

GREAT OPEN DOOR

England & Wales · Charity number 1169471

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-10-04

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Harlow
Essex

Phone 07790182425

Email SARAHJMITCHELL320@GMAIL.COM

Website www.greatopendoor.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES, IN SCHOOLS AND GROUPS, AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CHURCHES IN THE AREA OF HARLOW ESSEX AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

Activities: Great Open Door (GOD) is a schools work charity whose primary aim is to advance the Christian Faith. This is fulfilled by teaching the Christian faith and Christian moral values to primary school children in Harlow Essex and the surrounding area in a variety of engaging and relevant ways so that they can make an informed choice about belief in God and following His Son, Jesus Christ.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Essex
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£10,114	£7,417	-	-
2024-03-31	£6,219	£9,332	-	-
2023-03-31	£8,424	£9,429	-	-
2022-03-31	£8,390	£6,887	-	-
2021-03-31	£1,726	£519	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Sarah Jane Mitchell	Chair	2022-07-29
Davina Smith		2022-07-29
Paul Martin Welfare		2024-06-24
RONALD HENRY KINGSMILL		2016-07-28

GREAT OPEN DOOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1169471

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ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year to 31st March 2025.

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Great Open Door

VISION AND VALUES

Offering schools exceptional resources that capture children's imaginations.

Our Vision: who we are

Our vision is to 'raise the next generation to know their God.' This is fulfilled by teaching the Christian faith and Christian moral values to primary school children in Harlow Essex and the surrounding area in engaging and relevant ways so that they can make an informed choice about belief in God and following His Son, Jesus Christ. We also seek to support students in their spiritual, social and moral development.

Our Values: who we aim to be

Great Open Door aims to offer schools exceptional resources, which capture children's imaginations, by combining the following Values

Passion and Conviction: which communicates

Creativity and Originality: which is memorable

Continuous Improvement: which increases our skills and develops the team's faith

Prayerfulness: which continually acknowledges that this is the Lord's work

Diligence: which demonstrates professionalism and the desire to serve

Partnering: which recognises the importance of fostering good working relationships with schools, churches, and the local community.

Objects of the Charity

To advance the Christian faith among young people and families, in schools and groups, and in conjunction with the churches in Harlow Essex and the surrounding area.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that their activities meet the public benefit guidance by teaching Christian values and the Christian faith to school children in every local

school we are invited into and by encouraging greater partnerships between schools and churches. We assist schools by reinforcing their values, aligning programmes with the national curriculum and by helping them to meet their requirements for collective acts of worship. We provide this service regularly and without charge in schools and in the community. There are no restrictions on children and young people having access to this service.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

The trustees were thankful to see a productive year and a growth in team membership.

The Trustees are confident that the ministry can move forward serving our local schools with an enlarged assembly team enabling us to offer assemblies and additional RE lessons.

The “God looks at the heart” programme ran from May to January 2025. The assembly looked at self-esteem and explains, with the aid of Betsy the Beetle, that who we are on the inside is more important than what we look like or what we post on social media. We told the story of Sammuell anointing David with eight pupils as actors, which was very well received.

February saw rehearsals start for our next programme -“Listening to Good Advice”. The script had a major re-write, to include discerning opinion from fact on social media. The assembly finished with Wise and Foolish Man Bible story set to music, drawing on pupils as actors and BSL for the whole school to participate with.

The Great Open Door Christmas workshop programme was delivered by one large team into Abbotsweld Primary. Eighty-eight year 5 & 6 pupils considered Christmas traditions and identified what is festive fluff, that can get in the way of celebrating the birth of Jesus, and what really relates, and is important, in the nativity story.

Trinity lessons were delivered to year 3 pupils in Fawbert & Bernards and St James Primary Schools. Delivery was timed with Pentecost and celebrated the first church as well as looking at one God in three parts and the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the year under review the Great Open Door made 21 school visits delivering two assembly programmes, 1 Christmas workshop and 2 trinity lessons.

The Trustees believe there has never been a more important time to share God’s message of hope and love with the next generation during this time of “quiet revival”.

Volunteers

The ministry continues to be blessed with a wonderful team of committed and enthusiastic volunteers who have worked very hard delivering assemblies. At 31 March 2025 the volunteers were: Agnes Amofa, Cherie Crouch, Pam Harknett, Tina Liu, Andy Walker, Fiona Willmore and Paul Welfare ‘The Sound Man’ who, together with Jo Hargrave, the paid part time Schools Work Team Leader, comprise the assembly team going into schools. In addition to the assembly team, voluntary administrative support is provided by Shelly who also supports the team with church visits. The Trustees are thankful for these amazing volunteers, without which the ministry could not function.

The Trustees are thankful to Andy Walker for his continued storing & transporting of current assembly props each week.

The Trustees are delighted that the team has gained one new member, Cherie Crouch, in January bringing with her acting and PA experience to the team. The latter was most gratefully received in light of Pauls imminent incapacity with knee surgery.

In an effort to raise awareness within the churches of opportunities to volunteer with Great Open Door and serve within our schools we visited four churches.

Prayer

The Trustees celebrated 21 years of the ministry with a “soak in” prayer event held at Harefield Church. We have continued with weekly ‘Pause for Prayer’ emails to supporters as part of our long-term strategy to build on the prayer foundation.

The Trustees are thankful to everyone who has supported the ministry in prayer.

Mission Partner

Great Open Door is a Local Mission Partner of Scripture Union. This provides the ministry opportunities for networking and offers training and resources in various aspects of youth and children’s work. Jo Hargrave continues to benefit from their support and advice.

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name Great Open Door

Registered charity number: 1169471

The Trustees who served the charity during the period and since the year end were as follows:

R Kingsmill (Appointed 4th October 2022)

S Mitchell (Appointed 29 July 2023)

D Smith (Appointed 29 July 2023)

P Welfare (Appointed 24th June 2024)

Registered Office: 6 The Chantry
Harlow
Essex
CM20 2LX

Bankers: Lloyds Bank Plc
25 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HN

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

S. Mitchell

Sarah Mitchell
Trustee

18th December 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Income and Expenditure Account for the year under review and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2025. The Trustees do not consider it necessary to have an independent examiner's report as the income of the charity is below the £25,000 threshold to require this and the financial activities are very straightforward.

Income for the period under review was £10,114 and expenditure on charitable activities was £7,417 leaving cash funds of £4,898 at the year end.

We are grateful to the churches, individuals and trusts who have supported the ministry and who continue to fund our work.

