GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, EDENBRIDGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1181051

Details

Other names	GCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2018-12-07
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	76 Hever Road Edenbridge TN8 5DJ
Phone	07964690323
Email	info@gcceden.org
Website	www.gcceden.org

Activities

Objects: 1. TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS (SET OUT IN ANNEX 1) PRINCIPALLY IN EDENBRIDGE, KENT BUT ALSO IN SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE CHARITY TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT AND TO FULFIL SUCH OTHER PURPOSES WHICH ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND ARE CONNECTED WITH THE CHARITABLE WORK OF THE CIO;2. TO RELIEVE PERSONS WHO ARE IN CONDITIONS OF NEED OR HARDSHIP OR WHO ARE AGED OR SICK AND TO RELIEVE THE DISTRESS CAUSED THEREBY IN EDENBRIDGE, KENT AND IN SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE WORLD AS THE CHARITY TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS (SET OUT IN APPENDIX 1)

Activities: By preaching, teaching, running of courses (eg Alpha) to introduce people to the faith. By helping and serving in locally run projects that benefit the community. By supporting financially and with expertise Christian groups in parts of the UK and the world as the trustees from time to time think fit.

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1181051

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£120,040	£100,538	-	-
2024-03-31	£108,042	£87,626	-	-
2023-03-31	£104,198	£74,087	-	-
2022-03-31	£79,099	£66,093	-	-
2021-03-31	£32,264	£43,876	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David White	Chair	2018-09-17
Dirk Wyatt Illing		2022-06-24
Gabriel Mpubani		2024-06-20
MARK THORNETT		2026-04-30
RUTH JOY GOODING		2018-09-17

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1181051

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, EDENBRIDGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1181051

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report: April 2024 to March 2025

Charity Name: Grace Community Church, Edenbridge (GCC)

Charity Registration Number: 1181051 Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Address: 76 Hever Road, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5DJ

Trustees: David White, Ruth Gooding, Gary Byfield (to 9/6/24), Dirk Illing and Gabriel Mpubani (from 24/6/24)

The trustees have pleasure in submitting the annual report and accounts for the period from **1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.**

Objectives and Activities

The primary role of the charity is to fulfil the role of a Christian Church based in Edenbridge, Kent by working to meet the objects of the charity specified in the governing document and summarised below:

- To advance the Christian faith principally in Edenbridge, Kent, but also in other parts of the UK and the world as the charity trustees and leadership of the church think fit.
- To relieve people who are in hardship or difficulty through sickness or distress in Edenbridge, Kent, other parts of the UK and the world as the charity trustees and leadership of the church think fit.

In planning and undertaking activities the trustees have had due regard to the Public Benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission and are satisfied that the overall activity of the charity has been of public benefit.

GCC is not a building, but a gathering of ordinary people of different ages and backgrounds, whose lives have been changed by Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The New Testament reveals the Church as a community of people, properly taught and cared for, who by loving and serving Jesus Christ, are also committed to love and care for each other and to bring a blessing to the area in which they live.

The vision and long-term aim of GCC is to make known to the local community, and as part of the wider Church, the nation and indeed nations of the world, the love and grace of God demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This has more than a spiritual significance and is worked out in day-to-day care, evangelism and meeting the needs of those who are both within the Church and those who, as yet, do not know Christ as Lord.

Whilst the church employs one full time church leader, it is the work of every member of the church, whether employed or not, that makes a difference in the church achieving success in its great commission.

This is done in 'being salt and light' amongst the people they interact with every day; by praying, by visiting the sick and others in need, in being involved in training others, in public teaching and worship, and also in good administration. By showing people the unconditional love of Christ through good deeds we are able to have a positive effect on the lives of those within the church and in the community. How this is done by the people of the church, in all sorts of different ways, is explained in the report below and demonstrates the effectiveness of

a community motivated by love of God and love for people and who are willing to sacrifice finance and time to serve others.

The financial resources of the church are given by the members, and their private assets and equipment are regularly used in the work of the church. Much of this work is done privately, without recognition, and the hours and value of that time cannot be quantified.

In order to further fulfil the objectives of the charity there are times when grants are applied for and received to enable the setting up of specific projects which serve the wider local community (eg Edenbridge Foodbank and Kids Clubs).

Grant making policy:-Gifts to external organisations and individuals are considered by the Church Leaders and Trustees on the basis of need and fulfilment of the charitable objectives.

Summary of the main activities of the church:

The trustees are pleased to report that during this year the charity has continued to see growth in the development of all aspects of its work. In particular:

- Growth in numbers regularly participating in church activities both on Sundays and in the various projects and ministries that take place in the community.
- Progress in the management and organisation of serving rotas and communication with members through the use of 'Church Suite', an online church management and communication package.
- Growth in church leadership and training, particularly with the appointment of Peter Mizen in April 2024 as a new elder, (non-salaried), to be alongside Dave White.
- Also the appointment of Mark Thornett, an experienced church leader, on a 25% working week basis to assist the elders, Dave and Pete, with the development of future leaders, mentoring and other administration and management duties.
- Good engagement with our wider Regions Beyond family of churches both nationally and internationally.
- The ongoing successful work of Edenbridge Foodbank which includes a Financial Inclusion project. This project aims to further assist clients of the foodbank who face financial hardship which has led them to seek help from the foodbank. (See details below).

In summary, the main activities of the church have been:

- Regular Sunday meetings held at Edenbridge Primary school. These include contemporary worship, prayer, bible teaching, fellowship and friendship and are open to all. Special children's activities (Sunday Club) also take place during the meeting catering for toddlers to teens.
- At Christmas and Easter, special celebration services and activities were arranged. At these times those from the Foodbank, and those involved in mid-week Laser Light kids clubs and the Bizzy Bees toddler group were also invited to attend.
- For the first time, celebrating the wedding of a couple in the church.
- Weekly small group meetings have taken place for church members. These included worship, bible study and prayer and helped to equip and encourage people in their Christian lives.
- A Vision and Values course was run for people new to the church
- Pastoral care and support to those in need or distress
- Training courses open to both leaders and church members were run or attended covering safeguarding, preaching and leadership training.

- Children's clubs and groups were run regularly on Sundays and during the week in the community (Laser Light Klub) to engage children with the Christian faith and teach healthy social values through games, craft, songs and bible stories.
- We engaged with local schools by being invited to take Christian assemblies and running after-school clubs in two local primary schools.
- The weekly Mum's/Dad's carers and toddler group (Bizzy Bees) has been running as a service to local families throughout the year.
- Being involved in the local community through local events and activities.
- Working together with other local churches in Christian ministry, and in projects meeting a variety of needs in the community e.g. the local youth work and the foodbank.
- Some financial support was given to support Christian work in other areas.
- Playing an active role as part of the Regions Beyond family of churches in the UK and internationally.

The church is currently led by Dave White (the lead elder) and fellow elder Pete Mizen. They are also assisted by Sue White, Mark Thornett and a wider leadership team of volunteers.

Details of many of the activities are provided in the following sections of this report.

Achievements and Performance

Sunday Worship Services and Mid-Week groups and activities

We have continued to use the hired premises at Edenbridge Primary School for our Sunday meetings. This gives us ample space including a dedicated second hall for the children's groups. Being in the centre of town, in a well-known venue, means that it is much easier for visitors to find us, and we have consistently seen people visit and show interest in us as a church and a number have joined us during the year. This has led to an increase in numbers, not only of those attending meetings, but also of those actively engaged in serving in the various ministries and activities run by the church in the community. The numbers attending on Sunday varies but is usually between 25 and 40 adults with between 2 and about 12 children (including some teenagers).

On Sundays, worship was led by a variety of worship leaders and musicians, from the congregation, who are practicing and developing their skills in this area. We have seen much progress in the development of the worship music groups this year. Participation from everyone is encouraged in prayers, readings and the use of spiritual gifts.

Teaching from the bible plays a significant part of the meeting. This year's preaching included a series on the book of Nehemiah and guest speakers were also invited from time to time to preach as well. Mark Thornett generally preached for us once a month. We continued to encourage people relatively new to preaching, both men and women, to teach from time to time.

Regular monthly church prayer meetings were started this year on either Saturday mornings or Sunday evenings to pray for major events in church life, our own nation and for people and situations that we have concern for or links with internationally. Also, a regular short prayer meeting takes place before each Sunday morning meeting.

A mid-week house group meeting runs for fellowship, worship, prayer and bible teaching. This also act as important training grounds for people to develop as Christians. In addition,

there are several small prayer groups and one to one discipleship and or prayer groups that meet from time to time, providing encouragement and an opportunity to share together.

Several informal ***Café Church*** events were held on Sunday afternoons. These events included plenty of free refreshments, music, games and quizzes as well as a short talk or real-life story from someone. We are so pleased that we always have people who don't usually attend church visiting us on these occasions.

Our Christmas all-age service included an invite to the families of children attending the Laser Light Clubs and a number of children and parents came and joined in the celebration.

This year we were thrilled to celebrate our first ***wedding*** of two people from the church: first at a registry office, followed by a celebration service with the church.

There was also a ***dedication service*** for a young child and their parents during the year.

Pete Mizen completed the ***Regions Beyond Equip Leadership*** part-time training course during this year and now two other members of the wider leadership team of the church have begun the same course. This course aims to provide general equipping and training in the application of biblical doctrine, especially to church leadership.

Six members of GCC attended the ***Regions Beyond Teaching and Preaching Course*** held over a number of zoom sessions and then for an in person training day. This has helped to equip a number of people to start to preach within the church.

Youth and Children are encouraged to be part of the worship in the meeting. After a short time of worship all together, a hard-working and dedicated team serve the children by running activities and lessons on Sundays in another hall. There are separate activities for young teens, primary age children and toddlers. The church continued to use a specialized Christian teaching and activity program for children called *Energize* which has proved most successful with both the leaders and children. The number attending varies but valuable bible story lessons and related activities as well as a lot of fun are always had.

Two of our young people attended the ***New Frontiers Youth Bible camp, Newday***, in Norfolk along with about 7,000 others in the summer. They came back very encouraged and strengthened in their faith. The church was able to partly financially support their attendance at this event.

Outreach and Community Events

As indicated above, reaching out to those not currently part of the church is part of the life and mission of the church, hence the Café Church events.

At Christmas, a carol service was held at a local sheltered housing venue.

Before Christmas, a wreath making event was held which proved very popular and enabled us to make further links and friendships with people in the community.

During the year we joined the local 'Prayer works' initiative involving going out on the streets in pairs offering to pray for people and talk about our faith with those willing to converse with us.

Laser Light Kidz Klub and local school connections

This club now runs as an after-school club at two of the local primary schools during term time. (Edenbridge Primary School and Hever C of E primary School). A dedicated team of volunteers continues to run this successfully, and we continue to build up the number of children attending. The activities are based around a child-friendly Bible story and then craft and play activities for the last hour. Links with the church are encouraged and a number of families attended church events during the year.

We also took Christian Assemblies at Hever, Crockham Hill and Four Elms Primary Schools.

The church manned a craft stall at the Edenbridge Primary School fete, which was well received, despite the bad weather on the day.

Local Youth Work

As a church we are involved with the local inter-church youth work (called Eden Christian Trust youth club) providing a volunteer and a trustee for this charity as well as monthly financial support. This club reaches up to about 40 young people every week, many from non-church backgrounds, as well as running a one-to one mentoring service.

Bizzy Bees Mums n Tots Group

The group continues to meet every Friday during term-time in Rickards Hall. It offers a safe place for babies and toddlers to play while their parents and carers chat and make friends. The numbers are consistent each week with a good number of new mums joining us regularly.

We are so grateful to Sue White and the team of volunteer helpers, both regular and occasional, who run and assist at these clubs, groups and activities. Such activities help to raise the profile of the church and its mission in the town, enabling us to meet new people, talk about faith and invite to other meetings and services. In this way we are also able to serve the community, be a blessing and offer friendship and assistance to those in need.

We are also very grateful for the grants received this year from the Great Stonebridge Trust for both the Laser Light Kidz Klub and the Bizzy Bees group. These grants have enabled us to continue to provide these services for many households in the local area, including those who are less able to afford to pay for privately run children's groups and activities.

Edenbridge Foodbank

We began operating the foodbank on 13th April 2021. It is run under the umbrella of the UK Trussell Trust network and operates as part of the GCC charity. It is managed by a team of three people (including Dave White, the GCC leader). A team of about 15 volunteers has been recruited from across the local churches and wider community. The project takes place in cooperation and with the full support of the local churches.

Edenbridge Town Council allow us the free use of the council hall (Rickards Hall) once a week for the foodbank centre to open to clients. The town council has also allowed us use of the land behind their offices, and on the same site as the foodbank centre, where we have erected a permanent storage facility. This has greatly assisted the work of the foodbank. Non-perishable food is donated, collected, sorted, dated and weighed into this facility by the operations team.

On Tuesday mornings the team then deliver prepared food boxes and assorted trays of other items to the centre. The centre is open for two hours and clients arrive and are welcomed by the centre team. They are offered refreshments and assisted in collecting their food. Clients

are always offered the chance to talk and are often sign-posted to other agencies (eg debt advice, citizens advice, housing support, mental health support) who can assist further. The aim is that clients are helped in such a way that they are less likely to continue to need the support of the foodbank in future.

Clients are referred to us by a wide variety of local agencies who now have links with us. These agencies issue e-vouchers to the clients who can then attend the foodbank.

