

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

England & Wales · Charity number 1195662

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-08-31

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

Contact

Address Grace Church
Unit B
Metro Business Park
Clough Street
Stoke-On-Trent
ST1 4AF

Phone 07588589414

Email office@gracechurchstoke.org

Website www.gracechurchstoke.org

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, ARE: A) THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH APPEARING IN THE SCHEDULE HERETO IN STOKE-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE OR OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND/OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHARITY MAY FROM TIME TO TIME SEE FIT; AND B) THE RELIEF OF THOSE IN NEED BY REASON OF HARDSHIP, DISTRESS AND/OR SICKNESS, IN PARTICULAR (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) THE PROVISION OF LOANS, GIFTS, ACCOMMODATION OR SHELTER.

Activities: Meet to worship God, hear preaching, pray together, run children's activities, enjoy fellowship & be a place of welcome, safety & growth. Meet mid week in small groups for fellowship, worship, prayer & bible study. Train & teach staff & church members. Utilise venue for community projects to benefit many in the community & run social events.

Classification

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

Geography

- Staffordshire
- Stoke-on-trent City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-05-31	£141,005	£120,483	-	-
2024-05-31	£132,898	£102,082	-	-
2023-05-31	£90,726	£88,311	-	-
2022-05-31	£85,344	£102,011	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rebekah Louise Chalmers	Chair	2024-01-01
David Jonathan Michael Keeping		2021-08-25
NATHAN AINSCOUGH		2021-08-25
Nicholas Dane Barlass Bradley-Carter		2023-12-01
RACHEL LOUISE AINSCOUGH		2021-08-25
Wendy Anne Blood		2025-11-01

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1195662

Accounts



**GRACE CHURCH
STOKE ON TRENT**

ACCOUNTS & TRUSTEE REPORT

YEAR ENDED - 31ST MAY 2025

**GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

Address for Correspondence

Grace Church Stoke on Trent
Unit B, Metro Business Park
Clough Street, Hanley.
Stoke on Trent ST1 4AF

Governing Document

CIO Constitution Dated - 23rd August 2021

Charity Registration Number

1195662

Trustees

Rebekah Chalmers	Chairperson
Rachel Ainscough	Treasurer
Nathan Ainscough	
Robert Mundy	
David Keeping	
Nick Bradley-Carter	
Wendy Blood	Appointed 1st November 2025

Independent Examiner

Archie McDowall BA CA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

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GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2025

Objects of the charity

The charity has been a Charitable Incorporated Organisation since 23rd August 2021 (Charity Number 1195662) and is registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales.

The objects of the charity, as set out in the governing document are:

- a) the advancement of the Christian religion in accordance with our statement of faith appearing in the schedule hereto in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire or other parts of the United Kingdom and/or the world as the trustees of the charity may from time to time see fit.
- b) the relief of those in need by reason of hardship, distress and/or sickness, in particular (but not limited to) the provision of loans, gifts, accommodation or shelter.

The trustees note that Grace Church is not a building, but a diverse group of people joined together by Jesus Christ. We are one of many churches hoping to see "THE CHURCH" impact our city in a way that is so integral to its welfare, we can truly say we are building Church the city can't do without. Grace Church cares for one another and tries to be of public benefit to our non-members, especially those in poverty. We offer practical support and teach about Jesus so others can know Him for themselves

Our vision is that 'By the end of 2025, Grace Church Stoke on Trent will be thriving as a place of welcome, safety and growth'

Grace Church Stoke on Trent is one of many ChristCentral Churches (Registered Charity No. 1151447) working together under the apostolic leadership of Jeremy Simpkins and his team. ChristCentral is part of the worldwide Newfrontiers family of churches (Registered Charity No. 1060001), providing opportunities for us to impact not just our UK region but also into other nations.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements are as follows:

- Holding regular church services and groups open to all for sung worship, bible teaching, prayer (as well as other fun activities like quiz/games nights and day trips)
- Utilising our venue to care and support local people, especially those in poverty (see below for more detail)
- Utilising our venue to care and support church members (e.g. children and youth events, training events, meals for students and 20s)
- Supporting other churches and charities in the UK and abroad (e.g. through ChristCentral Churches)

The church recognises the need to impact our local community and wider city. These are some of the activities undertaken to achieve this:

► **Kidzplay @ Grace Church** - Free stay and play group for children under 5 and their parents/carers. We open on a Monday morning during term time and offer free play, story time, singing, crafts and sensory activities with free refreshments for adults and children. We have lots of new families joining Kidzplay since September and have 15 children and 10 adults on the books. Kidzplay is run by a dedicated team of volunteers and we have been blessed by help from one off volunteers at times too.

