

## **Grindon Church Community Project: Trustees' Report**

This report on the activities and achievements of Grindon Church Community Project covers its operations during 2024.

### **Introduction**

In 2020 Grindon Church Community Project was recognised and registered by the Charities Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), operating in accordance with Christian principles at and from the former Grindon United Reformed Church in Sunderland, continuing the work of the Grindon Mission Project at this location. Charity registration enabled access to income streams and other forms of practical support which were unavailable to the previous operating model.

### **Practical and emotional support for our community**

During 2024 discussions continued with the URC Northern Synod to consolidate the work of GCCP CIO with the needs and requirements of the community in west Sunderland and surrounding areas, and our user groups at present and into the future and a favourable resolution is expected early in 2025.

In partnership with United Reformed Church Northern Synod we have been supported by Alison Dalton, the Church Related Community Worker at Stockton Road URC, who provide spiritual leadership as in previous years. Rev Dr David Whiting, a retired minister and a trustee of GCCP provided spiritual oversight.

Phil Gibbs, our voluntary mental health counsellor, continued to help and support people within GCCP and the wider community.

With the support of the Tom Cowie Foundation we continued to run a Crisis Food Bank, which also provides non-food items including domestic and personal hygiene products to those in acute need.

### **Building and Facilities Improvements**

Our premises are provided rent-free by the United Reformed Church Northern Synod Trust. Work to improve the building and grounds has continued during 2024. All floor coverings and lighting systems have been updated, and improvements to other rooms continue.

We have continued to increase our use of IT systems and have improved business efficiency. A newly-recruited volunteer runs training sessions for local people who do not have internet access and/or expertise.



## **User Groups**

Our premises continue to be used by a wide range of groups, and 2024 saw our user and visitor numbers grow again to a level equal to those in years affected by the pandemic lockdown. We continue to developing partnerships and initiatives with arts and performance organisations throughout the region, and enjoy the creative opportunities provided for our users in the Sunderland community. Of particular note was a visiting exhibition and workshop provided by the National Gallery, with the support of Sunderland Cultural Spring.

Amongst other groups based at GCCP the Grindon Painters Art Group has mounted exhibitions of their work, the Pantastic Community Steel Band performs across the region, as does the Sunderland Jubilate! Choir. We continue to support community groups such as these in any way we can, including preferential room rates, publicity and equipment storage space, and signposting them to potential funding.

Our Parents & Toddlers Group continued to flourish, attracting families from well outside the Grindon area in addition to local people.

The Craft & Natter Group and Men's Group started in 2023 with the aim of reducing social isolation meet weekly and have attracted members signposted by NHS Social Prescribing and mental health groups.

Our gardens remain an attractive feature of GCCP, and we hope to enter Britain in Bloom again in the near future, a competition in which we were successful some years ago. Of some concern is the difficulty of attracting and retaining volunteers to work the gardens, although we have benefitted and enjoyed visits by employees of local businesses who have taken part in team-building events centred on the gardens. We have obtained grant funding to support the garden developments.

## **Funding**

The greater part of our funding is from grant applications, which continue to be made. We receive a three-year grant of £19,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund, towards core costs, administrative costs, the provision of a caretaker and utility bills, and other activities are being developed.

Much of the user group activity is funded by grants, and we help groups to apply for funding. Some of this income to the groups is transmitted to GCCP in the form of room rental fees, which contribute to the costs of maintaining our services to the community. We have managed to hold our room rental rates without increase for another year, which is an added attraction to new groups and the retention of existing ones.



## Challenges

Much of our work continues to be carried out by volunteers, largely trustees and their family members, with the support of our paid workers who also carry out voluntary work in their own time. The average age of the trustees is over 60, and some are becoming less able to carry out practical jobs.

The availability of volunteers from local employers is falling due to the current economic climate.

We are fortunate to have grant funding for many of our core costs, but this is time-limited and our field of potential grant providers offering core funding is limited.

*M. C. Whiteoak*

Trustee

Dated *21/10/25*





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Grindon Church Community Project

No. 1189916

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
01 January 2024

To

Period end date  
31 December 2024

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Grants	5,115	31,430	-	36,545	23,740
NLCF Grant	-	30,524	-	30,524	29,147
Donations	2,618	-	-	2,618	2,545
Fundraising	5,229	-	-	5,229	3,832
Hall Hire	7,893	-	-	7,893	5,988
Investment Income	62	-	-	62	45
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>20,917</b>	<b>61,954</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>82,871</b>	<b>65,297</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>20,917</b>	<b>61,954</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>82,871</b>	<b>65,297</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Charitable Activities	1,347	17,492	-	18,839	17,999
Utilities & Insurance	3,089	10,344	-	13,433	10,197
Repairs & Maintenance	2,654	16,323	-	18,977	24,915
Administration	1,809	14,392	-	16,201	15,563
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>8,899</b>	<b>58,551</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>67,450</b>	<b>68,674</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>8,899</b>	<b>58,551</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>67,450</b>	<b>68,674</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>12,018</b>	<b>3,403</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,421</b>	<b>- 3,377</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>32,532</b>	<b>5,135</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,667</b>	<b>41,044</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>44,550</b>	<b>8,538</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53,088</b>	<b>37,667</b>



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	Treasurer's Account	44,550	3,311	-
	Reserve Account		5,227	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	44,550	8,538	-
	(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	Details			
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details			
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature			



**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Grindon Church Community Project**  
**Charity No. 1189916**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Grindon Church Community Project (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

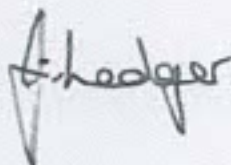
**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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.

**Signed:**



**Name:** Jeff Ledger

**Qualification:** Chartered Certified Accountant

**Address:** 56 Belle Vue Park West, Sunderland, SR2 7SB

**Date:** 30 October 2025