During this fourth year of operation the foodbank fulfilled a total of **660** food vouchers to households in the local area. This represented **116** unique households helped with food during the year. Totalling the number of people in the individual households this means that during the year **1241 people** were helped through the foodbank from our local area. Overall, the figures represent a slight decrease from the previous year.

A total of **10,212 kg** of new food stock was donated to the foodbank during the year and **15,138 kg** of food was distributed to clients. Stocks of food remain high.

Running this project has increased our contact with the community and also enabled us to develop our ministry to those in need or in vulnerable situations. The number of people receiving help from the foodbank clearly shows both the need in the community and the overall effect that the cost-of-living crisis continues to have.

During this year Edenbridge Foodbank continues to receive a significant grant from the Trussell Trust to run the Financial Inclusion project in partnership with the local Citizens Advice and the Crosslight debt and money management advice service. This has enabled those two organisations to give dedicated time to foodbank clients to assist them in dealing with financial issues of all sorts. This is proving very valuable to many clients who are receiving help with debt management, budgeting, ensuring benefit allowances are received and maximised as well as assisting clients in liaising with utility companies over outstanding bills.

From July 2025 the grant from the Trussell Trust for this Financial Inclusion project is expected to halve but the trustees of GCC have decided to use current foodbank funds to continue to allow this project to fully operate for another year. During the financial year April 25 to March 26 the trustees will assess the project and the funds available to decide how and whether to continue this aspect of the Foodbank's work.

Over the year, we have seen a number of foodbank clients move on in their lives, getting employment, seeing improved mental health, having benefits sorted out and also linking with other organisations in the community, including in one or two cases, taking on volunteer situations in other charities. A few clients have also attended some of the activities and services of Grace Community Church over the year.

An example of the help received by a client through Citizens Advice (CA) (whose work is funded through this project) is: *CA helped the client to appeal against the decision of the DWP to reduce the Personal Independence Payment. After the appeal, the DWP agreed to change their decision before a tribunal date took place, thus avoiding the need for the client to endure a stressful wait and tribunal. The result was an additional income for the client of £3416 p/a and a £3023 lump sum back payment. Following this the client no longer needed to use the foodbank.*

We are of course extremely grateful to all the hard work of the managers, volunteer teams, the town council (for its provision) and the many other organisations who have supported us.

We are so grateful for the ongoing generosity of the people of Edenbridge in regularly donating food. We especially value the support, prayers and encouragement of the churches of Edenbridge.

Working with other local churches in Edenbridge

The church is part of Edenbridge Churches in Covenant (ECC) comprising the 7 local churches. The local ministers meet together for support and fellowship and to discuss possible joint services and activities. The ECC council meets four times a year and Dave White acted as chairperson to the ECC during this year.

GCC joined the joint churches prayer week activities in January. Each church hosted a prayer/worship event during the week to which all were encouraged to attend. On Good Friday in April, a joint-churches walk of witness through the town took place which was very well attended.

Along with the other local churches, GCC financially supports the Eden Christian Trust (ECT) town youth service with a regular donation and also by supplying a volunteer for the Friday night youth club and a trustee (Sue White) to sit on the board. Dave White also acts a clergy liaison person for the ECT trustees.

Involvement with Regions Beyond.

The church is part of the Regions Beyond international family of churches which is itself part of the wider New Frontiers network. GCC leaders regularly attended Regions Beyond leaders' meetings for training, fellowship and encouragement.

Dave and Sue and a number of others attended national Regions Beyond three-day Hub meetings held in Hull and Worthing. These were excellent times of encouragement, vision and networking with other church leaders.

In May a number of the ladies were very encouraged by attending a ladies conference run by our local Regions Beyond churches.

In June the London and South-East Regions Beyond churches held a special celebration event in Croydon at which GCC played a significant part in organising, hosting the meeting and in running the children's ministry. This was a very encouraging gathering helping to build relationships with other churches in our region.

This year Dave and Sue White continued to take some responsibility for helping to lead the London and Southeast Regions Beyond Hub meetings which normally meet once a fortnight in one of the churches.

October was the Global Advance month where news of Regions Beyond activities and churches, both in the UK and abroad, were shared with the church and members encouraged to pray for and support financially the wider work of Regions Beyond across the world. An offering was taken up at this time and we were privileged to be able to send over £3500 to Regions Beyond to be distributed and used by the UK and Global teams. This represents a wonderful corporate act of faith and generosity towards the overall mission of this relatively small church. In addition, a one-off donation was made to Regions Beyond of £5000 from church funds as well as some financial support through Regions Beyond for a new work in Malaysia.

GCC has also supported financially and with a visit, a new church plant situation in Birmingham UK.

In November Dave and Sue attended the international Regions Beyond Conference in Dubai. This was an important time of fellowship and networking. In particular GCC financially supported 2 leaders from our Regions Beyond Zambian churches to attend this conference. During this time plans were made for a team from GCC to visit Zambia to encourage and help the churches in Lusaka especially with their work amongst children.

Plans are also being made for Dave to join a small team to visit, teach and encourage our Regions Beyond churches in Nepal later in the year.

Plans for the Future

As always, developments are dependent on further growth in the number of active volunteers within the church. The faith and commitment of people has stayed strong and financial giving increased during the year. We have seen a number of new people join us and as Edenbridge grows, with many new houses being built, it is expected that others will look around for church involvement and consider joining us.

The trustees and leaders of GCC are also aware of the ongoing cost of living crisis in the UK and will be monitoring the effect on the operation and finances of the charity.

In the coming year, in addition to the regular activities and outreach of the church and the foodbank, we expect:

- To increase the links to the church with the children and families of the Laser Light Clubs and with those attending the Bizzy Bees group as well as with clients at the foodbank.
- To take a team of 5 people to visit the churches in Zambia where we have links, providing encouragement, teaching and help with work amongst children.
- To make the visit to our Regions Beyond churches in Nepal and develop that link with key leaders.
- To intentionally develop the wider leadership of GCC and its ministry by:
    - Following the preaching and teaching course, to provide opportunities for those who attended to preach and develop their skills.
    - Encouraging others to take part in Regions Beyond training courses such as the Equip leadership course.
    - For the elders and others on the leadership team to spend time with other potential leaders providing discipleship and help in strengthening their faith.
- To consider and plan for the future leadership of GCC as Dave White looks to move towards retiring from his salaried position.
- To encourage the church to take part in regional celebration and prayer events run by Regions Beyond.
- To plan a community wide ‘Fun Day’ in one of the town parks as a way of outreach and blessing the local community.
- We are planning to take on a young man to serve and study as an intern from September 2025 for one year. This will be run as part of the Newfrontiers Intentional Discipleship Programme.
- To make plans to continue the Financial Inclusion project of the foodbank once the Trussell Trust grant stops in July 2025.

Risk Statement: All major insurable risks are subject to normal churches and employers' insurance. New projects and ventures are risk assessed before being started, to assess whether they will significantly impact upon the church's ability to fulfil its objectives.

Financial Review

The charity has two bank current accounts, both held at Lloyds Bank PLC. The charity has also opened a savings account with Hampshire Trust Bank which earns interest and is instant access. Funds are moved to and from this account when deemed appropriate. The main current account is for the church activities and the second current account is for the sole use of Edenbridge Foodbank.

The accounting year is 1st April to 31st March. The accounts attached to this report therefore cover from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Total income received across the charity was £120,040. Of this £36,182 was received for the foodbank use and £5,558 was money given to other Restricted funds as shown in the Restricted funds column. £58,969 was given by members and friends of the church during the year which shows the commitment and faithfulness to the mission of the church.

Total expenditure was £100,538 of which £25,012 was spent on foodbank costs and £6,459 was spent from the restricted funds as shown.

The accounts were externally examined, and no material issues of concern were found.

There are no outstanding debts or material liabilities.

Concerning the income and expenditure of the church (rather than the foodbank), for the third year running income was higher than expenditure which meant we did not need to use any reserve funds. It is expected that this will continue to be the case in the coming year.

Reserves policy: It is the policy of GCC to maintain reserves at a level consistent with safeguarding the charity against unexpected significant expenditure and to provide enough funds to smooth over peaks and troughs in short term cash flow. Approximately 3 months of average expenditure across the charity are therefore kept as reserves (currently about £25,000).

Cash funds in the bank accounts (including savings) at year end were £63,381 and £55,943 for the main church account and the Edenbridge Foodbank account respectively.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is established within Regions Beyond – part of the New Frontiers family of churches. The church is also part of Edenbridge Churches in Covenant, in total consisting of seven local churches.

Directions relating to the charitable trust are made by the trustees in consultation with the church Lead Elder (Dave White, who is also a trustee) and the other elder and leaders of the church. The church elders and other leaders are responsible for governing the life and teaching of the church and day to day decisions on expenditure and activities are decided by the leaders in charge of different areas of the church, with budgets set and monitored by the Trustees.

In general, the responsibility for appointment of new trustees rests with the current trustees guided by the Lead Elder. New trustees are primarily selected from the members of GCC and/or other churches sharing the same vision.

On being appointed, new trustees are offered training and spend time with the existing trustees to ensure they understand their responsibilities and the legal and financial framework in which the church operates.

The trustees extend their thanks for the hard work and faithful service to all those involved with Grace Community Church, both the leaders and other volunteers. The trustees are also grateful for the generosity of all those who have financially supported the work and mission of the church during the year.

Trustee's responsibilities: Charity law requires us as trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and of its income and expenditure for the year. We are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.
4. Prepare the financial statements on an ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of Grace Community Church Edenbridge on

And signed on its behalf by: David White D White 23.1.26

Position: Lead Elder and Trustee, Grace Community Church, Edenbridge

And: Name: RUTH GOODING R J Gooding

Position: Trustee, Grace Community Church, Edenbridge

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Grace Community Church, Edenbridge	1181051

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date		To	Period end date
	1st April 2024			31st March 2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Edenbridge Foodbank to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Ordinary Income from church people	58,969				58,969	58,152
Gift aid claim	14,333				14,333	10,722
Other organisations	4,998				4,998	331
Regions Beyond Special offering		3,559			3,559	3,865
Laser Light kids fund		500			500	1,658
GCC Special Offering					-	200
Bizzy Bees Mums and Tots		1,499			1,499	1,923
Ed Foodbank acc donations			6,684		6,684	7,225
Ed Foodbank Financial Inclusion grant			28,806		28,806	23,462
Ed Foodbank gift aid			692		692	504
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	78,300	5,558	36,182	-	120,040	108,042
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	78,300	5,558	36,182	-	120,040	108,042

A3 Payments

Payroll staff costs	41,452			-	41,452	41,176
Office admin fees	502			-	502	399
Professional fees/licemces/subs	953			-	953	830
Pub;icity Printing	504			-	504	251
Insurance	524				524	413
Hall hire	6,436			-	6,436	4,422
Equipment	73				73	110
Elders expenses	790				790	163
Childrens work	515				515	204
Events evangelism/ministry materials	551				551	334
Ministry materials	316				316	327
Visiting Ministry Expenses	330				330	120
UK Conference Rexpenses	3,431				3,431	1,378
Misc					-	10
Gifts donations	7,702			-	7,702	2,435
Regions Beyond UK	3,600				3,600	2,400
Training	371			-	371	95
Regions Beyond Special Offering		3,565			3,565	3,865
GCC Special Offering					-	200
Birmingham church plant gift	660				660	
Bizzy Bees expenses		1,621		-	1,621	1,198
Laser Light Kids fund		1,270			1,270	1,080
ECT Monthly donation	360				360	360
Ed Foodbank Acc donations exp			785		785	1,236
Ed Foodbank Food Purchases			222		222	35
Ed Foodbank Financial Inclusion exp			24,005	-	24,005	24,585
Sub total	69,070	6,456	25,012	-	100,538	87,626

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	69,070	6,456	25,012	-	100,538	87,626
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,230	- 898	11,170	-	19,502 #	20,416
A5 Transfers between funds				-		-
A6 Cash funds last year end	52,591	2,480	44,751	-	99,822 #	
Cash funds this year end	61,821	1,582	55,921	-	119,324	
				-	-	

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank PLC (Main church account)	18,381		-
	Lloyds bank PLC (Edenbridge Foodbnk acc))		15,943	
	Hampshire Trust bank (Savings Account)	45,000	40,000	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	63,381	55,943	-

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
D. Cobb	DAVID WHITE	23.1.26
R.J. Gooding	RUTH GOODING	26.1.26.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name: Grace Community Church, Edenbridge		
On accounts for the year ended	31st March 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1181051
Set out on pages	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025

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:	[signature]	**Date:**	23/12/2025
Name:	John P. Southworth		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	F. C. A Retired		
Address:	Woodlea Four Elms Edenbridge Kent TN8 6NE		

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Grace Community Church, Edenbridge		
On accounts for the year ended	31st March 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1181051
Set out on pages	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025

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: [signature] **Date:** 23/12/2025

Name: John P. Southworth

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): F.C.A Retired

Address: Woodlea Four Elms
Edenbridge
Kent TN8 6NE

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, EDENBRIDGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1181051

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report: April 2023 to March 2024

Charity Name: Grace Community Church, Edenbridge (GCC)

Charity Registration Number: 1181051 Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Address: 76 Hever Road, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5DJ

Trustees: David White, Ruth Gooding, Gary Byfield and Dirk Illing.

The trustees have pleasure in submitting the annual report and accounts for the period from **1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.**

Objectives and Activities

The primary role of the charity is to fulfil the role of a Christian Church based in Edenbridge, Kent by working to meet the objects of the charity specified in the governing document and summarised below:

- To advance the Christian faith principally in Edenbridge, Kent, but also in other parts of the UK and the world as the charity trustees and leadership of the church think fit.
- To relieve people who are in hardship or difficulty through sickness or distress in Edenbridge, Kent, other parts of the UK and the world as the charity trustees and leadership of the church think fit.

