

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
Grace Community Church Edenbridge

No (if any)
1181051

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
1st April 2020

To

Period end date
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/licences/subs	365	-	-	365	417
Publicity 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

CCXX R1 accounts (SS)

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
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		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	8.2.22



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)

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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:



Date:

8/2/2022

Name:

JOHN SOUTHWORTH

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

ICAEW

Address:

SOUTHWORTH & CO LTD

TREASURES

Four Elms Ederbridge Ket TN86 NE

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.