Total assets amounted to £4,902 including the estimated value of the portable sound system (£2,500) and puppets and props (£200) many of which were gifted to the charity. The Trustees are grateful for all the goods and services donated to the charity.

During the period under review Great Open Door acted as the custodian of the cash funds of Puppets Galore, a Christian schools work charity with similar objects and values to Great Open Door. At 31 March 2024 Puppets Galore's cash funds amounted to £1,128.

There were no outstanding liabilities at 31 March 2025.

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

12 months ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	Year £	Year £
Income from Charitable Activities		
Donations		
Churches	400	1,000
Individuals	851	3,919
Gift Aid	0	1,300
	820	300
	10,114	6,219
Total Income		
Expenditure on Charitable Activities		
Subcontractor Services	6,478	6,835
Assemblies & Lessons	2	1
Sound System	20	76
Insurance	389	942
Prayer	2	
Miscellaneous	61	261
	10	
	44	56
Training		62
Donations		1,000
	7,4	9,3
Total Expenditure	17	32
		3,1
Excess of Expenditure over Income	2,697	13
Cash Funds at 31 March 2025/31 March 2024	2,202	5,315
	-	
Excess of Expenditure over Income	2697	3,113
		£2,
Cash Funds at 31 March 2025/31 March 2024	£4,898	202

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31 March 2025

Assets	£	
Cash Funds		
Unrestricted Funds	£4,898	
Donated Items at Valuation		
Sound and PA Equipment	2,500	
Puppets and Props	200	
		2,700
Total Assets		7,598

GREAT OPEN DOOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1169471

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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Great Open Door

www.greatopendoor.org.uk

No. 1169471

Charity

VISION AND VALUES

Offering schools exceptional resources that capture children's imaginations.

Our Vision: who we are

Our vision is to 'raise the next generation to know their God.' This is fulfilled by teaching the Christian faith and Christian moral values to primary school children in Harlow Essex and the surrounding area in engaging and relevant ways so that they can make an informed choice about belief in God and following His Son, Jesus Christ. We also seek to support students in their spiritual, social and moral development.

Our Values: who we aim to be

Great Open Door aims to offer schools exceptional resources, which capture children's imaginations, by combining the following Values

Passion and Conviction: which communicates

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Objects of the Charity

To advance the Christian faith among young people and families, in schools and groups, and in conjunction with the churches in Harlow Essex and the surrounding area.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that their activities meet the public benefit guidance by teaching Christian values and the Christian faith to school children in every local school we are invited into and by encouraging greater partnerships between schools and churches. We assist schools by reinforcing their values, aligning programmes with the national curriculum and by helping them to meet their

requirements for collective acts of worship. We provide this service regularly and without charge in schools and in the community. There are no restrictions on children and young people having access to this service.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

The trustees were thankful to see a productive year despite disruptions to school life through RAAC, teacher strikes and the state funeral.

The Trustees are confident that the ministry can move forward serving our local schools with an enlarged assembly team enabling us to offer assemblies, seasonal workshops, additional RE lessons and increasing our assembly inclusivity.

The “Turning Worries into Prayers” programme ran from January to July 2023. This assembly recognises the importance of sharing worries rather than carrying them as secret burdens and explains that Christians can share their worries and concerns with Jesus through prayer. Lively dramas, including the ever-popular Shrek and the Talking Donkey held the children’s attention as did practical applications of these principles. Pupil feedback confirms they understood the message and enjoyed the variety of assembly content.

September saw rehearsals flowing into delivery of the “Making a Difference” programme. This assembly makes a powerful point that with Jesus helping us we can make a difference through kindness. Pupil feedback included “this was not just the best assembly but the best experience EVER!” A teacher from Jerounds came up to the team after the assembly to say “the message was so relevant with vaping and social media examples.”

The Great Open Door Christmas workshop programme was delivered by two smaller teams in November this year. The workshop looked at Christmas traditions and identifies what is festive fluff, that can get in the way of celebrating the birth of Jesus, and what really relates and is important to the nativity story. Seven schools were visited delivering to combined years 5 & 6 pupils.

A trial Puppet lunch club was offered at St Albans in March to teach 9 young evangelists how to use puppets and perform “Jesus you’re amazing”. Three workshops led by Andy Walker, Pam Harknett and Jo Hargrave enabled the pupils to deliver a wonderful performance for a school Easter assembly. The sessions proved there was the interest and enough time to produce constructive content.

Lessons explaining the Trinity were delivered to year 3 pupils in two schools by Tina Liu, Pam Harknett and Jo Hargrave. Delivery was timed around Pentecost and celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit in power on the first church as well as looking at one God in three persons.

Jo Hargrave met with All Nations Christian College, Ware to offer two possible placements for students, namely making our assemblies more inclusive and devising RE lessons for the new syllabus. Students did not take up the offer this year. We will review what we offer and hopefully provide placement opportunities again next year.

Pam Wright has assisted the assembly team in making deliveries more accessible for partially sighted pupils. With an awareness of how to improve pupil accessibility, Pam engaged with a pupil from Fawbert & Barnard School before the assembly giving them an opportunity to feel puppets, look close up at costumes and scenery and gave a running dialogue of scene changes during the assembly. Going forward we are offering this provision to each school when bookings are made. To date one further primary school has accepted this additional help.

In the year under review the Great Open Door made 29 school visits delivering two assembly programmes, 7 Christmas workshops, 3 puppet workshops and 2 trinity lessons. We are delighted that New Hall Primary School has started taking assemblies from Great Open Door.

The Trustees believe there has never been a more important time to share God's message of hope and love with the next generation and are seeking to extend the reach of the ministry.

Praise be to God!

Volunteers

The ministry continues to be blessed with a wonderful team of committed and enthusiastic volunteers who have worked very hard delivering assemblies. On 31 March 2024 the volunteers were: Agnes Amofa, Pam Harknett, Angela Hodgson, Tina Liu, Andy Walker, Fiona Willmore and Paul Welfare 'The Sound Man' who, together with Jo Hargrave, the paid part time Schools Work Team Leader, comprise the assembly team going into schools. The Trustees are thankful for these amazing volunteers, without which the ministry could not function.

The Trustees are thankful to Andy Walker for both up-sizing his car and clearing space in his garage to store & transit current assembly props each week.

The Trustees are delighted that the team has gained three new members: Tina Liu expressed a desire to join the team last year and has fully participated since April bringing with her, her experience of delivering assemblies in primary schools with Stort Valley Schools Trust. Fiona Willmore joined in September and brings a servant heart and a willingness to give anything a go. Pam Wright has joined the team on call, in an advisory capacity, to help those pupils with sight impairment to fully engage in our assemblies.