In planning and undertaking activities the trustees have had due regard to the Public Benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission and are satisfied that the overall activity of the charity has been of public benefit.

GCC is not a building, but a gathering of ordinary people of different ages and backgrounds, whose lives have been changed by Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The New Testament reveals the Church as a community of people, properly taught and cared for, who by loving and serving Jesus Christ, were also committed to love and care for each other and to bring a blessing to the area in which they live.

The vision and long-term aim of GCC is to make known to the local community, and as part of the wider Church, the nation and indeed nations of the world, the love and grace of God demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This has more than a spiritual significance and is worked out in day-to-day care, evangelism and meeting the needs of those who are both within the Church and those who as yet do not know Christ as Lord.

Whilst the church employs one full time church leader, it is the work of every member of the church, whether employed or not, that makes a difference in the church achieving success in its great commission.

This is done in 'being salt and light' amongst the people they interact with every day; by praying, by visiting the sick and others in need, in being involved in training others, in public teaching and worship, and also in good administration. By showing people the unconditional love of Christ through good deeds we are able to have a positive effect on the lives of those within the church and in the community. How this is done by the people of the church, in all sorts of different ways, is explained in the report below and demonstrates the effectiveness of

a community motivated by love of God and love for people and who are willing to sacrifice finance and time to serve others.

The financial resources of the church are given by the members and their private assets and equipment are regularly used in the work of the church. Much of this work is done privately, without recognition, and the hours and value of that time cannot be quantified.

In order to further fulfil the objectives of the charity there are times when grants are applied for and received to enable the setting up of specific projects which serve the wider local community (eg Edenbridge Foodbank and Kids Clubs).

Grant making policy:-Gifts to external organisations and individuals are considered by the Church Leaders and Trustees on the basis of need and fulfilment of the charitable objectives.

Summary of the main activities of the church:

The trustees are pleased to report that during this year the charity has continued to see growth in the development of all aspects of its work. In particular:

- Growth in numbers regularly participating in church activities both on Sundays and in the various projects and ministries that take place in the community.
- Good engagement with our wider Regions Beyond family of churches both nationally and internationally especially during the Regions Beyond Gospel Advance month (See details below).
- The ongoing successful work of the Financial Inclusion project as part of Edenbridge Foodbank. This aims to further assist clients of the foodbank who face financial hardship leading them to seek help from the foodbank. (See details below).

In summary, the main activities of the church have been:

- Regular Sunday meetings held at Edenbridge Primary school. These include contemporary worship, prayer, bible teaching, fellowship and friendship and are open to all. Special children's activities (Sunday Club) also take place during the meeting catering for toddlers to teens.
- At Christmas and Easter, special celebration services and activities were arranged. At these times those involved in mid-week Laser Light kids clubs and the Bizzy Bees toddler group were also invited to attend.
- Weekly small group meetings have taken place for church members. These included worship, bible study and prayer and helped to equip and encourage people in their Christian lives.
- Several Vision and Values courses were run for people new to the church
- Pastoral care and support to those in need or distress
- Training courses open to both leaders and church members were run or attended covering safeguarding, worship leading, developing the place and role of women in the local church and leadership training.
- Children's clubs and groups were run regularly on Sundays and during the week in the community (Laser Light Klub) to engage children with the Christian faith and teach healthy social values through games, craft, songs and bible stories.
- We engaged with local schools by being invited to take Christian assemblies and running an after-school club in the main primary school.
- The weekly Mum's/Dad's carers and toddler group (Bizzy Bees) has been running as a service to local families throughout the year.

- Being involved in the local community through local events and activities.
- Working together with other local churches in Christian ministry, and in projects meeting a variety of needs in the community e.g. the local youth work and the foodbank.
- Some financial support was given to support Christian work in other areas.
- Playing an active role as part of the Regions Beyond family of churches in the UK and internationally.

The church is currently led by Dave White (the lead elder) assisted by his wife Sue and a wider leadership team of volunteers.

Details of many of the activities are provided in the following sections of this report.

Achievements and Performance

Sunday Worship Services and Mid-Week groups

We have continued to use the hired premises at Edenbridge Primary School for our Sunday meetings. This gives us ample space including a dedicated second hall for the children's groups. Being in the centre of town, in a well-known venue, means that it is much easier for visitors to find us, and we have consistently seen people visit and show interest in us as a church and a number have joined us during the year. This has led to an increase in numbers, not only of those attending meetings, but also of those actively engaged in serving in the various ministries and activities run by the church in the community. The numbers attending on Sunday varies but is usually between 25 and 35 adults with between 2 and about 10 children (including some teenagers).

On Sundays, worship was led by a variety of worship leaders and musicians, from the congregation, who are practicing and developing their skills in this area. We have seen much progress in the development of the worship music groups this year. A number attended the Regions Beyond worship leading course during the year. Participation from everyone is encouraged in prayers, readings and the use of spiritual gifts.

Teaching from the bible plays a significant part of the meeting. This year's preaching included a series on the book of Romans based on the *Romans Course produced by the Bible Society.* Guest speakers were invited from time to time to preach as well. This year two of our women leaders also preached for the first time which was much appreciated by the congregation.

Several informal ***Café Church*** events were held on Sunday afternoons. These events included plenty of free refreshments, music, games and quizzes as well as a short talk or testimony from someone. We are so pleased that we always have people who don't usually attend church visiting us on these occasions.

Our Christmas all-age service included an invite to the families of children attending the Laser Light Clubs and a number of children and parents came and joined in the celebration.

Six people attended ***Vision and Values sessions*** for people new to the church and were welcomed into membership on Sundays.

Pete Mizen is currently attending the Regions Beyond Equip Leadership part-time training course spread over three years. Besides general equipping and training this is with a view to him joining Dave as an elder at GCC.

We were very excited to have three full-immersion ***water baptisms*** this year; one adult and two children, who were newly ready to declare their faith openly by baptism in front of the church, their family and friends.

Youth and Children are encouraged to be part of the worship in the meeting. After a while, a hard-working and dedicated team serve the children by running activities and lessons on Sundays in another hall. There are separate activities for young teens, primary age children and toddlers. This year the church purchased and began to use a specialized Christian teaching and activity program for children called *Energize* which has proved most successful with both the leaders and children. The number attending is quite small but valuable bible story lessons and related activities as well as a lot of fun are always had. We were very pleased to baptise two of the children during the year who were ready to declare their faith before the church and their family and friends.

Two of our young people attended the New Frontiers Youth Bible camp, Newday, in Norfolk along with about 7,000 others in the summer. They came back very encouraged and strengthened in their faith. The church was able to partly financially support their attendance at this event.

Through most of the year ***two mid-week groups*** were running for fellowship, worship, prayer and bible teaching. These also act as important training grounds for people to develop as Christians. During the year, one of these groups commenced the teaching and ministry course 'Freedom in Christ' which seeks to deal with long-standing personal life challenges that people might be facing.

Outreach and Community Events

As indicated above, reaching out to those not currently part of the church is part of the life and mission of the church, hence the Café Church events.

At Christmas members of the church visited the local residential care home to spend time with residents and sing carols. On other occasions a small group of members did craft activities with the residents there.

Also at Christmas, a carol service was held at a local sheltered housing venue.

Before Christmas a wreath making event was held which proved very popular and enabled us to make further links and friendships with people in the community.

Laser Light Kidz Klub

This club has continued to run through the year during term-time at The BRIDGES Centre with the starting time coinciding with the parents and children finishing at Edenbridge Primary School. A dedicated team of volunteers continues to run this successfully, and we continue to build up the number of children attending. The activities were based around a child-friendly Bible story and then craft and play activities for the last hour. Links with the church are encouraged and a number of families attended the special Christmas service this year.

Connections with local schools

We took Christian Assemblies at Hever, Crockham Hill and Four Elms Primary Schools. Edenbridge Primary School don't have an ecumenical rota going yet for assemblies, but Laser Light Kidz Klub also meets every Friday evening in term time at that school, where it is an after -school club. This is very well attended.

Bizzy Bees Mums n Tots Group

The group continues to meet every Friday during term-time in Rickards Hall. It offers a safe place for babies and toddlers to play while their parents and carers chat and make friends. The numbers are consistent each week with a good number of new mums joining us regularly.

We are so grateful to Sue White and the team of volunteer helpers, both regular and occasional, who run and assist at these clubs, groups and activities. Such activities help to raise the profile of the church and its mission in the town, enabling us to meet new people, talk about faith and invite to other meetings and services. In this way we are also able to serve the community, be a blessing and offer friendship and assistance to those in need. These activities are all offered free of charge.

We are also very grateful for the grants received this year from the Great Stonebridge Trust for both the Laser Light Kidz Klub and the Bizzy Bees group. These grants have enabled us to continue to provide these services for many households in the local area, including those who are less able to afford to pay for privately run children's groups and activities.

Edenbridge Foodbank

We began operating the foodbank on 13th April 2021. It is run under the umbrella of the UK Trussell Trust network and operates as part of the GCC charity. It is managed by a team of three people (including Dave White, the GCC leader). A team of about 15 volunteers has been recruited from across the local churches and wider community. The project takes place in cooperation and with the full support of the local churches.

Edenbridge Town Council allow us the free use of the council hall (Rickards Hall) once a week for the foodbank centre to open to clients. The town council has also allowed us use of the land behind their offices, and on the same site as the foodbank centre, where we have erected a permanent storage facility. This has greatly assisted the work of the foodbank. Non-perishable food is donated, collected, sorted, dated and weighed into this facility by the operations team.

On Tuesday mornings the team then deliver prepared food boxes and assorted trays of other items to the centre. The centre is open for two hours and clients arrive and are welcomed by the centre team. They are offered refreshments and assisted in collecting their food. Clients are always offered the chance to talk and are often sign-posted to other agencies (eg debt advice, citizens advice, housing support, mental health support) who can assist further. The aim is that clients are helped in such a way that they are less likely to continue to need the support of the foodbank in future.

Clients are referred to us by a wide variety of local agencies who now have links with us. These agencies issue e-vouchers to the clients who can then attend the foodbank.

During this third year of operation the foodbank fulfilled a total of **768** food vouchers to households in the local area. This represented **146** unique households helped with food during the year. Overall, the figures represent a slight increase from the previous year.

A total of **12,481 kg** of new food stock was donated during the year and **10,909 kg** of food was distributed.

Running this project has increased our contact with the community and also enabled us to develop our ministry to those in need or in vulnerable situations. The number of people receiving help from the foodbank clearly shows both the need in the community and the overall effect that the cost-of-living crisis continues to have.

During this year Edenbridge Foodbank continues to receive a significant grant from the Trussell Trust to run the Financial Inclusion project in partnership with the local Citizens Advice and the Crosslight debt and money management advice service. This has enabled those two organisations to give dedicated time to foodbank clients to assist them in dealing with financial issues of all sorts. This is proving very valuable to many clients who are receiving help with debt management, budgeting, ensuring benefit allowances are received and maximised as well as assisting clients in liaising with utility companies over outstanding bills.

The Trussell Trust grant for the Financial Inclusion project is expected to last until July 2025 but the trustees of GCC have decided to use current foodbank funds to continue this project after that date (see later).

Over the year, we have seen a number of foodbank clients move on in their lives, getting employment, seeing improved mental health, having benefits sorted out and also linking with other organisations in the community, including in one or two cases, taking on volunteer situations in other charities. A few clients have also attended some of the activities and services of Grace Community Church over the year.

As an example: *one pension-age client presented to the foodbank with multiple debts and was struggling to meet regular re-payments. Through our partnership with Citizens Advice the client was helped to receive correct benefit levels, extra support from the Household Support fund and helped to set up small but regular re-payments towards paying off their debt. The client is now managing without the help of the foodbank and has reported that their health and well-being has improved considerably.*

We are of course extremely grateful to all the hard work of the managers, volunteer teams, the town council (for its provision) and the many other organisations who have supported us. We are so grateful for the ongoing generosity of the people of Edenbridge in regularly donating food. We especially value the support, prayers and encouragement of the churches of Edenbridge.

Working with other local churches in Edenbridge

The church is part of Edenbridge Churches in Covenant (ECC) comprising the 7 local churches. The local ministers meet together for support and fellowship and to discuss possible joint services and activities. The ECC council meets four times a year and Dave White acted as chairperson to the ECC during this year.

GCC joined the joint churches prayer week activities in January. Each church hosted a prayer/worship event during the week to which all were encouraged to attend. On Good Friday in April, a joint-churches walk of witness through the town took place which was very well attended.

In June, the leadership of GCC helped to organise a joint-churches outdoor service in the courtyard of the town council hall. Representatives from all the churches of the ECC took part in a service of worship, prayers, preaching and fellowship. During the service, the United Benefice of Hever, Four Elms and Mark Beech were welcomed into the ECC and an updated covenant document was signed by all the church leaders and their representatives. The service was very well attended.

In addition, GCC supports, with volunteers and from time to time financially, the joint projects run by the churches for the town: the Foodbank and the Bridges Community Café.

GCC financially supports the Eden Christian Trust (ECT) town youth service with a regular donation and also by supplying a volunteer for the Friday night youth club and a trustee (Sue White) to sit on the board. Dave White also acts a clergy liaison person for the ECT trustees.

Involvement with Regions Beyond. The church is part of the Regions Beyond international family of churches which is itself part of the wider New Frontiers network. GCC leaders regularly attended Regions Beyond leaders' meetings for training, fellowship and encouragement.