► **Foodbank Distribution Centre** - Since 2014 we have partnered with the Trussell Trust Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank (Registered Charity No. 1132208) by operating as a distribution centre which is now open every Thursday morning. Teams of volunteers welcome individuals and families in crisis, providing emergency food parcels upon receipt of a valid Foodbank referral.

In addition to hosting a distribution session, we also serve as one of the Foodbank's collection points, regularly gathering food donations from our church community. The Foodbank work is led by a dedicated and passionate team of volunteers who give their time each week to support those in need.

► **Open House** - On a Wednesday evening, we open our doors for 'Open House.' This is a warm space where anyone is welcome to come along whether it be for a simple meal, company, activities or simply just to stay warm for a couple of hours. Guests who are experiencing homelessness, low income and/or loneliness can attend. We provide soup, bread, biscuits, hot and cold drinks, and essential items, such as sleeping bags, hats, gloves, socks, rucksacks, roll mats and toiletries are available if required. Activities hosted include watching a programme/film, jigsaws, board and card games, table tennis, pool, quizzes or simply just sitting and chatting.

► **CMA Grace Money** - A free-to-client debt advice service, affiliated with Community Money Advice (Charity No. 1111436), is run from the church premises by a team of trained volunteers. The service supports individuals across the city who are struggling with debt or in need of financial guidance.

Our volunteers provide accredited advice, assist with budgeting, explore insolvency options, offer ongoing support, and negotiate with creditors on behalf of clients. Community Money Advice (CMA) provides expert training, resources, and a framework of governance to ensure the service operates to a high standard of care and good practice.

► **Craft & Chat** - Launched in May 2022, Craft & Chat offers therapeutic crafting and community for those experiencing mild mental ill-health, isolation, or loneliness. Referrals come from social prescribers and self-referrals. The group is run weekly during term time by a team of experienced volunteers, led by someone with professional and counselling experience. Over the past year, the group has grown into a supportive community eager to give back, contributing to Stoke-on-Trent's Centenary celebrations by making bunting and hosting a Big Centenary Tea Party with guests including social prescribers and friends. Participants consistently report positive benefits, and some are now being recruited as volunteers, enhancing their wellbeing and bringing valuable lived experience to the team.

► **Families grown by Adoption** - Since May 2022 we have ran a support group that provides whole family activities and support for local families who are growing, or who have grown their family through adoption. This group runs 6 times a year, with activities and refreshments for families to enjoy together, whilst also offering a space and welcoming place for families to meet others with similar situations and experiences, giving them the opportunity to draw on peer support and advice and make local connections and relationships with others in the local area. This group is led by a volunteer and supported by other volunteers.

A significant number of Church members volunteer their time to lead, sustain and develop the ministries and activities of the church. Their contribution is vital to the success of the charity and cannot be quantified. Our total membership at the end of May 2025 was 87 adults.

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial review

During the year, our total income increased by £8,108 to £141,005 (2024: £132,898) and expenditure increased by £18,401 to £120,483 (2024: £102,082). As a result, the cash held at year end increased by £20,522 to £70,098 (2024: £49,576) of which £69,977 was unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose.

For the coming year the Trustees and Eldership team have set a budget with an approximate £13,000 deficit. We have done this secure in the knowledge that we have the reserves to cover more than this deficit if our income prediction is not exceeded. This will be reviewed periodically throughout the year.

Staffing

Within this financial year we employed; David Keeping, Church Leader (22.5 hours per week) Rebekah Edwards, Church Administrator (7.5 hours per week - increased to 11.5hours from May 2025) and we also employed Erik Buren as a GraceKids & Youth Leader (7.5 hours per week until 1st Sept 2024) Following Erik's departure, we recruited both Sam and Hannah Latcham to take over leadership of Grace Kids and Youth. They each work 3.75 hours per week, sharing the responsibilities of the role and being responsible for the wider ministry. Staffing needs are regularly reviewed by the Elders and Trustees, who continue to assess the evolving needs of the church. During this financial year, it became clear that additional paid elder hours were necessary due to an increasing workload. As a result, a decision was made to increase David's hours to 30 per week, effective from 1st June 2025. All Staff, Trustees, and Elders are committed and active members of the church community.

Reserves policy

It is the aim of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted reserves—not committed or invested in fixed assets—at a level sufficient to cover between two and three months of committed expenditure. This policy helps ensure that the charity could continue operating in the event of an unexpected reduction in income or increase in costs.

At year end, the church's reserves stood at £69,977, which is above the minimum threshold of two months' committed expenditure. This means the charity is currently in compliance with its reserves policy.