Being blessed with a number of new team members we ran an in-house puppet training day for the whole team in December. Paul Welfare and Agnes Amofa

attended an additional day's puppet training with One Way UK in Braintree in April 2024.

In addition to the assembly team in September 2023 Michelle Walker joined as an administration volunteer. Having experienced problems in managing workload Jo Hargrave is very grateful to receive this office support liaising with schools for assembly, workshop and RE lesson bookings.

We conclude the year intentionally praying for another male volunteer to join the ministry. As well as helping to maintain a good gender balance it would be particularly timely to have another 'Roady' on the team!

Trustees

The Trustees on 31 March 2024 were Phil Gray, Chair of Trustees, Ron Kingsmill, Treasurer, Sarah Mitchell, Secretary and Safeguarding Trustee and Davina Smith.

Phil Gray retired as a trustee at the conclusion of the June trustees meeting held on 24 June 2024. This marked 21 years since he founded Great Open Door's ministry and formulated its vision, strategy and values.

The trustees were delighted to appoint Sarah Mitchell the next Chair of Trustees. Sarah continues to be the Safeguarding Trustee. The trustees were also delighted to appoint Paul Welfare as a trustee on 24 June 2024. Paul has been a faithful member of the schools ministry team and is now its longest serving member. He has agreed to become the Secretary. Davina Smith has agreed to produce the accounts, a role previously undertaken by Phil Gray. Ron Kingsmill's appointment as a trustee will end on 4th October 2025 as this will be the end of his second term of office.

At the trustees meeting held on 24 June 2024 it was agreed to change the address of the registered office to: 6 The Chantry Harlow Essex CM20 2LX

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Trustee ensured that the protocols for appointing new team members were followed rigorously and that all DBS checks were carried out in a timely manner. The team and trustees are encouraged to add their DBS to the update service and information about dates of update are shared with the Safeguarding Trustee. The safeguarding Trustee has also given reminders to report any concerns however minor to the schools at the time or as soon after as possible.

Sound System

Last year the Trustees began a major upgrade of the sound system, when six aging radio mics were replaced with modern high quality Wi-Fi radio mics and attendant headsets, etc. The upgrade was completed this year with the purchase of two further high quality Wi-Fi radio mics. The eight Wi-Fi radio mics

were then racked to ensure that they are secure when transported and quick and easy to set up and operate within school halls. The Trustees wish to express their heartfelt thanks to Owen Jenkins who volunteered to expertly rack the mics and mixer, etc. Owen proved to be an answer to prayer by diligently and promptly completing the upgrade of the sound system

The Trustees wish to thank our supporters who responded to the appeal to fund these further improvements to the sound system. Their generous donations raised £1,000, which was more than enough to pay for the final stage of the upgrade.

Website

The Trustees wish to thank Barry Wales, who designed the website, for his ongoing help and advice. The Trustees are also grateful to Harefield Church who continue to pay the website maintenance costs on behalf of the ministry.

Great Open Door's online resources can be easily accessed via <https://greatopendoor.org.uk/online-resources/>

Prayer

In September 2023 Great Open Door celebrated 20 years of active ministry into local primary schools with a combined "soak in" and celebration event at Lighthouse Church. This was well attended by many past team members, trustees and prayer supporters. There were various creative prayer stations, a wonderful cake and amazing testimonies from two previous students, Caleb and Jonathan!

Weekly 'Pause for Prayer' emails have continued to supporters as part of a long-term strategy to build on the prayer foundation. The aim of these brief focused prayer bulletins is to increase contact with supporters by encouraging the desire to pray for Great Open Door's schools ministry and support Christian teachers in schools. Some churches use this information to regularly feed Great Open Door into church prayers.

The Trustees are thankful to everyone who has supported the ministry in prayer.

Mission Partner

Great Open Door is a Local Mission Partner of Scripture Union. This provides the ministry opportunities for networking and offers training and resources in various aspects of youth and children's work.

Jo Hargrave benefitted from a SU retreat in Manchester in May which was refreshing, reviving and re-affirming. At the event a discussion of the national trend towards young people feeling respect is earned helped with the local experience of assembly halls being more chaotic post Covid. Future programmes will have control mechanisms outlined up front and maintained during each assembly.

Heart 4 Harlow

The Trustees are grateful for the work of Heart 4 Harlow and for their enthusiastic support and endorsement of our ministry, both in terms of prayer and support with publicity.

In an effort to raise awareness within the churches of opportunities to volunteer with Great

Open Door and serve within our schools we visited Gateway Freedom Church in May and

Jo Hargrave assisted St Marys Churchgate Street with their Easter workshop at New Hall

school in February. The aim is for Great Open Door to benefit from local links and also encourage churches to prayerfully build links with the ministry and with their local schools.

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name Great Open Door

Registered charity number: 1169471

The Trustees who served the charity during the period and since the year end were as follows:

P Gray (Resigned 24th June 2024)
R Kingsmill (Appointed 4th October 2022)
S Mitchell (Appointed 29 July 2023)
D Smith (Appointed 29 July 2023)
P Welfare (Appointed 24th June 2024)

Registered Office: 6 The Chantry
Harlow
Essex
CM20 2LX

Bankers: Lloyds Bank Plc
25 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HN

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

S. Mitchell

Sarah Mitchell
Trustee

3rd October 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Income and Expenditure Account for the year under review and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2024. The Trustees do not consider it necessary to have an independent examiner's report as the income of the charity is below the £25,000 threshold to require this and the financial activities are very straightforward.

Income for the period under review was £6,291 and expenditure on charitable activities was £9,332, leaving cash funds of £2,202 at the year end. Charitable expenditure included £942 spent on the sound system purchasing two Wi-Fi radio microphones and subsequently racking a total of eight radio microphones, together with charitable donations totaling £1,000 to Scripture Union, the Christian Drama Resource Centre and Prayer Spaces in Schools.

We are grateful to the churches, individuals and trusts who have supported the ministry and who continue to fund our work.

Total assets amounted to £4,902 including the estimated value of the portable sound system (£2,500) and puppets and props (£200) many of which were gifted to the charity. The Trustees are grateful for all the goods and services donated to the charity.

During the period under review Great Open Door acted as the custodian of the cash funds of Puppets Galore, a Christian schools work charity with similar objects and values to Great Open Door. At 31 March 2024 Puppets Galore's cash funds amounted to £1,128.