Dave and Sue and a number of others attended national Regions Beyond three-day Hub meetings held in Swindon and for the first time on the continent in the Netherlands (Utrecht). These were excellent times of encouragement, vision and networking with other church leaders.

This year Dave and Sue White continued to take some responsibility for helping to lead the London and Southeast Regions Beyond Hub meetings which normally meet once a fortnight in one of the churches.

In August, the Regions Beyond churches in our area gathered together for a weekend camp and celebration. A good number of people went from GCC and it was good for the church to have the opportunity of meeting with those from other churches with a similar vision and mission. It was a very encouraging time.

October was the Global Advance month where news of Regions Beyond activities and churches, both in the UK and abroad, were shared with the church and members encouraged to pray for and support financially the wider work of Regions Beyond across the world. An offering was taken up at this time and we were privileged to be able to send over £3800 to Regions Beyond to be distributed and used by the UK and Global teams. This represents a wonderful corporate act of faith and generosity towards the overall mission of this relatively small church.

Dave and Sue have made links with two leaders in Regions Beyond churches in Zambia and the churches have exchanged news, prayer requests and video clips of children's activities with one another. A Zambian family at GCC was able to visit one of the churches during the year so strengthening the link. It is hoped to develop this link in the future.

Plans for the Future

As always, developments are dependent on further growth in the number of active volunteers within the church. The faith and commitment of people has stayed strong and financial giving increased during the year. We have seen a number of new people join us and as Edenbridge grows, with many new houses being built, it is expected that others will look around for church involvement and consider joining us.

The trustees and leaders of GCC are also aware of the ongoing cost of living crisis in the UK and will be monitoring the effect on the operation and finances of the charity.

In the coming year, in addition to the regular activities and outreach of the church and the foodbank, we expect:

- To increase the links to the church with the children and families of the Laser Light Clubs and with those attending the Bizzy Bees group.
- To develop links with the two Regions Beyond churches and their leaders in Zambia.
- To intentionally develop the wider leadership of GCC and its ministry by:
    - by appointing an additional elder (Pete Mizen) to work with Dave White in leading the church.
    - Employing an experienced church leader (Mark Thornett) on a 25% working week basis to assist the elders, Dave and Pete, with the development of future leaders, mentoring and other administration and management duties.
    - Inviting a number of people to take part in a preaching and teaching course run by Regions Beyond.
- To encourage the church to take part in regional celebration and prayer events run by Regions Beyond.
- To make plans to continue the Financial Inclusion project of the foodbank once the Trussell Trust grant stops in July 2025.

Risk Statement: All major insurable risks are subject to normal churches and employers' insurance. New projects and ventures are risk assessed before being started, to assess whether they will significantly impact upon the church's ability to fulfil its objectives.

Financial Review

The charity has two bank accounts, both held at Lloyds Bank PLC. The main current account is for the church activities and the second account is for the sole use of Edenbridge Foodbank. The accounting year is 1st April to 31st March. The accounts attached to this report therefore cover from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Total income received across the charity was £108,042. Of this £31,191 was received for the foodbank use and £7,646 was money given to other Restricted funds as shown in the Restricted funds column. £58,152 was given by members and friends of the church during the year which shows the commitment and faithfulness to the mission of the church.

Total expenditure was £87,626 of which £25,856 was spent on foodbank costs and £6,343 was spent from the restricted funds as shown.

The accounts were externally examined, and no material issues of concern were found.

There are no outstanding debts or material liabilities.

Concerning the income and expenditure of the church (rather than the foodbank), for the second year running income was higher than expenditure which meant we did not need to use any reserve funds. It is expected that this will continue to be the case in the coming year.

Reserves policy: It is the policy of GCC to maintain reserves at a level consistent with safeguarding the charity against unexpected significant expenditure and to provide enough funds to smooth over peaks and troughs in short term cash flow. Approximately 3 months of average expenditure across the charity are therefore kept as reserves (currently about £22,000).

Cash funds in the bank accounts at year end were £55,073 and £44,750 for the main church account and the Edenbridge Foodbank account respectively.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is established within Regions Beyond – part of the New Frontiers family of churches. The church is also part of Edenbridge Churches in Covenant, in total consisting of seven local churches.

Directions relating to the charitable trust are made by the trustees in consultation with the church Lead Elder (Dave White, who is also a trustee) and other leaders of the church. The church Elder and other leaders are responsible for governing the life and teaching of the church and day to day decisions on expenditure and activities are decided by the leaders in charge of different areas of the church, with budgets set and monitored by the Trustees.

In general, the responsibility for appointment of new trustees rests with the current trustees guided by the Lead Elder. New trustees are primarily selected from the members of GCC and/or other churches sharing the same vision.

On being appointed, new trustees are offered training and spend time with the existing trustees to ensure they understand their responsibilities and the legal and financial framework in which the church operates.

The trustees extend their thanks for the hard work and faithful service to all those involved with Grace Community Church, both the leaders and other volunteers. The trustees are also grateful for the generosity of all those who have financially supported the work and mission of the church during the year.

Trustee's responsibilities: Charity law requires us as trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and of its income and expenditure for the year. We are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.
4. Prepare the financial statements on a ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of Grace Community Church Edenbridge on

And signed on its behalf by: David White D. White

Position: Lead Elder and Trustee, Grace Community Church, Edenbridge

And: Name: DAVE ILLING

Position: Trustee, Grace Community Church, Edenbridge

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Grace Community Church, Edenbridge	1181051

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date		To	Period end date
	1st April 2023			31st March 2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Edenbridge Foodbank to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Ordinary Income from church people	58,152				58,152	45,912
Gift aid claim	10,722				10,722	8,160
Other organisations	331				331	275
Regions Beyond Special offering		3,865			3,865	2,610
Laser Light kids fund		1,658			1,658	1,793
GCC Special Offering		200			200	1,724
Bizzy Bees Mums and Tots		1,923			1,923	198
Ed Foodbank acc donations			7,225		7,225	10,221
Ed Foodbank Financial Inclusion grant			23,462		23,462	32,881
Ed Foodbank gift aid			504		504	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	69,205	7,646	31,191	-	108,042	103,774
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	69,205	7,646	31,191	-	108,042	103,774

A3 Payments

Payroll staff costs	41,176			-	41,176	37,090
Office admin fees	399			-	399	753
Professional fees/licemces/subs	830			-	830	550
Pub;icity Printing	251			-	251	59
Insurance	413				413	388
Hall hire	4,422			-	4,422	6,645
Equipment	110				110	255
Elders expenses	163				163	159
Childrens work	204				204	38
Events evangelism/ministry materials	334				334	398
Ministry materials	327				327	27
Visiting Ministry Expenses	120				120	140
UK Conference Rexpenses	1,378				1,378	1,011
Misc	10				10	20
Gifts donations	2,435			-	2,435	1,761
Regions Beyond UK	2,400				2,400	1,920
Training	95			-	95	68
Regions Beyond Special Offering		3,865			3,865	2,610
GCC Special Offering		200			200	1,750
Bizzy Bees exoenses		1,198		-	1,198	1,206
Laser Light Kids fund		1,080			1,080	1,392
ECT Monthly donation	360				360	-
Ed Foodbank Acc donations exp			1,236		1,236	898
Ed Foodbank Food Purchases			35		35	213
Ed Foodbank Financial Inclusion exp			24,585	-	24,585	14,736
Sub total	55,427	6,343	25,856	-	87,626	74,087

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	55,427	6,343	25,856	-	87,626	74,087
Net of receipts/(payments)	13,778	1,303	5,335	-	20,416 #	29,687
A5 Transfers between funds	3,596		- 3,596	-		-
A6 Cash funds last year end	35,217	1,177	43,012	-	79,406 #	
Cash funds this year end	52,591	2,480	44,751	-	99,822	
				-	-	

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank PLC (Main church account)	52,593	2,480	-
	Lloyds bank PLC (Edenbridge Foodbnk acc))		44,750	-
	Total cash funds	52,593	47,230	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		1	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
D. White	DAVID WHITE	18.10.24.
	DIRK ILLING	25/10/24.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name
Grace Community Church, Edenbridge

On accounts for the year ended

31st March 2024

Charity no (if any)

1181051

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024

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: [signature]

Date: 15/10/24

Name: JOHN SOUTHWORTH

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

Address:

Woodlea
Four Elms Edenbridge
Kent TN8 6NE

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Grace Community Church, Edenbridge		
On accounts for the year ended	31st March 2024	**Charity no (if any)**	1181051
Set out on pages	1 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024

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:	[signature]	**Date:**	15/10/24
Name:	JOHN SOUTHWORTH		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ICAEW Retired		
Address:	Woodlea Four Elms Edenbridge Kent TN8 6NE		

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, EDENBRIDGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1181051

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report: April 2022 to March 2023

Charity Name: Grace Community Church, Edenbridge (GCC)

Charity Registration Number: 1181051 Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Address: 76 Hever Road, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5DJ

Trustees: David White, Graham Woolgar (to 23rd May 2022), Ruth Gooding, Gary Byfield and Dirk Illing, (from 27th May 2022).

The trustees have pleasure in submitting the annual report and accounts for the period from **1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.**

Objectives and Activities

The primary role of the charity is to fulfil the role of a Christian Church based in Edenbridge, Kent by working to meet the objects of the charity specified in the governing document and summarised below:

- To advance the Christian faith principally in Edenbridge, Kent, but also in other parts of the UK and the world as the charity trustees and leadership of the church think fit.
- To relieve people who are in hardship or difficulty through sickness or distress in Edenbridge, Kent, other parts of the UK and the world as the charity trustees and leadership of the church think fit.

In planning and undertaking activities the trustees have had due regard to the Public Benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission and are satisfied that the overall activity of the charity has been of public benefit.

GCC is not a building, but a gathering of ordinary people of different ages and backgrounds, whose lives have been changed by Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The New Testament reveals the Church as a community of people, properly taught and cared for, who by loving and serving Jesus Christ, were also committed to love and care for each other and to bring a blessing to the area in which they live.

The vision and long-term aim of GCC is to make known to the local community, and as part of the wider Church, the nation and indeed nations of the world, the love and grace of God demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This has more than a spiritual significance and is worked out in day-to-day care, evangelism and meeting the needs of those who are both within the Church and those who as yet do not know Christ as Lord.

Whilst the church employs one full time church leader, it is the work of every member of the church, whether employed or not, that makes a difference in the church achieving success in its great commission.

This is done in 'being salt and light' amongst the people they interact with every day; by praying, by visiting the sick and others in need, in being involved in training others, in public teaching and worship, and also in administration. By showing people the unconditional love of Christ through good deeds we are able to have a positive effect on the lives of those within the church and in the community. The ways this is done by ordinary people in all sorts of different

ways is explained in the report below and demonstrates the effectiveness of a community motivated by love of God and love for people and who are willing to sacrifice finance and time to serve others.

The financial resources of the church are given by the members and their private assets and equipment are regularly used in the work of the church. Much of this work is done privately, without recognition, and the hours and value of that time cannot be quantified.

In order to further fulfil the objectives of the charity there are times when grants are applied for and received to enable the setting up of specific projects which serve the wider local community (eg Edenbridge Foodbank and Kids Clubs).

Grant making policy:-Gifts to external organisations and individuals are considered by the Church Leaders and Trustees on the basis of need and fulfilment of the charitable objectives.

Summary of the main activities of the church:

The trustees are pleased to report that during this year the charity has continued to see growth in the development of all aspects of its work. In particular:

- Growth in numbers regularly participating in church activities both on Sundays and in the various projects and ministries that take place in the community.
- A re-engagement with our wider Regions Beyond family of churches both nationally and internationally.
- The commencement of a Financial Inclusion project as part of the work of Edenbridge Foodbank. This aims to further assist clients of the foodbank who face financial hardship leading them to seek help from the foodbank. (See details below).

In summary, the main activities of the church have been:

- Regular Sunday meetings held at Edenbridge Primary school. These include contemporary worship, prayer, bible teaching, fellowship and friendship and are open to all. Special children's activities (Sunday Club) also take place during the meeting catering for toddlers to teens.
- At Christmas and Easter, special celebration services and activities were arranged. At these times those involved in mid-week Laser Light kids clubs and the Bizzy Bees toddler group were also invited to attend.
- Weekly small group meetings have taken place for church members. These included worship, bible study and prayer and helped to equip and encourage people in their Christian lives.
- Pastoral care and support to those in need or distress
- Children's clubs and groups were run regularly on Sundays and during the week in the community (Laser Light Klub) to engage children with the Christian faith and teach healthy social values through games, craft, songs and bible stories.
- We engaged with local schools by being invited to take Christian assemblies and running an after-school club in the main primary school.
- The weekly Mum's/Dad's carers and toddler group (Bizzy Bees) has been running as a service to local families throughout the year.
- Being involved in the local community through local events and activities.
- Working together with other local churches in Christian ministry, and in projects meeting a variety of needs in the community e.g. the local youth work and the foodbank.
- Some financial support was given to support Christian work in other areas.

- Playing an active role as part of the Regions Beyond family of churches in the UK and internationally.

The church is currently led by Dave White (the lead elder) assisted by his wife Sue and a wider leadership team of volunteers.

Details of many of the activities are provided in the following sections of this report.

