	-	-	-	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00
Sale of investment	12,000.00	-	-	12,000.00	7,000.00	-	-	7,000.00
Total receipts	20,733.48	6,250.00	47.02	27,030.50	23,102.95	6,230.00	72.50	29,405.45
Payments:								
Course printing & photocopying	2,790.92	-	-	2,790.92	2,297.73	-	-	2,297.73
Course fee refunds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tutor support	130.22	-	-	130.22	106.22	-	-	106.22
Study days	312.73	-	-	312.73	456.80	-	-	456.80
Publicity & marketing	860.68	-	-	860.68	211.59	-	-	211.59
Other	-	-	-	-	602.58	-	-	602.58
Postage, photocopying & stationery	85.88	-	-	85.88	503.26	-	-	503.26
Royalties & subscriptions	154.00	-	-	154.00	256.50	-	-	256.50
Administration support	13,579.53	6,250.00	-	19,829.53	7,660.53	10,758.34	-	18,418.87
Tax recoverable & pension asset increase	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	306.32	-	-	306.32	289.58	-	-	289.58
Travel & accommodation	66.78	-	-	66.78	520.50	-	-	520.50
GOLD trustees expense & meeting costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	60.00	-	-	60.00	60.00	-	-	60.00
Professional services	6,731.31	-	-	6,731.31	6,859.45	-	-	6,859.45
Development costs:								
Website, branding and graphic design	457.98	-	-	457.98	287.99	-	-	287.99
Course formatting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Course writing and development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments subtotal:	25,536.35	6,250.00	-	31,786.35	20,112.73	10,758.34	-	30,871.07
Asset purchases: computer equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	25,536.35	6,250.00	-	31,786.35	20,112.73	10,758.34	-	30,871.07
Net of receipts/(payments)	-	4,802.87	-	4,755.85	2,990.22	4,528.34	72.50	1,465.62
Transfers between funds	110.00	-	110.00	-	65.00	-	65.00	-
Cash funds last year end	5,197.02	-	2,154.53	7,351.55	2,141.80	4,528.34	2,147.03	8,817.17
Cash funds this year end	504.15	-	2,091.55	2,595.70	5,197.02	-	2,154.53	7,351.55

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

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2024

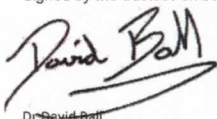
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023	2023
	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Salary support (Restricted)	Monica Fund (Restricted)	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds:								
Bank account	486.05	-	853.64	1,339.69	716.43	-	-	716.43
Savings account	-	-	1,237.91	1,237.91	4,477.49	-	2,154.53	6,632.02
Petty cash	18.10	-	-	18.10	3.10	-	-	3.10
Cash funds this year end	504.15	-	2,091.55	2,595.70	5,197.02	-	2,154.53	7,351.55
Investment asset:								
COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund	£35,236.90	-	£4,291.76	£39,528.66	46,619.23	-	3,588.32	49,088.42
The investment was purchased in December 2017 for £35,000; following sales in 2023 and 2024, the market value at 31 December 2024 was £39,528.66 (2023: £49,088.42).								
Interest free loan from a trustee	£10,000.00	-	-	£10,000.00	-	-	-	-

Other assets: as at 31 December 2024, 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 2024 will be £*** (2023: £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 Bell


Rev Dr John Nolland

21st July 2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

THE GROUP-BASED OPEN LEARNING DISCIPLES
PROJECT

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DECEMBER 2024

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 31/12/2024.

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

Date:

27/7/2025

Name:

Patrick F O'Connor BSc FCA

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

ICAEW

Address:

51 Downs Park West

Bristol

BS6 7QL

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.		None	
<p>Report to the trustees/ members of</p> <p>On accounts for the year ended</p> <p>Set out on pages</p>		<p>31 DECEMBER 2024</p> <p>Charity no (if any)</p> <p>1188887</p>	
<p>Responsibilities and basis of report of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).</p> <p>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(2)(b) of the Act.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the accounts do not accord with the accounting records accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or <p>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.</p> <p>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</p>		<p>Independent examiner's statement</p>	
<p>Signed:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):</p> <p>Address:</p>		<p><i>Patrick F O'Connor</i></p> <p>Patrick F O'Connor BSc FCA</p> <p>ICAEW</p> <p>81 Down Park West</p> <p>Bristol</p> <p>BS8 7OL</p>	