There were no outstanding liabilities at 31 March 2024.

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

12 months ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	Year £	Year £
Income from Charitable Activities		
Donations		
Churches	1,003,919	1,075,728
Individuals		46
Gift Aid	1,300	5
	6,219	8,424
Total Income		
Expenditure on Charitable Activities		
Subcontractor Services	6,835	6,404
Assemblies & Lessons	176	241
Sound System	942	2498
Insurance	261	261
Prayer		25
Miscellaneous	56	
Training	62	
Donations	1,000	
	9,332	9,429
Total Expenditure		
		1,0
Excess of Expenditure over Income		
	3,113	05
Cash Funds at 31 March 2023/31 March 2022	5,315	6,320
	-	
Excess of Expenditure over Income		
	3,113	1,005
		£5,
Cash Funds at 31 March 2024/31 March 2023		
	£2,202	315

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31 March 2024

Assets	£	£
Cash Funds		
Unrestricted Funds		2,202
Donated Items at Valuation		
Sound and PA Equipment	2,500	
Puppets and Props	200	
		2,700
Total Assets		£4,902

GREAT OPEN DOOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1169471

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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No. 1169471

Charity

VISION AND VALUES

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Our Vision: who we are

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Public Benefit Statement

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requirements for collective acts of worship. We provide this service regularly and without charge in schools and in the community. There are no restrictions on children and young people having access to this service.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

The trustees were thankful and relieved that the year under review witnessed the end of lockdown restrictions, with schools reopening their doors to outside visitors. And the Trustees were delighted that schools were again eager to book Great Open Door's live assemblies from the start of Summer term 2022. There have been so many unknowns and uncertainties during the Covid pandemic, so there were no guarantees that schools would welcome the Great Open Door team and their Christian message post this massive educational disruption. The Trustees are confident that the ministry can move forward following this God given confirmation that it will continue to serve our local schools.

The month of May 2022 saw the team roll out our assembly programme on the theme of "Resilience", a key value for most schools. This programme followed the progress of a switched off, reluctant waitress as she learns throughout the assembly (from puppet and dramatic sketches, including Robert the Bruce, and the Christian message of hope and perseverance) that she is gifted and loved and that God has good plans for her. She finally decides that she won't give up but will keep on trying to do her best. It was also good to be able to acknowledge the resilience and faith that the late Queen showed throughout her reign.

The team had to show resilience themselves as they prepared to deliver this assembly programme, whether from frequently changing booking dates as schools became more open and had to juggle more visitors/activities, or from the challenges of working out how to operate the spider and its web within Robert the Bruce's cave!

The resilience assembly has been wonderfully received. It has been greatly appreciated by teachers as it ties in with school values. At one school the teachers said "the assembly was very entertaining with an excellent message. The short snappy relatable skits kept the children engaged". A teacher at another school observed that they would probably lose some maths lesson after play as the children were buzzing in the playground about the assembly and it was such a valuable learning opportunity. Pupil feedback indicated a wide variety of favourite content and it's probably fair to say that the assembly contained something for everyone. Pupils have specifically said "the assembly was amazing, really unique, funny, motivating & the best assembly ever!" Even scoring it 10 million out of 10!

The Great Open Door Christmas workshop programme was offered to 6 schools in December 2022. The workshop looked at Christmas traditions and identifies what is festive fluff, that can get in the way of celebrating the birth of Jesus, and what really relates, and is important to, the nativity story. A scarlet fever

outbreak and double bookings of school halls meant only one session was able to be delivered. To avoid a recurrent of this, dates for the workshops will be booked in November 2023.

The next assembly programme, “Turning Worries into Prayers” was delivered into schools from the end of January 2023. This assembly recognises the importance of sharing worries rather than carrying them as secret burdens and explains that Christians can share their worries and concerns with Jesus through prayer. Lively dramas, including Shrek and the Talking Donkey who remain incredibly popular, held the children’s attention as did practical applications of these principles. Pupil feedback confirms they understand the message and enjoy the variety of content in the assembly.

In the year under review the Great Open Door made 24 school visits delivering two assembly programmes and a Christmas workshop.

The Trustees believe there has never been a more important time to share God’s message of hope and love with the next generation and are seeking to extend the reach of the ministry. We are planning to offer another three schools regular assembly visits and are delighted that two new schools, Jerounds and Hatfield Broad Oak, have already booked assemblies next year.

To God be the Glory!

Volunteers

The ministry continues to be blessed with a wonderful team of committed and enthusiastic volunteers who have worked very hard delivering assemblies. At 31 March 2023 the volunteers were: Agnes Amofa, Pam Harknett, Angela Hodgson, Andy Walker and Paul Welfare ‘The Sound Man’ who, together with Jo Hargrave, the paid part time Schools Work Team Leader, comprise the assembly team going into schools. The Trustees are thankful for these amazing volunteers, without which the ministry could not function.

The Trustees are thankful for the 6 years of faithful dedicated service that David Swindale gave to the ministry and wish him and Susan God’s blessing as they settle into their new home in Derbyshire. While David had many skills he is particularly remembered as the ‘Roady’ par excellence, and we miss him and Susan’s large 4 by 4 SUV.

The Trustees are delighted that Agnes Amofa has joined the team, bringing her gifting and musical talents and broad smile into the schools and adding to our diversity as the first black member of the team.

Increased efforts have been made in the current year to raise awareness within the churches of opportunities to volunteer with Great Open Door and serve within our schools. Following the visit to Lighthouse Church in February 2023 Tina Liu, applied to volunteer with Great Open Door. She has recently joined the assembly team, bringing the number of team members to seven.

We conclude the year intentionally praying for another male volunteer to join the ministry. As well as helping to maintain a good gender balance it would be particularly timely to have another 'Roady' on the team!

Trustees

The Trustees are thankful for the years of faithful, enthusiastic service Tim West gave to the ministry, firstly as a headteacher warmly welcoming us into his school, then joining Great Open Door as a team member, then becoming the School Work Team Leader and finally acting as a trustee. Tim resigned on 20th April 2022 to take up his first pastorate at Forest Gate Baptist Church and we wish him and his family God's blessing in his new role.

The trustees were delighted to appoint Miss Sarah Mitchell and Mrs Davina Smith as trustees on 29 July 2022. Sarah has been an avid supporter of Great Open Door over many years and brings a wealth of experience of school leadership to the ministry. Sarah has agreed to be the Safeguarding Trustee as she holds the level 3 safeguarding qualification and is one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads at her place of employment. Sarah has also agreed to become Great Open Door's Secretary. Davina was formerly an accomplished assembly team member before qualifying as a primary school teacher, and also brings valuable educational experience to the ministry.