Achievements and Performance

Sunday Worship Services and Mid-Week groups

This year represents the first full year of us using our new hired premises at Edenbridge Primary School for our Sunday meetings. This has given us ample space including a dedicated second hall for the children's groups. Being in the centre of town, in a well-known venue, has meant that it is much easier for visitors to find us, and we have consistently seen people visit and show interest in us as a church and a number have joined us during the year. This has led to an increase in numbers, not only of those attending meetings, but also of those actively engaged in serving in the various ministries and activities run by the church in the community. The numbers attending on Sunday varies but is usually between 20 and 30 adults with between 2 and about 8 children (including some teenagers).

On Sundays, worship was led by a variety of worship leaders and musicians, from the congregation, who are practicing and developing their skills in this area. We have seen much progress in the development of a worship music group this year. Participation from everyone is encouraged in prayers, readings and the use of spiritual gifts.

Teaching from the bible plays a significant part of the meeting. This helps develop good Christian foundations in people's lives as well as being challenging and encouraging to us all. Guest speakers were invited from time to time to preach as well.

Several informal ***Café Church*** events were held on Sunday afternoons. These events included plenty of free refreshments, music, games and quizzes as well as a short talk or testimony from someone. We are so pleased that we always have people who don't usually attend church visiting us on these occasions.

At ***Easter, we held an outdoor service*** in the beautiful courtyard of the local town council offices. ***Our Christmas all-age service*** included an invite to the families of children attending the Laser Light Clubs and a number of children and parents came and joined in the celebration.

Youth and Children are encouraged to be part of the worship in the meeting. After a while, a hard-working and dedicated team serve the children by running activities and lessons on Sundays in another hall. This has been made much easier since moving to the primary school as our main venue. There are separate activities for young teens, primary age children and toddlers. The number attending is quite small but valuable bible story lessons and related activities as well as a lot of fun are always had.

Through most of the year ***two mid-week groups*** were running for fellowship, worship, prayer and bible teaching. These also act as important training grounds for people to develop as Christians.

Outreach and Community Events

As indicated above, reaching out to those not currently part of the church is part of the life and mission of the church, hence the Café Church and outdoor service events.

In addition, the church took part in the town street Christmas event, helping to lead the singing of Christmas carols for the community. The church also manned a craft stall at a local village fete connecting with families who may wish to attend one of the Laser Light or Bizzy Bees groups.

Laser Light Kidz Klub

This club has continued to run throughout the year during term-time at The BRIDGES Centre with the starting time coinciding with the parents and children finishing at Edenbridge Primary School. A dedicated team of volunteers continues to run this successfully, and we continue to build up the number of children attending. The activities were based around a child-friendly Bible story and then craft and play activities for the last hour. Links with the church are encouraged and a number of families attended the special Christmas service this year.

Connections with local schools

We took Christian Assemblies at Hever, Crockham Hill and Four Elms Primary Schools. Edenbridge Primary School don't have an ecumenical rota going yet for assemblies, but Laser Light Kidz Klub also meets every Friday evening in term time at the school, where it is an after -school club. This is very well attended.

Bizzy Bees Mums n Tots Group

The group continues to meet every Friday during term-time in Rickards Hall. It offers a safe place for babies and toddlers to play while their parents and carers chat and make friends. The numbers are consistent each week with a good number of new mums joining us regularly.

We are so grateful to Sue White and the team of volunteer helpers, both regular and occasional, who run and assist at these clubs, groups and activities. Such activities help to raise the profile of the church and its mission in the town, enabling us to meet new people, talk about faith and invite to other meetings and services. In this way we are also able to serve the community, be a blessing and offer friendship and assistance to those in need.

Wreath making and craft evenings

Before Christmas and Easter these outreach social events were held which proved very popular and enabled us to make further links and friendships with people in the community.

Edenbridge Foodbank

We began operating the foodbank on 13th April 2021. It is run under the umbrella of the UK Trussell Trust network and operates as part of the GCC charity. It is managed by a team of three people (including Dave White, the GCC leader). A team of about 15 volunteers has been recruited from across the local churches and wider community. The project takes place in cooperation and with the full support of the local churches.

Edenbridge Town Council allow us the free use of the council hall (Rickards Hall) once a week for the foodbank centre to open to clients. The town council has also allowed us use of the land behind their offices, and on the same site as the foodbank centre, where we have erected a permanent storage facility. This has greatly assisted the work of the foodbank. Non-perishable food is donated, collected, sorted, dated and weighed into this facility by the operations team.

On Tuesday mornings the team then deliver prepared food boxes and assorted trays of other items to the centre. The centre is open for two hours and clients arrive and are welcomed by the centre team. They are offered refreshments and assisted in collecting their food. Clients are always offered the chance to talk and are often sign-posted to other agencies (eg debt advice, citizens advice, housing support, mental health support) who can assist further. The aim is that clients are helped in such a way that they are less likely to continue to need the support of the foodbank in future.

Clients are referred to us by a wide variety of local agencies who now have links with us. These agencies issue e-vouchers to the clients who can then attend the foodbank.

During this second year of operation the foodbank fulfilled a total of **755** food vouchers to households in the local area. This represented **129** unique households helped with food during the year. These figures represent a **71%** increase from the previous year.

A total of **13,382 kg** of new food stock was donated during the year and **12,966 kg** of food was distributed.

Running this project has increased our contact with the community and also enabled us to develop our ministry to those in need or in vulnerable situations. The significant increase in the clients using the foodbank, shown by the figures above, clearly shows both the need in the community and the overall effect that the cost-of-living crisis is having.

During this year Edenbridge Foodbank received a significant grant from the Trussell Trust to set up a Financial Inclusion project in partnership with the local Citizens Advice and the Crosslight debt and money management advice service. This has enabled those two organisations to give dedicated time to foodbank clients to assist them in dealing with financial issues of all sorts. This is proving very valuable to many clients who are receiving help with debt management, budgeting, ensuring benefit allowances are received and maximised as well as assisting clients in liaising with utility companies over outstanding bills. The Trussell Trust grant for this project is expected to last for three years.

Over the year, although seeing a significant increase in client numbers, we have also seen people move on in their lives, getting employment, seeing improved mental health, having benefits sorted out and also linking with other organisations in the community, including in one or two cases, taking on volunteer situations in other charities. A few clients have also attended some of the activities of Grace Community Church over the year.

We are of course extremely grateful to all the hard work of the managers, volunteer teams, the town council (for its provision) and the many other organisations who have supported us. We are so grateful for the ongoing generosity of the people of Edenbridge in regularly donating food. We especially value the support, prayers and encouragement of the churches of Edenbridge.

Working with other local churches in Edenbridge

The church is part of Edenbridge Churches in Covenant (ECC) comprising the 7 local churches. The local ministers meet together for support and fellowship and to discuss possible joint services and activities. The ECC council meets four times a year and Dave White acted as secretary and chairperson to the ECC during this year.

GCC joined the joint churches prayer week activities in January. Each church hosted a prayer/worship event during the week to which all were encouraged to attend. On Good Friday in April, a joint churches walk of witness through the town took place which was very well attended.

At Christmas the ECC, including members of Grace Community Church, joined in the community street Christmas event by leading the community in the singing of Christmas carols.

In addition, GCC supports, with volunteers and from time to time financially, the joint projects run by the churches for the town: the Foodbank, the Bridges Community Café.

GCC financially supports the Eden Christian Trust (ECT) town youth service with a regular donation and also by supplying a volunteer for the Friday night youth club and a trustee (Sue White) to sit on the board. Dave White also acts a clergy liaison person for the ECT trustees. Three of our young people attended the residential PULSE camp run by the ECT which included many outdoor activities and fun as well as some Christian teaching. Dave and Sue shared some of their missionary story with the young people at one of the sessions.

During the year, the church also financially supported, with an offering, Crosslight, the debt and money management advice charity, helping foodbank clients and others in Edenbridge.

Involvement with Regions Beyond. The church is part of the Regions Beyond international family of churches which is itself part of the wider New Frontiers network. GCC leaders regularly attended Regions Beyond leaders' meetings for training, fellowship and encouragement.

This year Dave and Sue White took on some responsibility for helping to lead the London and Southeast Regions Beyond Hub meetings which normally meet once a fortnight in one of the churches.

In March, Dave was able to attend the Legacy '23 conference in South Africa which was the first international gathering of Regions Beyond leaders since the COVID pandemic.. Besides visionary teaching and encouragement there was opportunity to reconnect with leaders and friends from across the nations which can lead to ongoing support of each other in our work.

News of Regions Beyond activities and churches, both in the UK and abroad, are regularly shared with the church and members are encouraged to pray for and support financially various projects. During the year offerings were taken up by the church to support victims of the earthquake in Turkey and to continue to support churches working in Ukraine. The funds were sent via the Regions Beyond UK and New Frontiers networks who have direct links with people working on the ground in those situations.

Plans for the Future

As always, developments are dependent on further growth in the number of active volunteers within the church. The faith and commitment of people has stayed strong and financial giving increased during the year. We have seen a number of new people join us and as Edenbridge grows, with many new houses being built, it is expected that others will look around for church involvement and consider joining us.

The trustees and leaders of GCC are also aware of the ongoing cost of living crisis in the UK and will be monitoring the effect on the operation and finances of the charity.

In the coming year, in addition to the regular activities and outreach of the church and the foodbank, we expect:

- To increase the links to the church with the children and families of the Laser Light Clubs and with those attending the Bizzy Bees group.
- To develop links with the two Regions Beyond churches and their leaders in Zambia.
- To intentionally develop the leadership of GCC by making plans to appoint an additional elder.
- To take part in the London and Southeast Regions beyond weekend camp (Together'23) planned for August.
- To consider and make plans for how to continue the Financial Inclusion project of the foodbank once the Trussell Trust grant stops in July 2025.

Risk Statement: All major insurable risks are subject to normal churches and employers' insurance. New projects and ventures are risk assessed before being started, to assess whether they will significantly impact upon the church's ability to fulfil its objectives.

Financial Review

The charity has two bank accounts, both held at Lloyds Bank PLC. The main current account is for the church activities and the second account is for the sole use of Edenbridge Foodbank. The accounting year is 1st April to 31st March. The accounts attached to this report therefore cover from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Total income received across the charity was £104,198. Of this £43,102 was received for the foodbank use and £6,325 was money given to other Restricted funds as shown in the Restricted funds column. £45,912 was given by members and friends of the church during the year which shows the commitment and faithfulness to the mission of the church.

Total expenditure was £74,087 of which £15,847 was spent on foodbank costs and £6,958 was spent from the restricted funds as shown.

The accounts were externally examined, and no material issues of concern were found.

There are no outstanding debts or material liabilities.

Concerning the income and expenditure of the church (rather than the foodbank), considerable progress was made this year. For the first time since the charity started operations, income was slightly more than expenditure which meant we did not need to use any reserve funds. It is expected that this will continue to be the case in the coming year.

Reserves policy: It is the policy of GCC to maintain reserves at a level consistent with safeguarding the charity against unexpected significant expenditure and to provide enough funds to smooth over peaks and troughs in short term cash flow. Approximately 3 months of average expenditure across the charity are therefore kept as reserves (currently about £18,500).

Cash funds in the bank accounts at year end were £36,394 and £43,011 for the main church account and the Edenbridge Foodbank account respectively.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is established within Regions Beyond – part of the New Frontiers family of churches. The church is also part of Edenbridge Churches in Covenant, in total consisting of seven local churches.

Directions relating to the charitable trust are made by the trustees in consultation with the church Lead Elder (Dave White, who is also a trustee) and other leaders of the church. The church Elder and other leaders are responsible for governing the life and teaching of the church and day to day decisions on expenditure and activities are decided by the leaders in charge of different areas of the church, with budgets set and monitored by the Trustees.

In general, the responsibility for appointment of new trustees rests with the current trustees guided by the Lead Elder. New trustees are primarily selected from the members of churches sharing the same vision.

On being appointed, new trustees are offered training and spend time with the existing trustees to ensure they understand their responsibilities and the legal and financial framework in which the church operates.

The trustees extend their thanks for the hard work and faithful service to all those involved with Grace Community Church, both the leaders and other volunteers. The trustees are also grateful for the generosity of all those who have financially supported the work and mission of the church during the year.

Trustee's responsibilities: Charity law requires us as trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and of its income and expenditure for the year. We are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.
4. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of Grace Community Church Edenbridge on

And signed on its behalf by: David White D. White

Position: Lead Elder and Trustee Grace Community Church, Edenbridge

And: Name: DIRK ILLING.