Given the level of reserves held at year end, we are planning to increase expenditure in the next financial year—most notably through increased staffing hours. In addition, we are beginning to set aside funds towards a potential future venue. These savings will be transferred into a designated fund for that purpose.

Governance

Responsibility for setting policy and making operational decisions lies with the Trustees, who meet regularly to oversee and monitor the activities of the charity. Spiritual governance and leadership of the Church Fellowship is entrusted to the Eldership team. These two teams work closely together, with the Church Leader also serving as a Trustee, helping to ensure alignment between practical and spiritual leadership.

The annual budget is developed and agreed upon jointly by both the Trustees and the Elders. New Trustees are recruited from within the church membership and are appointed by a majority vote of the existing Trustees.

Risk statement

The charity is exposed to various risks - be they operational, financial or reputational. The trustees review the charity's activities regularly to identify significant risks and, where possible, they take appropriate measures to mitigate those risks.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

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.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

RACHEL AINSCOUGH

Date:

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Grace Church Stoke on Trent ('the charity') for the year ended 31 May 2025 on pages 7 to 10 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. 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.

Archie McDowall BA CA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date:

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

	Notes	General Fund £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME:					
Donations		112,441	1,525	113,966	109,271
HMRC Gift Aid		23,889	224	24,113	21,360
Grants		-	-	-	820
Charitable activities		-	-	-	300
Hire of venue		270	-	270	305
Other income		707	1,950	2,657	842
Total receipts		<u>137,307</u>	<u>3,699</u>	<u>141,005</u>	<u>132,898</u>
Payments					
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	1	97,087	9,396	106,483	95,899
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by	2	13,900	100	14,000	6,183
		<u>110,987</u>	<u>9,496</u>	<u>120,483</u>	<u>102,082</u>
Total payments		<u>110,987</u>	<u>9,496</u>	<u>120,483</u>	<u>102,082</u>
Net of receipts / (payments)		26,320	(5,798)	20,522	30,816
Transfers between funds	4	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>26,320</u>	<u>(5,798)</u>	<u>20,522</u>	<u>30,816</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		43,657	5,919	49,576	18,760
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>69,977</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>70,098</u>	<u>49,576</u>

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

	Unrestricted funds Notes: £	Restricted funds £	2025 £	2024 £
A Cash funds				
Cash at bank with immediate access	69,977	121	70,098	49,576
	<u>69,977</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>70,098</u>	<u>49,576</u>
B Other monetary assets				
Gift aid due to charity	2,146	-	2,146	2,986
Employment overpayment owed back	-	-	-	283
Vodafone refund due	16	-	16	-
	<u>2,162</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,162</u>	<u>3,269</u>
C Liabilities				
Falling due within one year				
Fee for Independent Examination	900	-	900	840
Accrued expenses	449	-	449	-
	<u>1,349</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,349</u>	<u>840</u>
Total	<u>1,349</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,349</u>	<u>840</u>

D Assets retained for charity's own use

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost £
Music & PA Equipment	General	10,210
Computers & IT	General	2,869
Furniture	General	13,129
Other	General	10,481
		<u>-</u>
		<u>36,689</u>

Trustees have used the original cost of these assets to assess the value; this is also the current insured value.

E Guarantees and secured debts

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

RACHEL AINSCOUGH

Date:

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	General funds £	Restricted funds £		
1 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly				
Employment costs inc Travel Expenses	3	39,143	4,749	43,892
Rent		30,000	-	30,000
Light, heat & water		6,174	-	6,174
Insurance		2,275	-	2,275
Support Services (ministry, training, hospitality)		6,935	766	7,701
Outreach / Community action activities		3,767	213	3,980
Maintenance of buildings & equipment		5,202	-	5,202
Work among the young		984	3,137	4,121
Costs incurred on support & administration				
Governance costs		-	-	-
Independent examiner's fee		840	-	840
Administration & Communication		1,767	532	2,299
		<u>97,087</u>	<u>9,396</u>	<u>106,483</u>
2 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others				
Grants for:				
ChristCentral Churches - Christian Mission in the UK & Overseas		11,400	100	11,500
ChristCentral Church in Cambodia		1,000	-	1,000
ChristCentral Church in Chemnitz		1,000	-	1,000
Other UK Charity		500	-	500
		<u>13,900</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>14,000</u>
		<u>95,899</u>	<u>95,899</u>	<u>95,899</u>

3 Transactions with related parties

David Keeping, a Trustee, who is the son-in-law of Robert Mundy (Trustee) served as church leader and was paid gross £29,931 [2024: £28,530] and pension contributions of £2,694 [2024: £2,568] for serving in that capacity and not as a Trustee. These payments are permitted by the charity's governing document

Since November 2024 Hannah and Sam Latcham are employed as our Grace Kids & Youth Workers. They went through a competitive recruitment process and are now each employed for 3.75 hours per week. Hannah is the daughter of Robert Mundy (Trustee) and Sam is the son-in-law of Robert Mundy (Trustee). Both have been paid gross £1,798 over this financial year and have been paid £162 in pension contributions.