Ron Kingsmill's appointment as a trustee was renewed for three years from 4th October 2022.

Safeguarding

Miss Sarah Mitchell's, our newly appointed Safeguarding Trustee, recommended that there should be a greater emphasis on sharing our safeguarding procedures. The Trustees agreed to implement these recommendations to ensure that the importance of safeguarding is highlighted during and throughout the recruitment process.

Sound System

The Great Open Door sound system has given many years of faithful service, but more recently has shown its age and has been letting the team down. Having suffered a number of PA problems, blighting otherwise excellent assembly performances, the Trustees decided to upgrade the sound system and have spent £2,498 in the past year replacing six aging mics with modern high quality Wi-Fi radio mics and attendant headsets, etc. These mics have improved the reliability and sound quality of the system.

The Trustees anticipate making further improvements to the sound system next year including professionally racking the Wi-Fi mics. Supporters will be asked to consider donating to the costs of further upgrading the sound system.

Website

The Trustees wish to thank Barry Wales, who redesigned the website, for his ongoing help and advice. The Trustees are also grateful to Harefield Church who continue to pay the website maintenance costs on behalf of the ministry.

Great Open Door's online resources can be easily accessed via

<https://greatopendoor.org.uk/online-resources/>

Prayer

The Trustees sought to strengthen the prayer foundation of the ministry and were delighted with the success of the first "Soak in" prayer event which ran at Harefield Church on Education Sunday, 11th September 2022. The afternoon had specific prayer requests for participants to engage in through various creative prayer stations. The "Soak in" was well attended and the Trustees are thankful to Jo Hargrave and Paul Welfare for organizing this event so well.

Since October 2022 weekly 'Pause for Prayer' emails have been sent to supporters as part of our long-term strategy to build on the prayer foundation.

The aim of these brief focused prayer bulletins is to increase contact with supporters by encouraging the desire to pray for Great Open Door's schools ministry and also to support Christian teachers in schools. A list has been started of contacts at individual churches who have offered to feed Great Open Door into regular church prayer requests.

The Trustees are thankful to everyone who has supported the ministry in prayer.

Mission Partner

Great Open Door is a Local Mission Partner of Scripture Union. This provides the ministry opportunities for networking and offers training and resources in various aspects of youth and children's work.

Heart 4 Harlow

The Trustees are grateful for the work of the Arts, Culture and Education (ACE's) Group at Heart 4 Harlow and for their enthusiastic support and endorsement of our ministry.

During the year Jo Hargrave has been liaising with churches (i.e., Harlow Baptist Church, Potter Street Baptist Church, Harefield Church and St Andrews Church) with the aim of developing long term strategic partnerships between churches and schools. Churches within Heart for Harlow have been compared with the spread of schools looking for church/school links, looking at best practice and searching for Christian links within schools we don't currently visit. The aim is for Great Open Door to benefit from local links and also encourage churches to prayerfully build links with the ministry and with their local schools.

The team delivered two Fun Days in June 2022, one at Gateway Church and the other Harlow Baptist Church. Both produced invitations to speak to the church congregations in the autumn. Great Open Door's work was show-cased at three

services in two churches, namely Lighthouse in April 2022 and February 2023 and at Harlow Baptist Church in October. A new team member, Tina Liu, has subsequently joined Great Open Door from Lighthouse Church as a direct result of these church visits.

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name Great Open Door

Registered charity number: 1169471

The Trustees who served the charity during the period and since the year end were as follows:

P Gray
R Kingsmill
T West (Resigned 20th April 2022)
S Mitchell (Appointed 29 July 2023)
D Smith (Appointed 29 July 2023)

Registered Office: 3 Thurstans
Harlow
Essex
CM19 4RS

Bankers: Lloyds Bank Plc
25 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HN

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

P.Gray
Phil Gray
Trustee

7th August 2023

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Income and Expenditure Account for the year under review and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2023. The Trustees do not consider it necessary to have an independent examiner's report as the income of the charity is below the £25,000 threshold to require this and the financial activities are very straightforward.

Income for the period under review was £8,424 and expenditure on charitable activities was £9429 leaving cash funds of £5315 at the year end. Charitable expenditure increased by £2542 in the year, mainly due to the cost of six new Wi-Fi radio microphones which has greatly improved the reliability and sound quality of the portable PA system.

We are grateful to the churches, individuals and trusts who have supported the ministry and who continue to fund our work.

Total assets amounted to £8,015 including the estimated value of the portable sound system (£2,500) and puppets and props (£200) many of which were gifted to the charity. The Trustees are grateful for all the goods and services donated to the charity.

During the period under review Great Open Door acted as the custodian of the cash funds of Puppets Galore, a Christian schools work charity with similar objects and values to Great Open Door. At 31st March 2023 Puppets Galore's cash funds amounted to £ 1,078.

There were no outstanding liabilities on 31st March 2023.

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

12 months ended 31 March 2023

		2022
	Year £	Year £
Income from Charitable Activities		
Donations		
Churches	1,075	600
Individuals	7,284	5,469
Gift Aid	65	1,321
S W Buckhurst		1,000
Trust		
Total	8,424	8,390
Income		
Expenditure on Charitable Activities		
Subcontractor Services	6,404	4,960
Assemblies & Lessons	241	124
Sound System	2,498	28
Insurance	261	256
Prayer	25	
Travelling Expenses		60
Training		259
Donations		1,200
Total	9,429	6,887
Expenditure		
Excess of Income/-	-	1
Expenditure	1,005	5,503
Cash Funds at 31 March 2022/31 March 2021	6,320	4,817
Excess of Income/-	-	
Expenditure	1,005	1503
Cash Funds at 31 March 2023/31 March 2022	£5,315	6,320

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31 March 2023

Assets	£	£
Cash Funds		
Unrestricted Funds		5,315
Donated Items at Valuation		
Sound and PA Equipment	2,500	
Puppets and Props	200	
		2,700
Total Assets		£8,015

GREAT OPEN DOOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1169471

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year to 31st March 2022.

VISION AND VALUES

OBJECTS AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

WHAT WE ACHIEVED _____

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Great Open Door

www.greatopendoor.org.uk

No. 1169471

Charity

VISION AND VALUES

Offering schools exceptional resources that capture children's imaginations.