Position: Trustee Grace Community Church, Edenbridge

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Grace Community Church, Edenbridge	1181051

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date		To	Period end date
	1st April 2022			31st March 2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Edenbridge Foodbank to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Ordinary Income from church people	45,912			-	45,912	28,984
Gift aid claim	8,160			-	8,160	5,434
Other organisations	275			-	275	1,032
Regions Beyond Special offering		2,610		-	2,610	-
Laser Light kids fund		1,793		-	1,793	818
GCC Special Offering		1,724		-	1,724	2,260
Bizzy Bees Mums and Tots		198			198	1,200
Church Foodbank				-	-	4,292
Ed Foodbank Acc Grants					-	15,365
Ed Foodbank acc donations			10,221	-	10,221	19,314
Ed Foodbank Financial Inclusion grant			32,881		32,881	-
Ed Foodbank gift aid	424				-	
ECC Xmas gifts				-	-	400
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	54,771	6,325	43,102	-	103,774	79,099
					103,774	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	54,771	6,325	43,102	-	104,198	79,099

A3 Payments

Payroll staff costs	37,090			-	37,090	37,062
Office admin fees	753			-	753	559
Professional fees/licemces/subs	550			-	550	416
Pub;icity Printing	59			-	59	151
Insurance	388				388	213
Hall hire	6,645			-	6,645	2,251
Equipment	255				255	237
Elders expenses	159				159	37
Childrens work	38				38	68
Events evangelism/ministry materials	398				398	114
Ministry materials	27				27	-
Visiting Ministry Expenses	140				140	80
UK Conference Rexpenses	1,011				1,011	80
Misc	20				20	130
Gifts donations	1,761			-	1,761	1,225
Regions Beyond UK	1,920				1,920	1,920
Training	68			-	68	
Regions Beyond Special Offering		2,610			2,610	
GCC Special Offering		1,750			1,750	2,163
Church foodbank expenses					-	4,464
Bizzy Bees exoenses		1,206		-	1,206	1,231
Laser Light Kids fund		1,392			1,392	631
ECC Xmas gift exp					-	401
Ed Foodbank Acc donations exp			898		898	311
Ed Foodabnk Acc grant exp					-	12,255
Ed Foodbank Food Purchases			213		213	94
Ed Foodbank Financial Inclusion exp	-		14,736	-	14,736	
Sub total	51,282	6,958	15,847	-	74,087	66,093

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)							
	-	-	-	-	-		
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	51,282	6,958	15,847	-	74,087	66,093	
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,489	- 633	27,255	-	30,111	#	13,006
A5 Transfers between funds	4,546	-	- 4,546	-			-
A6 Cash funds last year end	27,182	1,810	20,303	-	49,295	#	49,132
Cash funds this year end	35,217	1,177	43,012	-	79,406		62,138
				-	-		

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank PLC (Main church account)	35,217	1,177	-
	Lloyds bank PLC (Edenbridge Foodbnk acc))		43,011	-
	Total cash funds	35,217	44,188	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		Agreement Error	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
R J Gooding	DIRK TILLING	7/12/23
	RUTH GOODING	7.12.23

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name: GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, EDENBRIDGE

On accounts for the year ended: 31st March 2023

Charity no (if any): 1181051

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

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

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 31/10/2023

Name: JOHN SOUTHWORTH

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body FCA (Retired)

(if any):	
Address:	Woodlea Four Elms, Edenbridge TN8 6NE

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.	

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name: GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, EDENBRIDGE

On accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

Charity no (if any) 1181051

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

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

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 31/10/2023

Name: JOHN SOUTHWORTH

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body FCA (Retired)

(if any):	
Address:	Woodlea Four Elms, Edenbridge TN8 6NE

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.	

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, EDENBRIDGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1181051

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report: April 2021 to March 2022

Charity Name: Grace Community Church, Edenbridge (GCC)

Charity Registration Number: 1181051 Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Address: 76 Hever Road, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5DJ

Trustees: David White, Graham Woolgar, Ruth Gooding and Gary Byfield.

The trustees have pleasure in submitting the annual report and accounts for the period from **1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.**

Objectives and Activities

The primary role of the charity is to fulfil the role of a Christian Church based in Edenbridge, Kent by working to meet the objects of the charity specified in the governing document and summarised below:

- To advance the Christian faith principally in Edenbridge, Kent, but also in other parts of the UK and the world as the charity trustees and leadership of the church think fit.
- To relieve people who are in hardship or difficulty through sickness or distress in Edenbridge, Kent, other parts of the UK and the world as the charity trustees and leadership of the church think fit.

In planning and undertaking activities the trustees have had due regard to the Public Benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission and are satisfied that the overall activity of the charity has been of public benefit.

GCC is not a building, but a gathering of ordinary people of different ages and backgrounds, whose lives have been changed by Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The New Testament reveals the Church as a community of people, properly taught and cared for, who by loving and serving Jesus Christ, were also committed to love and care for each other and to bring a blessing to the area in which they live.

The vision and long-term aim of GCC is to make known to the local community, and as part of the wider Church, the nation and indeed nations of the world, the love and grace of God demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This has more than a spiritual significance and is worked out in day-to-day care, evangelism and meeting the needs of those who are both within the Church and those who as yet do not know Christ as Lord.

Whilst the church employs one full time church leader, it is the work of every member of the church, whether employed or not, that makes a difference in the church achieving success in its great commission.

This is done in 'being salt and light' amongst the people they interact with every day; by praying, by visiting the sick and others in need, in being involved in training others, in public teaching and worship, and also in administration. By showing people the unconditional love of Christ through good deeds we are able to have a positive effect on the lives of those within the church and in the community. The ways this is done by ordinary people in all sorts of different ways is explained in the report below and demonstrates the effectiveness of a community

motivated by love of God and love for people and who are willing to sacrifice finance and time to serve others.

The financial resources of the church are given by the members and their private assets and equipment are regularly used in the work of the church. Much of this work is done privately, without recognition, and the hours and value of that time cannot be quantified.

In order to further fulfil the objectives of the charity there are times when grants are applied for and received to enable the setting up of specific projects which serve the wider local community (eg Edenbridge Foodbank and Kids Clubs).

Grant making policy:-Gifts to external organisations and individuals are considered by the Church Leaders and Trustees on the basis of need and fulfilment of the charitable objectives.

Summary of the main activities of the church:

In the early part of the period covered by this report, the church was still affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions and government regulations. As the year progressed the easing of restrictions allowed the resumption of normal church activities and meetings.

The trustees and the church leadership always sought to follow the regulations and guidelines in place at any given time and care was taken to maintain good hygiene practices and ventilation. All those arranging or taking part in services and activities were encouraged to be aware of potential COVID risks and act appropriately. Risk assessments were updated or undertaken where deemed necessary.

From April to September online material for worship, teaching and prayer continued to be made available, but once in-person services and activities resumed this no longer became necessary.

During the year two significant steps were taken in the development of the work of the charity:

- As planned, Edenbridge Foodbank began operations on 13th April 2021. The project has had a very successful first year with a great team of volunteers. The foodbank has been able to help a good number of households who have found themselves in need or difficulty at this time. For more details see below.
- Also as planned, GCC began hiring the main hall of Edenbridge Primary School from March 2022. Our weekly gatherings for worship, teaching and fellowship now take place there. This has given us space to grow and good facilities for the children's activities that run alongside the Sunday worship service. For more details also see below.

In summary, other main activities of the church have been:

- At Christmas and Easter, outdoor celebration services were arranged in the beautiful courtyard of Rickards Hall.
- Weekly small group meetings have taken place for church members. These included worship, bible study and prayer and helped to equip and encourage people in their Christian lives.
- Pastoral care and support to those in need or distress
- Children's clubs and groups were run regularly on Sundays and during the week in the community (Laser Light Klub) to engage children with the Christian faith and teach healthy social values through games, craft, songs and bible stories.

- We engaged with local schools by being invited to take Christian assemblies and running an after-school club in the main primary school.
- The weekly Mum's/Dad's carers and toddler group (Bizzy Bees) has been running as a service to local families throughout the year.
- Being involved in the local community through local events and activities.
- Working together with other local churches in Christian ministry, and in projects meeting a variety of needs in the community. EG the local youth work and the foodbank.
- Some financial support was given to support Christian work in other areas, including abroad (Eg Ukraine).
- As part of the Regions Beyond family of churches based in the UK and in other nations we continued through mutual support, training and working together, to promote the Christian message, plant churches and bring transformation to local communities.

Details of many of these activities are provided in the following sections of this report.

Achievements and Performance

Sunday Worship Services and Mid-Week groups

As the year progressed, the easing of COVID restrictions allowed the resumption of the 'live' Sunday worship and teaching services at Grace Community Church.

From September we began to see a growth in numbers of people regularly attending Sunday worship. This included a number of people deciding to join us from other churches they had previously been attending in other towns.

In September we were thrilled to hold an adult full immersion ***Baptism Service*** (using the premises of the local Baptist Church) where three people demonstrated their faith by agreeing to be baptised.

We also held a ***Vision and Values Course*** over several weeks and as a result welcomed seven people into membership. This was a very significant step for us as this group included a number who have been willing to get involved in various aspects of church life, so much enhancing what we are able to do as a church.

On Sundays, worship was led by a variety of worship leaders and musicians, from the congregation, who are practicing and developing their skills in this area. Participation from everyone is encouraged in prayers, readings and the use of spiritual gifts.

Teaching from the bible plays a significant part of the meeting. This helps develop good Christian foundations in peoples lives as well as being challenging and encouraging to us all. Guest speakers were invited from time to time to preach as well.

Several informal ***Café Church*** events were held on Sunday afternoons. These events included plenty of free refreshments music, games and quizzes as well as a short talk or testimony from someone. We are so pleased that we always have people who don't usually attend church visiting us on these occasions.

At ***Christmas and Easter, we held outdoor services*** in the beautiful courtyard of the local town council offices. These were great celebration events and again some visitors attended.

Youth and Children are encouraged to be part of the worship in the meeting. After a while, a hard working and dedicated team serve the children by running activities and lessons on Sundays in another hall. This has been made much easier since moving to the primary school as our main venue. There are separate activities for young teens, primary age children and toddlers. The number attending is quite small but valuable bible story lessons and related activities as well as a lot of fun are always had.

Through most of the year ***two mid-week groups*** were running for fellowship, worship prayer and bible teaching. These also act as important training grounds for people to develop as Christians. In these groups, the Alpha course and Prayer course were run as well as the Vision and Values course.

Outreach and Community Events

As indicated above, reaching out to those not currently part of the church is part of the life and mission of the church, hence the Café Church and outdoor service events.

In addition, the church took part in the town street Christmas event, helping to lead the singing of Christmas carols for the community.

Laser Light Kidz Klub

From April 2021 the club continued to meet on Zoom for a while and then in September 2021 it met back in person. The venue changed to The BRIDGES Centre and the starting time also changed to coincide with the parents and children finishing at Edenbridge Primary School. The new venue has proved to be very successful, and we continue to build up the number of children attending. The activities were based around a child-friendly Bible story and then craft and play activities for the last hour.

Connections with local schools

Assemblies in person have started up again in Hever, Crockham Hill and Four Elms Primary Schools. Edenbridge Primary have not got the ecumenical rota going again and I have only been invited in once on my own to do an assembly there.

However, Laser Light Kidz Klub also meets every Friday evening in term time at Edenbridge Primary school where it is an after -school club. This is well attended.

Bizzy Bees Mums n Tots Group

The group began meeting again in July 2021 in Rickards Hall as before. It offers a safe place for babies and toddlers to play while their parents and carers chat and make friends. The numbers are consistent each week with a good number of new mums joining us regularly.

We are so grateful to Sue White and the team of helpers, both regular and occasional, who run and assist at these clubs, groups and activities. Such activities help to raise the profile of the church and its mission in the town, enabling us to meet new people, talk about faith and invite to other meetings and services. In this way we are also able to serve the community, be a blessing and offer friendship and assistance to those in need.

Edenbridge Foodbank

We began operating the foodbank on 13th April 2021. It is run under the umbrella of the UK Trussell Trust network and operates as part of the GCC charity. It is managed by a team of three people (including Dave White, the GCC leader). A team of about 15 volunteers has been recruited from across the local churches and wider community. The project takes place in cooperation and with the full support of the local churches.

Edenbridge Town Council offered the free use of the council hall (Rickards Hall) once a week for the foodbank centre to open to clients. We were kindly given temporary storage in a shipping container which we used for about 9 months. The town council then agreed that we could use the land behind their offices, and on the same site as the foodbank centre, to erect a permanent storage facility. We obtained planning permission and a number of grants and successfully erected a 30 sq metre wooden storage facility, fully fitted out. This has greatly assisted the work of the foodbank. Non-perishable food is donated, collected, sorted, dated and weighed into this facility by the operations team.

On Tuesday mornings the team then deliver prepared food boxes and assorted trays of other items to the centre. The centre is open for two hours and clients arrive and are welcomed by the centre team. They are offered refreshments and assisted in collecting their food parcels and are able to choose other items. Clients are always offered the chance to talk and are often sign-posted to other agencies (eg debt advice, citizens advice, housing support, mental health support) who can assist further. The aim is that clients are helped in such a way that they are less likely to continue to need the support of the foodbank in future.

Clients are referred to us by a wide variety of local agencies who now have links with us. These agencies issue e-vouchers to the clients who can then attend the foodbank.

During this first year of operation the foodbank fulfilled a total of **441** food vouchers to households in the local area. This represented **89** unique households helped with food during the year. In, addition, during the summer holiday period, to assist families whose children normally receive free school meals, **44 family bags and 103 children's bags** of food and treats were given out to **14 families (30 children**)., **12** winter warmer bags of extra food were given out to families during the February half term holiday.

A total of **8423kg** of new food stock was donated during the year and **7255kg** of food was distributed.

Running this project has increased our contact with the community and also enabled us to develop our ministry to those in need or in vulnerable situations.

The foodbank plans to further develop its relationship with referral agencies including developing formal partnership agreements to enable joined up and ongoing support and help to be given to clients.

We are of course extremely grateful to all the hard work of the managers, volunteer teams, the town council (for its provision) and the many other organisations who have supported us. We are so grateful for the ongoing generosity of the people of Edenbridge in regularly donating food. We especially value the support, prayers and encouragement of the churches of Edenbridge.

Working with other local churches in Edenbridge

The church is part of Edenbridge Churches in Covenant (ECC) comprising the 6 local churches. The local ministers meet together for support and fellowship and to discuss possible joint services and activities. The ECC council meets four times a year and Dave White acted as secretary to the ECC during this year.

GCC joined the joint churches prayer week activities in January 22. Each church provided and distributed prayer material to all the churches for their use. On Good Friday in April'22 a joint churches walk of witness through the town is planned and GCC will be taking part.