The ChristCentral Church in Cambodia who we made a donation of £1000 to, is led by Abi & Sam Little. Abi is the sister of Rebekah Chalmers who as of January 2024 is the Chair of Trustees for Grace Church. The financial and spiritual support of this church had begun prior to Rebekah becoming a Trustee.

Trustees who have a conflict of interest or a relationship with a related party are excluded from any discussions or decisions concerning that party's employment, remuneration or our financial support of the church.

4 Movement of funds

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General Funds	43,657	137,307	(110,987)	-	69,977
Restricted Funds					
ChristCentral	-	100	(100)	-	-
Grace Money	60	-	(60)	-	-
Craft & Chat	275	-	(153)	-	121
GraceKids	5,584	2,599	(8,183)	-	-
PA	-	750	(750)	-	-
Refreshments	-	250	(250)	-	-
	<u>5,919</u>	<u>3,699</u>	<u>(9,496)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>121</u>
Total funds	<u>49,576</u>	<u>141,005</u>	<u>(120,483)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,098</u>

*ChristCentral - This fund was used to collect donations given towards an offering ChristCentral held in July 2024. This was paid out in September 2024

*Grace Money - £320 of this was received from CMA (Community Money Advice) in September 2023 after a successful application to their trust fund to help us with training costs for our advisors to complete essential training. The remainder was a gift from a church member for the same purpose. The money was spent throughout the year and the remaining £60 was spent in August 2024 when the relevant training was available.

* Craft & Chat - This fund is restricted for the work of the Craft & Chat project. A grant was received in December 2021 from Stoke on Trent City Council from the local councillors ward budget specifically for this project. A second grant for £500 was given by Vast's Totally Stoked Small Group Support Grant in July 2022. The expenses for the project are still being taken out of this restricted fund.

* GraceKids - This fund was set up in Oct 2023 just prior to us employing a Youth & Childrens worker. The money was raised from a special offering to be used to fund the employment costs and any other costs of GraceKids and GraceYouth

*PA - This fund was set up in October 2024 when donations were given towards a PA project. This was all spent within this financial year

* Refreshments - This fund is used if donations have been given specifically for hospitality purposes or to collate contributions towards meals/refreshments

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1195662

Accounts



GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

Report and Accounts

Year ended - 31st May 2024

**GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024**

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Governing Document

CIO Constitution Dated - 23rd August 2021

Charity Registration Number

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Trustees

Laura Pickering	Chairperson	Resigned Dec 2023
Rachel Ainscough	Treasurer	
Victoria Terry		Resigned July 2023
Nathan Ainscough		
Robert Mundy		
David Keeping		
Nick Bradley-Carter		Appointed Dec 2023
Rebekah Chalmers	Chairperson	Appointed Jan 2024

Independent Examiner

Archie McDowall BA,CA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

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The church recognises the need to impact our local community and wider city. These are some of the activities undertaken to achieve this:

► **Kidzplay @ Grace Church** - Free stay and play group for parents and carers and children under 5. We open once a week during term time and offer free play, story time, singing, crafts and sensory activities with free refreshments for adults and children. Due to lots of our regular children starting school this September we have a smaller number of 10-15 children and 8-10 adults attending the group regularly. Kidzplay is run by a dedicated team of volunteers but we are currently looking for new volunteers to join the team,

► **Foodbank Distribution Centre** - Working in partnership with Trussell Trust Stoke on Trent Foodbank (Registered charity No. 1132208) Since summer 2022 we open every Thursday morning as a foodbank distribution centre. Teams of volunteers provide emergency food parcels to individuals and families in crisis on receipt of a Foodbank referral. As a church we also collect food donations as one of the Foodbank's collection points. Foodbank is led by a dedicated small team of volunteers.

► **Open House** - On a Wednesday evening, we run what we call 'Open House.' This is a warm space where anyone is welcome to come along whether it be for a simple meal, company, activities or simply just to stay warm for a couple of hours. Guests who are experiencing homelessness, low income and/or loneliness can attend. We provide soup, bread, biscuits, hot and cold drinks, and essential items, such as sleeping bags, hats, gloves, socks, rucksacks, roll mats and toiletries are available if required. Small groups might watch a programme/film, do a jigsaw, play a game or sit and chat.