Our Vision: who we are

Our vision is to 'raise the next generation to know their God.' This is fulfilled by teaching the Christian faith and Christian moral values to primary school children in Harlow Essex and the surrounding area in engaging and relevant ways so that they can make an informed choice about belief in God and following His Son, Jesus Christ. We also seek to support students in their spiritual, social and moral development.

Our Values: who we aim to be

Great Open Door aims to offer schools exceptional resources, which capture children's imaginations, by combining the following Values

Passion and Conviction: which communicates

Creativity and Originality: which is memorable

Continuous Improvement: which increases our skills and develops the team's faith

Prayerfulness: which continually acknowledges that this is the Lord's work

Diligence: which demonstrates professionalism and the desire to serve

Partnering: which recognises the importance of fostering good working relationships with schools, churches, and the local community.

Objects of the Charity

To advance the Christian faith among young people and families, in schools and groups, and in conjunction with the churches in Harlow Essex and the surrounding area.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that their activities meet the public benefit guidance by teaching Christian values and the Christian faith to school children in every local school we are invited into and by encouraging greater partnerships between schools and churches. We assist schools by reinforcing their values, aligning

programmes with the national curriculum and by helping them to meet their requirements for collective acts of worship. We provide this service regularly and without charge in schools and in the community. There are no restrictions on children and young people having access to this service.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

The year to 31st March 2022 was a period of great change in society, schools and in our homes. Despite this challenging situation Great Open Door was able to share the Christian faith and moral values in a more prolific way than we could ever have imagined! Not only did team members truly embrace different skills and styles of working but we were also able to draw on previous team members to cameo on digital assemblies.

The ministry delivered seven live assemblies between lockdowns¹ The theme of these assemblies was “Love is shown by what we do” and the programme retold the Parable of the Good Samaritan with lively drama, music, puppets and with practical applications of these principles. It featured the true stories of four Jewish children who came to England in 1939 on the “Kinder Transport” and were saved from Nazi persecution. The assembly programme was very well received by staff and pupils alike.

Whilst schools were closed the assembly team continued to work in new ways, re-imagining and developing recorded assemblies for children to watch in their classrooms. These digital assemblies were then ready to release at Easter 2021 and in April and May 2021 and January 2022 when schools taught pupils “in bubbles”. Each of these productions were delivered to ALL 32 schools in Harlow - that’s 128 assembly offerings in one year!

The Easter message focused on looking in the wrong place and retold the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday using Lego, which worked very well.

Before lockdown the theme of the next planned assembly was ‘Thankfulness.’ This was subsequently split into two digital assemblies, titled “Being Thankful” and “An Attitude of Gratitude”. These thankfulness assemblies had a long lead time as we learnt how to be less “constrained” in the creative process, came to terms with changing social distancing rules, stopped to produce seasonal material and waited for online learning to end.

The most recent digital assembly called “My Life” was delivered January 2022. This looked at wellbeing, a very hot topic post lockdown. We aimed to give children a safe space to think about how they feel and give them some tools to help cope with stress or anxiety. This assembly saw our first use of green

¹ 1 NOVEMBER 2nd Harlowbury, 9th St James, 23rd St Lukes, DECEMBER 14th Abbotsweld MARCH 7th Fawbert & Barnard, 15th Kingsmoor, 22nd Pear Tree Mead.

screen technology which Pam handled brilliantly after some training from Capture House Ltd.

The Trustees encouraged the extension to our digital assemblies with the offer of related craft and follow on activities. Pupils have been used to interactive, high energy flagship assemblies from Great Open Door in the past. Although the team has the same passion and conviction it is harder to engage with children using pre-recorded material delivered on a flat screen. The hope was that by giving children this individual activity time, they would reflect and personally engage with the Bible message at a deeper level and think about how it could apply to their own lives.

Lego, a tool that is not suitable for our usual assemblies because of its small size, remains a huge success in making Bible stories more interesting and relatable for our digital audiences. The Trustees are very grateful for Andy Walker's skills and supplies as we share the Gospel in this visual way in our recorded assemblies.

The Summer of 2021 saw the release of Great Open Door's redesigned website. This showcases Great Open Door's work in an eye catching and exciting format. Schools can easily access our Digital content via <https://greatopendoor.org.uk/online-resources/>

Another innovation this year were "Prayer walks". The omicron variant temporarily closed Harlow schools to outside visitors from the beginning of the Spring term. This did, however, provide a unique opportunity to prayer walk a number of schools, praying for God's blessing and specific issues such as closed classes, staffing, the school office, Ofsted inspections and false friendships (where manipulative adults seek out vulnerable children to be drug mules etc..) and, of course, asking God to open more school doors to Great Open Door's assemblies. The team prayer walked schools in the Old Harlow, Little Parndon, Potter Street and Great Parndon neighbourhoods.

The Trustees were delighted that schools were eager to book Great Open Door's live assemblies at the start of the Summer term 2022 (following the end of the period under review). There have been so many unknowns and uncertainties during the Covid pandemic and there was no guarantee that schools would welcome Great Open Door post this disruption. The Trustees believe the work can confidently move forward in the knowledge that God has made the way for this ministry to continue by reaffirming that it will continue to serve our local schools.

The Trustees believe there has never been a more important time to share God's message of hope and love with the next generation and will seek to extend the reach of the ministry.

Commenting on the past year Jo Hargrave observed 'It has been wonderful to rest in God's love, offer our efforts to further his kingdom and see his Holy Spirit at work.' Amen!

To God be the Glory!

Volunteers

The ministry continues to be blessed with a wonderful team of committed and extremely flexible volunteers. The Trustees are thankful for these amazing volunteers, without which the ministry could not function. At 31 March 2022 these volunteers comprised: Pam Harknett, Angela Hodgson, Andy Walker and Paul Welfare 'The Sound Man' who, together with Jo Hargrave, comprise the team going into schools.

Jo Hargrave was appointed to the paid part time 'Schools Work Team Leader' position on 6th April 2021. Jo has excelled in the role of Team Leader, coordinating both video production, delivery and liaising with schools in the hope of booking live assemblies. The seven assemblies booked in November and December 2021 and March 2022 mask mountains of calls and considerably more bookings that, due to increasing infection rates, did not materialise.

Throughout this period of uncertainty, the team has shown amazing resilience and ingenuity. Video production ran throughout the weeks when they were allowed to work in home "bubbles" and regardless of the restrictions the team continued to meet on Tuesday mornings for prayer, either via Zoom or in person on Prayer Walks.

The Trustees also wish to thank previous team members, such as Holly Blunderfield and Tim West, who have added their own expertise on our digital assemblies.