In addition, GCC supports, with volunteers and from time to time financially, the joint projects run by the churches for the town: the Foodbank, the Bridges Community Café and the ECT town youth service.

Involvement with Regions Beyond. The church is part of the Regions Beyond international family of churches which is itself part of the wider New Frontiers network. GCC leaders regularly attended Regions Beyond leaders meetings for training, fellowship and encouragement.

GCC maintains close links with a number of Regions Beyond churches in the south-east of England, notably New Life Church Biggin Hill and Hope Community Church in Swanley.

News of Regions Beyond activities and churches, both in the UK and abroad, are regularly shared with the church and members are encouraged to pray for and support financially various projects.

Wider involvement: GCC has supported the Christian work in a Central Asian country and maintains a good relationship with the church leaders there who live and work in a difficult situation.

When the Ukraine crisis began GCC took up special offerings on several occasions and supported other churches who were taking supplies across Europe to help refugees both in Ukraine and in neighbouring Poland. Through the work of the foodbank and the ECC a number of Ukrainian families settling in the local area have also been helped.

Plans for the Future

As always, developments are dependent on further growth in the number of active volunteers within the church. The faith and commitment of people has stayed strong and financial giving has remained consistent, if slightly increased. We have seen a number of new people join us and as Edenbridge grows, with many new houses being built, it is expected that others will look around for church involvement and consider joining us.

The trustees and leaders of GCC are also aware of the coming cost of living crisis in the UK and will be monitoring the affect on the operation and finances of the charity.

In the coming year we expect to:

- Relaunch an in-person Alpha course
- Encourage our young people to attend the PULSE weekend Christian youth camp run by the ECT town youth service. Dave and Sue will also be speaking there.
- Continue to support the work of others in helping those affected by the Ukraine crisis.
- We are making links with The Breakthrough Trust who are a charity set up to assist ex-offenders as they aim to integrate after leaving prison. This may involve mentoring some and helping them to link in with churches.
- Appoint an additional trustee from within GCC to assist in the running of the charity.

Risk Statement: All major insurable risks are subject to normal churches and employers' insurance. New projects and ventures are risk assessed before being started to assess whether or not they will significantly impact upon the church's ability to fulfil its objectives.

Financial Review

The charity has a church bank account held at Lloyds Bank PLC. On 27th July 2021 the charity opened a second bank account at Lloyds specifically and only for Edenbridge foodbank use. At that time foodbank restricted funds from the church account were transferred to the foodbank account. The account year is 1st April to 31st March. The accounts attached to this report therefore cover from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

Total income received was £79,099. Of this £38,971 was received for the foodbank use and £4,678 was money given to other Restricted funds as shown in the Restricted funds column. £28,984 was given by members and friends of the church during the year which shows the commitment and faithfulness to the mission of the church.

Total expenditure was £66,093 of which £17,124 was spent on foodbank costs and £4,426 was spent from the restricted funds as shown.

There are no outstanding debts or material liabilities.

Reserves policy: It is the policy of GCC to maintain reserves at a level consistent with safeguarding the church against unexpected significant expenditure and to provide enough funds to smooth over peaks and troughs in short term cash flow. Two to five months of average expenditure are therefore kept as reserves (currently £8K to £20K).

Cash funds in the bank accounts at year end were £28,992 and £20,302 for the main church account and the Edenbridge Foodbank account respectively.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is established within Regions Beyond – part of the New Frontiers family of churches. The church is also part of Edenbridge Churches in Covenant, in total consisting of six local churches.

Directions relating to the charitable trust are made by the Trustees in consultation with the church Lead Elder (Dave White, who is also a trustee) and other leaders of the church. The church Elder and other leaders are responsible for governing the life and teaching of the church and day to day decisions on expenditure and activities are decided by the leaders in charge of different areas of the church, with budgets set and monitored by the Trustees.

In general, the responsibility for appointment of new trustees rests with the current trustees guided by the Lead Elder. New Trustees are primarily selected from the members of churches sharing the same vision.

On being appointed, new Trustees are offered training and spend time with the existing Trustees to ensure they understand their responsibilities and the legal and financial framework in which the church operates.

The trustees extend their thanks for the hard work and faithful service to all those involved with Grace Community Church, both the leaders and other volunteers. The trustees are also grateful for the generosity of all those who have financially supported the work and mission of the church during the year.

Trustee's responsibilities: Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and of its income and expenditure for the year. We are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.
4. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of Grace Community Church Edenbridge on ~~XXXXX~~ 1.12.22

And signed on its behalf by: D.C White.

Position: Lead Elder and Trustee Grace Community Church, Edenbridge

8

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Grace Community Church Edenbridge	1181051

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date		To	Period end date
	1st April 2021			31st march 2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Edenbridge Foodbank to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Ordinary Income from church people	28,984	-	-	-	28,984	25,246
Gift aid claim	5,434	-	-	-	5,434	3,674
Other organisations	1,032	-	-	-	1,032	131
Tajik fund				-	-	150
Regions Beyond Special offering				-	-	205
Laser Light kids fund		818		-	818	487
GCC Special Offering		2,260		-	2,260	1,039
Bizzy Bees Mums and Tots		1,200			1,200	1,333
Church Foodbank		4,292		-	4,292	
Ed Foodbank Acc Grants			15,365		15,365	
Ed Foodbank acc donations			19,314	-	19,314	
ECC Xmas gifts		400		-	400	
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	35,450	8,970	34,679	-	79,099	32,265
					79,099	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	35,450	8,970	34,679	-	79,099	32,265

A3 Payments

Payroll staff costs	37,062		-	-	-	37,062	36,372
Office admin fees/misc	559		-	-	-	559	615
Professional fees/licemces/subs	416		-	-	-	416	365
Pub;icity Printing	151		-	-	-	151	183
Insurance	213					213	
Hall hire	2,251		-	-	-	2,251	421
Equipment	237					237	116
Elders expenses	37					37	
Childrens work	68					68	12
Events evangelism/ministry materials	114					114	57
Visiting Ministry Expenses	80					80	
UK Conference Rexpenses	80					80	
Misc	130					130	
Gifts donations	1,225		-	-	-	1,225	1,692
Regions Beyond UK	1,920					1,920	1,920
parish Nurse via ECC			-	-	-	-	300
Tajik fund	-				-	-	200
Regions Beyond Special Offering						-	205
Training							40
GCC Special Offering			2,163			2,163	866
Church foodbank expenses			4,464			4,464	
Bizzy Bees exoenses		#	1,231		-	1,231	
Laser Light Kids fund			631			631	513
ECC Xmas gift exp			401			401	
Ed Foodbank Acc donations exp				311		311	
Ed Foodabnk Acc grant exp				12,255		12,255	
Ed Foodbank Food Purchases				94		94	
	-		-	-	-	-	
Sub total	44,543		8,890	12,660	-	66,093	43,877

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	44,543	8,890	12,660	-	66,093	43,877
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 9,093	80	22,019	-	13,006 #	- 11,612
A5 Transfers between funds	1,716	-	- 1,716	-		-
A6 Cash funds last year end	34,599	1,730		-	36,329	49,132
Cash funds this year end	27,222	1,810	20,303	-	49,335	37,520
NB Adjustment of -£40 made due to previous year error						
	27,182	1,810	20,303	-	49,295	

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank PLC (Main church account)	27,182	1,810	-
	Lloyds bank PLC (Edenbridge Foodbnk acc))		20,302	-
	Total cash funds	27,182	22,112	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		Agreement Error	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
D. Colvile	DAVID WHITE	1.12.22
R J Gooding	RUTH GOODING	1.12.22

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of Charity Name: GRACE Community Church Edenbridge

On accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 **Charity no (if any)** 1181051

Set out on pages (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

[~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified~~ to ~~undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body~~]]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~ *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

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

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 18/11/2022

Name: JOHN P. SOUTHWORTH

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

Address:	Woodlea
	Four Elms
	Edenbridge TN8 6NE

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Grace Community Church Edenbridge	1181051

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date		To	Period end date
	1st April 2021			31st march 2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Edenbridge Foodbank to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Ordinary Income from church people	28,984	-	-	-	28,984	25,246
Gift aid claim	5,434	-	-	-	5,434	3,674
Other organisations	1,032	-	-	-	1,032	131
Tajik fund				-	-	150
Regions Beyond Special offering				-	-	205
Laser Light kids fund		818		-	818	487
GCC Special Offering		2,260		-	2,260	1,039
Bizzy Bees Mums and Tots		1,200			1,200	1,333
Church Foodbank		4,292		-	4,292	
Ed Foodbank Acc Grants			15,365		15,365	
Ed Foodbank acc donations			19,314	-	19,314	
ECC Xmas gifts		400		-	400	
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	35,450	8,970	34,679	-	79,099	32,265
					79,099	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	35,450	8,970	34,679	-	79,099	32,265

A3 Payments

Payroll staff costs	37,062		-	-	-	37,062	36,372
Office admin fees/misc	559		-	-	-	559	615
Professional fees/licemces/subs	416		-	-	-	416	365
Pub;icity Printing	151		-	-	-	151	183
Insurance	213					213	
Hall hire	2,251		-	-	-	2,251	421
Equipment	237					237	116
Elders expenses	37					37	
Childrens work	68					68	12
Events evangelism/ministry materials	114					114	57
Visiting Ministry Expenses	80					80	
UK Conference Rexpenses	80					80	
Misc	130					130	
Gifts donations	1,225		-	-	-	1,225	1,692
Regions Beyond UK	1,920					1,920	1,920
parish Nurse via ECC			-	-	-	-	300
Tajik fund	-				-	-	200
Regions Beyond Special Offering						-	205
Training							40
GCC Special Offering			2,163			2,163	866
Church foodbank expenses			4,464			4,464	
Bizzy Bees exoenses		#	1,231		-	1,231	
Laser Light Kids fund			631			631	513
ECC Xmas gift exp			401			401	
Ed Foodbank Acc donations exp				311		311	
Ed Foodabnk Acc grant exp				12,255		12,255	
Ed Foodbank Food Purchases				94		94	
	-		-	-	-	-	
Sub total	44,543		8,890	12,660	-	66,093	43,877

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	44,543	8,890	12,660	-	66,093	43,877
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 9,093	80	22,019	-	13,006 #	- 11,612
A5 Transfers between funds	1,716	-	- 1,716	-		-
A6 Cash funds last year end	34,599	1,730		-	36,329	49,132
Cash funds this year end	27,222	1,810	20,303	-	49,335	37,520
NB Adjustment of -£40 made due to previous year error						
	27,182	1,810	20,303	-	49,295	

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank PLC (Main church account)	27,182	1,810	-
	Lloyds bank PLC (Edenbridge Foodbnk acc))		20,302	-
	Total cash funds	27,182	22,112	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		Agreement Error	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
D. Colvile	DAVID WHITE	1.12.22
R J Gooding	RUTH GOODING	1.12.22

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of Charity Name: GRACE Community Church Edenbridge

On accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 **Charity no (if any)** 1181051

Set out on pages (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

[~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified~~ to ~~undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body~~]]. *Delete* [ ] *if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~ *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

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

Signed: [signature] **Date:** 18/11/2022

Name: JOHN P. SOUTHWORTH

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

Address:	Woodlea
	Four Elms
	Edenbridge TN8 6NE

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, EDENBRIDGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1181051

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report: April 2020 to March 2021

Charity Name: Grace Community Church, Edenbridge (GCC)

Charity Registration Number: 1181051 Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Address: 76 Hever Road, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5DJ

Trustees: David White, Graham Woolgar, Ruth Gooding. Gary Byfield was appointed as an additional trustee on 6th May 2020.

The trustees have pleasure in submitting the annual report and accounts for the period from **1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.**

Objectives and Activities

The primary role of the charity is to fulfil the role of a Christian Church based in Edenbridge, Kent by working to meet the objects of the charity specified in the governing document and summarised below:

- To advance the Christian faith principally in Edenbridge, Kent, but also in other parts of the UK and the world as the charity trustees and leadership of the church think fit.
- To relieve people who are in hardship or difficulty through sickness or distress in Edenbridge, Kent, other parts of the UK and the world as the charity trustees and leadership of the church think fit.

In planning and undertaking activities the trustees have had due regard to the Public Benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission and are satisfied that the overall activity of the charity has been of public benefit.

GCC is not a building, but a gathering of ordinary people of different ages and backgrounds, whose lives have been changed by Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The New Testament reveals the Church as a community of people, properly taught and cared for, who by loving and serving Jesus Christ, were also committed to love and care for each other and to bring a blessing to the area in which they live.

The vision and long term aim of GCC is to make known to the local community, and as part of the wider Church, the nation and indeed nations of the world, the love and grace of God demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This has more than a spiritual significance and is worked out in day to day care, evangelism and meeting the needs of those who are both within the Church and those who as yet do not know Christ as Lord.

Whilst the church employs one full time church leader, it is the work of every member of the church, whether employed or not, that makes a difference in the church achieving success in its great commission.

This is done in 'being salt and light' amongst the people they interact with every day; by praying, by visiting the sick and others in need, in being involved in training others, in public teaching and worship, and also in administration. By showing people the unconditional love of Christ through good deeds we are able to have a positive effect on the lives of those within the church and in the community. The ways this is done by ordinary people in all sorts of different

ways is explained in the report below and demonstrates the effectiveness of a community motivated by love of God and others and willing to sacrifice finance and time to serve others.

The financial resources of the church are given by the members and their private assets and equipment are regularly used in the work of the church. Much of this work is done privately, without recognition, and the hours and value of that time cannot be quantified.