The Trustees are thankful for the 6 years of faithful dedicated service that David Swindale gave to the ministry and wish him and Susan God's blessing as they make plans to leave Harlow after Easter 2022.

We conclude the year intentionally praying for more volunteers to join the ministry. Efforts will be increased in the current year to raise awareness within the churches of opportunities to volunteer with Great Open Door and serve our schools. Not just performers are needed but also Christians who have social media skills or have a good back to be a 'Roady'!

Website

The Trustees wish to thank Barry Wales for redesigning the website, giving it fresh impact and an attractive, modern look and for his ongoing help and advice.

Online resources are now much easier to access and more user friendly. Digital content is accessed via <https://greatopendoor.org.uk/online-resources/>

Prayer

The Trustees are thankful to everyone who has supported the ministry in prayer. The Trustees will be seeking to strengthen the prayer foundation of the ministry in the coming year.

Mission partner

Great Open Door is a Local Mission Partner of Scripture Union. This provides the ministry opportunities for networking and offers training and resources in various aspects of youth and children's work.

Heart 4 Harlow

The Trustees are grateful for the work of the Arts, Culture and Education (ACE's) Group and for their enthusiastic support and endorsement of our ministry.

Jo Hargrave was given the opportunity to introduce herself to the churches at the January Heart 4 Harlow prayer meeting and to make a presentation and pray for the work of Great Open Door. In the followed month Sam Fowler was able to outline the work of Scripture Union and the 95 Campaign and to explain the resources and help available to churches from Scripture Union.

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name Great Open Door

Registered charity number: 1169471

The Trustees who served the charity during the period and since the year end were as follows:

P Gray
R Kingsmill
T West (Resigned 20th April 2022)

Registered Office: 3 Thurstans
Harlow
Essex
CM19 4BS

Bankers: Lloyds Bank Plc
25 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HN

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

P.Gray
Phil Gray
Trustee

29th July 2022

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Income and Expenditure Account for the year under review and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2022. The Trustees do not consider it necessary to have an independent examiners report as the income of the charity is below the £25,000 threshold to require this and the financial activities are very straightforward.

Income for the period under review was £8,390 and expenditure on charitable activities was £6,743 leaving cash funds of £6,320 at the year end.

We are grateful to the churches, individuals and trusts who have supported the ministry and who continue to fund our work.

Total assets amounted to £7,320 including the estimated value of the portable sound system (£800) and puppets and props (£200) all of which were gifted to the charity. The Trustees are grateful for all of the goods and services donated to the charity.

There were no outstanding liabilities on 31st March 2022.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenditure

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income from Charitable Activities			
Donations			
Churches	600		600
Individuals	5,469		5,469
Gift Aid	1,321		1,321
S W Buckhurst Trust	1,000		1,000
Total	8,390		8,390
Donations	90		8,390
Expenditure on Charitable Activities			
Subcontractor Services	4,960		4,960
Travelling Expenses	60		60
Assemblies & Lessons	124		124
Training	59		259
Donations	1,056	1	1,200
Insurance	256	44	256
Sound System	28		28
Total	6,743	45	6,887
Expenditure	3	44	6,887
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,647	144	1,503
Cash Funds at 31 March 2021	4,673	144	4,817
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,647	144	1,503
Cash Funds at 31 March 2022	6,320	-	6,320

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31 March 2022

Assets	£	£
Cash Funds		
Unrestricted Funds		6,320
Donated Items at Valuation		
Sound and PA Equipment	800	
Puppets and Props	200	
		1,000
Total Assets		£7,320

GREAT OPEN DOOR

England & Wales - Charity number 1169471

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2021

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The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year to 31st March 2021.

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Great Open Door

www.greatopendoor.org.uk

Charity No. 1169471

VISION AND VALUES

Offering schools exceptional resources that capture children's imaginations.

Vision: who we are

Our vision is to 'raise the next generation to know their God.' This is fulfilled by teaching the Christian faith and Christian moral values to primary school children in Harlow Essex and the surrounding area in engaging and relevant ways so that they can make an informed choice about belief in God and following His Son, Jesus Christ. We also seek to support students in their spiritual, social and moral development.

Our Values: who we aim to be

Great Open Door aims to offer schools exceptional resources, which capture children's imaginations, by combining the following Values

Passion and Conviction: which communicates

Creativity and Originality: which is memorable

Continuous Improvement: which increases our skills and develops the team's faith

Prayerfulness: which continually acknowledges that this is the Lord's work

Diligence: which demonstrates professionalism and the desire to serve

Partnering: which recognises the importance of fostering good working relationships with schools, churches, and the local community.

Objects of the Charity

To advance the Christian faith among young people and families, in schools and groups, and in conjunction with the churches in the area of Harlow Essex and the surrounding area.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that their activities meet the public benefit guidance by teaching Christian values and the Christian faith to school children in every local school we are invited into and by encouraging greater partnerships between schools and churches. We assist schools by reinforcing their values, aligning programmes with the national curriculum and by helping them to meet their requirements for collective acts of worship. We provide this service regularly and without charge in schools and in the community. There are no restrictions on children and young people having access to this service.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

This report covers the beginning period of the Covid 19 pandemic, which resulted in the biggest disruption to Great Open Door's ministry in its 18-year history.

The visit to Pemberley Academy on 10th March 2020 was the last time Great Open Door was allowed into school to take an assembly, because of the restrictions imposed by the national lockdown. At that stage it was far from clear when whole school assemblies would recommence and when visitors would again be allowed onto school premises.

In the event, schools remained closed throughout the summer term and our ministry, like much of the country, was placed in lockdown.

The Trustees continued to actively monitor the situation to endeavour to ensure that Great Open Door was in a position to serve its schools as soon as conditions allowed.

It then became clear that, while the Government was planning a full return to school from September 2020 onwards, pupils would be organised into separate "bubbles" of class or year group size.

The Trustees considered how best to teach and reach school children to ensure that they could continue to learn about Jesus and hear Biblical and Gospel truth.

The Trustees decided to explore the possibility of producing videos, which teachers could show to their class in place of live assemblies. This idea was put to the assembly team at a team meeting in August 2020, the first time they had met together physically since March 2020.

Both Tim and Pam were keen to take on the filming and editing for this new venture and all the team enthusiastically welcomed the proposal, especially as it was stressed that there would be a role for every team member in producing the videos.

The Trustees also explored the possibility of providing teachers with related craft and practical activities to support the message of the video and give children with different learning styles more opportunity to access and take hold of the teaching.