Grant making policy:-Gifts to external organisations and individuals are considered by the Church Leaders and Trustees on the basis of need and fulfilment of the charitable objectives.

Summary of the main activities of the church:

During the period covered by this report all activities of the church were significantly affected by the COVID -19 pandemic, the lockdowns, and associated government regulations. The trustees and the church leadership sought to follow the regulations and guidelines at all times. Where in-person events or services did take place, guidelines were followed, and risk assessments undertaken.

During the year the worship, teaching and children's activities were video recorded and distributed online both to church members and made available to other interested people. Whats App, Facebook, Youtube, Zoom and the church website, were all used to great effect to connect, enable worship and teaching to continue, and to engage with children and young people.

In summary:

- Regular weekly online material for worship, teaching, prayer and fellowship were provided. Where regulations and guidelines allowed, smaller groups did gather in person for worship teaching and prayer.
- On several occasions outdoor worship and teaching services were arranged to allow a gathering of the church congregation.
- Online training and study courses were run to equip people to fulfil their calling as Christians both in the church and in the wider context of the community and places where they live and work.
- A variety of online evangelism courses were run to connect with those outside the church and to help those wanting to find out more about the Christian faith or who want to strengthen their faith and relationship with the Lord.
- Pastoral care and support to those in need or distress was provided by keeping in contact by phone or digital means. Occasional in-person visits where needed and possible were made.
- Online children's clubs were run regularly on Sundays and mid-week to engage children with the Christian faith and teach healthy social values through games, craft, songs and bible stories.
- We engaged with local schools by providing online Christian assembly material and some activities for class use.
- We continued to work together, where possible, with other local churches in Christian ministry, and in projects meeting a variety of needs in the community. Eg the food bank and the parish nurse.
- Some financial support was given to support Christian work in other parts of the UK and abroad, particularly to situations badly affected by the Covid pandemic.
- As part of the Regions Beyond family of churches based in the UK and in other nations we continued through mutual support, training and working together, to promote the

Christian message, plant churches and bring transformation to local communities. During the Covid pandemic this was mainly through the use of Zoom meetings with church leaders and prayer meeting held on Zoom or streamed through Facebook.

Details of many of these activities are provided in the following sections of this report.

Achievements and Performance

Regular Sunday worship and teaching services were pre-recorded throughout most of this year and then distributed through Youtube and or Facebook and Whats App. By these means most of the church membership were able to join in remotely and a significant number of other people were seen to be viewing from further afield, including from other countries.

This pre-recorded format allowed more people to take part in leading worship and bringing teaching, so developing more skills and gifts across the church. The contributions of many different people in the church were greatly appreciated.

When possible, a small group were able to meet in person, socially distanced, for worship and teaching. These meetings were aimed particularly at those who had been unable to access the digital resources and who had really been very isolated during the pandemic. These meetings became a very valuable source of help and encouragement during the pandemic.

At various time newsletters and other material were sent round by both electronic means and by post, to try and ensure all were receiving news and encouragement.

During the year a number of guest speakers also contributed recordings for the Sunday services.

Mid week meetings for bible study, prayer and fellowship took place using worship on Facebook Live and by meeting together on Zoom.

Outreach and Community Events

Once lockdowns started in March 2020, we decided to try running the Alpha course online. This was surprisingly successful and people from a number of towns in Kent joined the courses. We have run a total of 5 Alpha courses during this period, including one for teenagers. A number of people came to faith and had encounters with the Holy Spirit and received prayer for healing too.

Following the Alpha course, the Bible Society Bible course was run to give further teaching and an overview of the bible and other discipleship Zoom sessions were run to help people get a good foundation of faith.

Partly because of online Alpha, two young people were baptised by immersion in September and others shared their faith with friends and people at work: one person even ran their own Alpha course and saw several people come to faith.

At Christmas, the church held a carol service outside, in the courtyard of Rickards Hall (where we normally meet). This was the first opportunity since the start of the pandemic that we had had of meeting together. A number of visitors joined us and there was a great sense of celebration which gave hope and encouragement to many.

Children and Youth Work at Grace Community Church

Laser Light Kidz Klub

During the lockdown this club for primary age children from the local community was generally unable to meet in person. However, using Zoom, the leaders were able to gather a number of children for online games, bible stories and videos. In this way a good number of families with children were included and also an extended family group from Zambia were able to join the club online.

During the summer months some outside sports activities were also organised on the local housing estate, providing another point of contact.

In the lead up to Christmas some activity and gift packs (which included the Christmas Story) were delivered to households of children connected with Laser Light Kidz Klub.

Connections with local schools: At various times during the year, pre-recorded Christian assembly material was offered (and gratefully accepted) to Edenbridge Primary School and to the village schools around: Crockham Hill C of E Primary, Four Elms Primary and Hever C of E Primary. On one occasion we were able to take an outside playground Christian assembly. On occasions, Christian based lessons were given to years 1 and year 6 children at Edenbridge Primary School. On one of those occasions this was a joint venture with the Eden Christian Trust youth worker.

Bizzy Bees Mums n Tots Group This is a group for mums, dads and carers, providing a place for friendship while the children and babies play in safety. It was unable to take place this year because of Covid restrictions. It was relaunched in April 2021.

Youth and Children on Sundays It was not easy to engage the children and young people with online activities on Sundays, although regular Zoom meetings did take place. As mentioned above, the online youth Alpha was successfully run, however, and the young people seemed to find that stimulating.

Working with other local churches in Edenbridge

The church is part of Edenbridge Churches in Covenant comprising the 6 local churches. Because of the pandemic the local ministers were unable to meet in person but kept in touch by email and phone call and ECC council meeting happened on Zoom.

GCC joined the joint churches prayer week activities on Zoom in January 21 and joined with the virtual walk of witness presentation on Good Friday in April 2021.

In addition, GCC supports, with volunteers and from time to time financially, the joint projects run by the churches for the town: the Foodbank, the Parish Nurse, the Bridges Community Café and the ECT town youth service. All these activities were affected by the pandemic, of course and had to adjust how they operated.

Plans to start Edenbridge Foodbank

During the year, detailed plans were made for GCC to take over the running of the local Food bank and bring it under the umbrella of the UK Trussell Trust network. The foodbank will operate as part of the GCC charity and be managed by a team of three people (including Dave White, the GCC leader). Non-perishable food will be donated and stored in suitable premises and then referred clients will come to the centre which will be open once a week. During this

current reporting period, plans have been completed which include obtaining a temporary storage facility in a shipping container and agreement with the local town council to use the council hall once a week as a Foodbank centre. A team of volunteers has been recruited from across the local churches and wider community. The project will be taking place in cooperation and with the full support of the local churches.

Edenbridge Foodbank began operating on 13th April 2021. Running this project will increase our contact with the community and also enable us to develop our ministry to those in need or in vulnerable situations.

Involvement with Regions Beyond. The church is part of the Regions Beyond international family of churches which is itself part of the wider New Frontiers network. GCC leaders regularly attended Regions Beyond leaders meetings for training, fellowship and encouragement all of which happened on Zoom this year.

GCC maintains close links with a number of Regions Beyond churches in the south-east of England, notably New Life Church Biggin Hill and Hope Community Church in Swanley. Trevor Payne, who led Regions Beyond UK this year, provided apostolic oversight and encouragement to the church and to Dave and Sue as leaders. Trevor and Dave and Sue met together regularly on Zoom throughout the year.

News of Regions Beyond activities and churches, both in the UK and abroad, are regularly shared with the church and members are encouraged to pray for and support financially various projects. This year an offering was taken to provide a Regions Beyond COVID crisis fund to be used to help our churches facing particular difficulties arising from the pandemic.

Wider involvement: GCC has supported the Christian work in a Central Asian country and maintains a good relationship with the church leaders there who live and work in a difficult situation.

Plans for the Future

With the easing of lockdown measures, the charity looks forward to continued growth and impact in the local community and beyond.

The plans that GCC had to start hiring the main hall of Edenbridge Primary School were put on hold during the pandemic. However, it is hoped that during the next year, discussion with the school will restart and the church will be able to use the school hall for its regular Sunday meetings. This will allow more room for growth and more suitable facilities for children's activities.

The Edenbridge Foodbank will start operations, as explained above, in April 2021. Planning permission will be sought for the erection of a permanent storage shed on land provided by the local council. Grants will be applied for to pay for both the shed and the setup costs involved. It is expected that the Foodbank will be financed entirely from grants and donations to the foodbank. A separate bank account will be opened for the foodbank and for the management of the foodbank finances.

Other developments are dependent on further growth in the number of active volunteers within the church and will also be affected by how the Covid situation develops. This will be kept under constant review.

It is too early to say what the long term effect of Covid-19 will have on the church but early indications are that the faith and commitment of people has stayed strong, financial giving has remained consistent and in fact a number of new people have contacted us and begun to join in with activities.

Risk Statement: All major insurable risks are subject to normal churches and employers' insurance. New projects and ventures are risk assessed before being started to assess whether or not they will significantly impact upon the church's ability to fulfil its objectives.

Financial Review

The charity has a single bank account held at Lloyd Bank PLC. The account year is 1st April to 31st March. The accounts attached to this report therefore cover from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

Total income received was £32264. £3214 was money given to Restricted funds as shown in the Restricted funds column. £25245 was given by members and friends of the church during the year which shows the commitment and faithfulness to the mission of the church.

Total expenditure was £43876 of which £1784 was spent from the restricted funds as shown. The major expenses were the staff salary costs.

There are no outstanding debts or material liabilities.

Reserves policy: It is the policy of GCC to maintain reserves at a level consistent with safeguarding the church against unexpected significant expenditure and to provide enough funds to smooth over peaks and troughs in short term cash flow. Two to five months of average expenditure are therefore kept as reserves (currently £7.3K to £18.3K).

Cash funds in the bank account at year end were £36289

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is established within Regions Beyond – part of the New Frontiers family of churches. The church is also part of Edenbridge Churches in Covenant, in total consisting of seven local churches.

Directions relating to the charitable trust are made by the Trustees in consultation with the church Lead Elder (Dave White, who is also a trustee) and other leaders of the church. The church Elder and other leaders are responsible for governing the life and teaching of the church and day to day decisions on expenditure and activities are decided by the leaders in charge of different areas of the church, with budgets set and monitored by the Trustees.

In general, the responsibility for appointment of new trustees rests with the current trustees guided by the Lead Elder. New Trustees are primarily selected from the members of churches sharing the same vision.

On being appointed, new Trustees are offered training and spend time with the existing Trustees to ensure they understand their responsibilities and the legal and financial framework in which the church operates.

The trustees extend their thanks for the hard work and faithful service to all those involved with Grace Community Church, both the leaders and other volunteers. The trustees are also grateful for the generosity of all those who have financially supported the work and mission of the church during the year.

Trustee's responsibilities: Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity and of its income and expenditure for the year. We are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts.
4. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of Grace Community Church Edenbridge on 8/2/2022

And signed on its behalf by: D White DAVID WHITE

Position: Lead Elder and Trustee Grace Community Church, Edenbridge

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Grace Community Church Edenbridge	1181051

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1st April 2020		31st march 2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Ordinary Income from church people	25,245	-	-	25,245	35,206
Gift aid claim	3,674	-	-	3,674	4,335
Other organisations	131	-	-	131	243
Tajik fund	-	150	-	150	50
Regions Beyond Special offering	-	205	-	205	1,330
Laser Light kids fund	-	487	-	487	500
GCC Special Offering	-	1,039	-	1,039	-
Bizzy Bees Mums and Tots	-	1,333		1,333	-
Parish Nurse Fund	-	-	-	-	32
New Life Church Biggin Hill	-	-	-	-	58,782
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	29,050	3,214	-	32,264	100,478
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	29,050	3,214	-	32,264	100,478
A3 Payments					
Payroll staff costs	36,372	-	-	36,372	36,952
Office admin fees/misc	614	-	-	614	894
Professional fees/licemces/subs	365	-	-	365	417
Pub;icity Printing	183	-	-	183	114
Hall hire	421	-	-	421	3,796
Equipment	116			116	68
Childrens work	12			12	684
Events evangelism/ministry materials	57			57	593
Training	40			40	
Gifts donations	1,692	-	-	1,692	4,196
Regions Beyond UK	1,920			1,920	1,330
parish Nurse via ECC	300	-	-	300	32
Tajik fund	-	200	-	200	-
Regions Beyond Special Offering		205		205	
Laser Light Kids fund		513		513	
GCC Special Offering		866		866	
Elders Expenses	- #	-	-	-	343
Insurance					226
Visiting Ministry Expenses					30
UK Conference Rexpenses					779
Foreign Travel	-	-	-	-	892
Sub total	42,092	1,784	-	43,876	51,346
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	42,092	1,784	-	43,876	51,346
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 13,042	1,430	-	- 11,612	49,132
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	48,832	300	-	49,132	-
Cash funds this year end	34,599	1,730	-	36,289	49,132

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank PLC	34,599	1,730	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	34,599	1,730	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
D. White	DAVID WHITE	8.2.22

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/directors/ members of

Charity Name
Grace Community Church, Edenbridge

On accounts for the year ended

31 MARCH 2021

Charity no.:	1181051	Company no.:	

Set out on pages

1 e 2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 03 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

~~[The company's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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

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

Signed:	[signature]	**Date:**	8/2/2022
Name:	JOHN SOUTHWORTH		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ICAEW		
Address:	SOUTHWORTH & CO LTD Treasurers Four Elms Edenbridge Kent TN8 6NT		

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.