The Trustees, therefore, viewed this disruption to our normal programme as an 'opportunity' rather than a 'problem.' And felt, as God leads, that it could extend the reach of the ministry. Especially important, as, with so much changing in our society and our schools, there has never been a more important time to share God's message of hope and love with the school children of Harlow.

So, in response, the assembly team began working in new ways from September 2020 onwards, re-imagining and developing digital content for children to watch in their classrooms. As a result, Christmas and Easter videoed assemblies were produced, together with two digital 'Thankfulness' themed assemblies.

The first digital assembly was a Christmas video delivered into 32 primary schools in Harlow and 13 in Bishops Stortford, via Puppets Galore, a Christian puppet ministry, who collaborated with us in making the video.

Using Lego stills and puppets, different animals told the story of the first Christmas. We rejoice that this video was distributed to all our “usual” local primary schools, as well as all the schools in our catchment area who had not seen our work before. The video was viewed a total of 228 times.

The message went out even further, to schools outside our catchment, such as the primary schools in Sawbridgeworth and Stansted. And it did not stop there! Our films have been used by many different groups – churches, nursing homes, missionaries and families in Bolivia, Belgium, Barbados and Delhi. What a glorious thing to be able to share Gods hope across the world, when so much else was restricted.

The Easter assembly focused on surprises, with puppets looking for something in the wrong place! It was seen a total of 242 times.

The team learnt many new skills on the job and rose to the challenges of lockdown. The many logistical challenges included socially distanced puppets, patching and editing home working ‘bubbles’ together to combine narration and voice overs with the Lego stills and puppet action.

By January 2021 work was well advanced on the first Thankfulness video, called ‘Being Thankful.’ However, schools were closed for most pupils during the Spring term so it was decided to delay its distribution until the Summer term, when it was hoped the children would have returned to school.

This proved to be the case and, in the event, ‘Being Thankful’ was distributed to schools in April 2021. The second Thankfulness themed video called ‘An Attitude of Gratitude,’ which was also worked on during this period, was subsequently released to schools in May 2021.

Looking to the future, there continue to be many unknowns and uncertainties at the present time. We hope and pray schools can quickly return to normal and be able to put this period of disruption behind them.

With so much in flux we continue to remain flexible, hopeful and joyful and ready to serve our schools in the new academic year.

All of this is in Gods mighty hands!

Volunteers

The ministry is blessed with a wonderful team of committed volunteers who continue to meet weekly via Zoom for prayer and to progress the many aspects of video production.

The Trustees were delighted that Jo Hargrave re-joined the Great Open Door team in August 2020. Jo worked with Great Open Door some years ago; she did a fantastic job, and brings an enthusiasm and her multiple skills and abilities to our ministry. We had been praying for more female team members, particularly those who enjoy puppeting, and Jo fills that description brilliantly - another answer to prayer!

Jo quickly slotted into the role of team leader, coordinating the many facets of video production, and was appointed to the paid part time Schools Work Team Leader position on 6th April 2021. In January 2021 Phil stepped back from hands on school's ministry in Harlow. He continues to support Jo, as her Line Manager, with advice and guidance.

It is a blessing that previous team members, such as Holly Blunderfield, have been able to add their own expertise on recorded assemblies when pre-pandemic lifestyles made this impossible! God truly is in control!

Our amazing team of volunteers on 31 March 2021 comprised: Holly Blunderfield, Pam Harknett, Angela Hodgson, David Swindale, Andy Walker, and Paul Welfare 'The Sound Man' with Tim giving support as needed.

The Trustees are keen to involve more local Christians in the ministry and to recruit more volunteers in the coming year.

Website

The Trustees wish to thank Barry Wales for redesigning the website to make the new digital content much easier to access and user friendly. Digital content is accessed via www.greatopendoor.org.uk/onlineresources.

During the current year Barry has continued developing the website, redesigning and streamlining it, to give it fresh impact and an exciting, modern look.

Prayer

The Trustees are thankful to everyone who has supported the ministry in prayer.

Mission partner

Great Open Door is a Local Mission Partner of Scripture Union. This provides us with opportunities for networking and offers training and resources in various aspects of youth and children's work.

Heart 4 Harlow

The Trustees are grateful for the work of the Arts, Culture and Education (ACE's) Group and for their enthusiastic support and endorsement of our ministry.

Getting feedback from schools has been particularly difficult during the pandemic, so we were delighted to hear from Sarah Mitchell, chair of the ACE's group, that 'it felt like God had descended on her class' when the Easter video was shown and that in the past her class were so excited they cheered when they knew Great Open Door were coming in! This sort of feedback shows that the children are responding positively to our presentations and makes all the hard work so worthwhile.

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered charity name Great Open Door

Registered charity number: 1169471

The Trustees who served the charity during the period and since the year end were as follows:

P Gray
R Kingsmill
T West

Registered Office: 3 Thurstans
Harlow
Essex
CM19 4RS

Bankers: Lloyds Bank Plc
25 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HN

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

P. Gray

Phil Gray
Trustee

8th July 2021

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Income and Expenditure Account for the year under review and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31 March 2021. The Trustees do not consider it necessary to have an independent examiners report as the income of the charity is below the £25,000 threshold to require this and the financial activities are very straightforward.

Income for the period under review was £1,726 and expenditure on charitable activities was £519 leaving cash funds of £4,817 at the year end.

We are grateful to the churches, individuals and trusts who have supported us and who continue to fund our work.

Total assets amounted to £6,517 including the estimated value of the portable sound system (£1,000) and puppets and props (£200) and after school's club tablet computers and accessories (£500) all of which were gifted to the charity. The Trustees are grateful for all of the goods and services donated to the charity.

There were no outstanding liabilities on 31st March 2021.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenditure

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income from Charitable Activities			
Donations			
Churches	600		600
Individuals	126		126
Trusts	1,000		1,000
Total Donations	1,726		1,726
Expenditure on Charitable Activities			
Insurance	330		330
Sound System	11		11
Assemblies & Lessons	178		178
Total Expenditure	519	-	519
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,207	-	1,207
Cash Funds at 31 March 2020	3,466	144	3,610
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,207		1,207
Cash Funds at 31 March 2021	4,673	144	4,817

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31 March 2021

Assets

Cash Funds

	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	4673	
Restricted Funds	144	
		4817

Donated Items at Valuation

Sound and PA Equipment	1,000	
Puppets and Props	200	
		1,200

Restricted Items

After School Clubs		
Tablet Computers and Accessories	500	
		500

Total Assets

£6,517