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► **Craft & Chat** - Craft and Chat was launched in May 2022. The group offers therapeutic craft & community for anyone experiencing low level mental ill-health, isolation and loneliness. Craft & Chat receives referrals from social prescribers & people are able to self refer. There are a team of experienced volunteers who run the group, led by a volunteer with previous professional & counselling experience. It runs weekly during term time. Over the past year the group has grown & a community who want to help each other & the wider community has developed. This includes making toys for a charity called Knit for Nowt which supplies puppets & worry monsters to therapists. The group is also making links with other voluntary organisations including Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Bunting was made for one of their projects. All who come to the group say how much it helps them.

► **Families grown by Adoption** - Since May 2022 we have ran a support group that provides whole family activities and support for local families who are growing, or who have grown their family through adoption. This group runs 6 times a year, with activities and refreshments for families to enjoy together, whilst also offering a space and welcoming place for families to meet others with similar situations and experiences, giving them the opportunity to draw on peer support and advice and make local connections and relationships with others in the local area. This group is led by a volunteer and supported by other volunteers.

A significant number of Church members volunteer their time to lead, sustain and develop the ministries and activities of the church. Their contribution is vital to the success of the charity and cannot be quantified. Our total membership at the end of May 2024 was 80 adults.

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial review

During the year unrestricted income increased substantially, to £119,982 (£86,777 - May 2023), and due to the increased income which was higher than our budget our unrestricted expenditure increased from last year, to £94,504 (£83,249 - May 2023). As a result the unrestricted cash held by the charity increased by £25,478, to £43,656 (£18,178 - May 2023), which can be used for any charitable purpose.

For the coming year the Trustees and Eldership team have set a balanced budget. If income is received above the predicted level then we will expand our expenditure to areas which we identify there to be a need.

Within this financial year we employed; David Keeping, Church Leader (22.5 hours per week) and from November 2023 we also employed Erik Buren as a GraceKids & Youth Leader (7.5 hours per week). Staffing needs are kept under review by the Elders and Trustees who are continually assessing the needs of the church. Throughout this financial year we were looking into the possibility of hiring a church administrator to add to our staffing team to start 2024. Our new church administrator started their role in June 2024. The Staff, Trustees and Elders are all committed members of the Church.

Reserves policy

It is the aim of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted funds, not committed or invested in fixed assets, at a level which covers between 2 and 3 months of committed expenditure. This policy is in place to ensure that the charity could continue to operate should income and/or expenditure vary adversely. At year end the church's reserves totalled £43,656 which is above 2 months of committed expenditure and the charity is complying with its reserves policy.

Governance

Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rests with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. Responsibility for the spiritual governance and leadership of the Church Fellowship has been delegated to the Eldership team. These teams work alongside each other closely with the Church Leader also being a Trustee. The annual budget is set by the joint working and agreement of both parties. New trustees are recruited and appointed from the church membership by the existing trustees, by a majority vote.

Risk statement

The charity is exposed to various risks - be they operational, financial or reputational. The trustees review the charity's activities regularly to identify significant risks and, where possible, they take appropriate measures to mitigate those risks.

Responsibilities of trustees

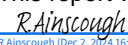
Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

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.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:


R.Ainscough (Dec 2, 2024 16:33 GMT)

RACHEL AINSCOUGH

Date: Dec 2, 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Grace Church Stoke on Trent ('the charity') for the year ended 31 May 2024 **on pages 6 to 10 following.**

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. 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.


Archie McDowall (Dec 3, 2024 12:28 GMT)

Archie McDowall BA,CA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Dec 3, 2024

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

	General Fund £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME:				
Donations	99,147	10,124	109,271	70,051
HMRC Gift Aid	19,479	1,881	21,360	15,260
Grants	500	320	820	3,375
Charitable activities	300	-	300	150
Hire of venue	305	-	305	645
Other income	252	590	842	1,245
Total receipts	119,982	12,915	132,898	90,726
Payments				
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	1 89,354	6,545	95,899	87,398
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	2 5,150	1,033	6,183	913
	94,504	7,578	102,082	88,311
Total payments	94,504	7,578	102,082	88,311
Net of receipts / (payments) before	25,478	5,338	30,816	2,414
Transfers between funds	4 -	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	25,478	5,338	30,816	2,414
Cash funds as at last year end	18,178	581	18,759	16,345
Cash funds at this year end	A 43,656	5,919	49,575	18,759

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

	Unrestricted Fund:			
	General funds	Restricted funds	2024	2023
Notes	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds				
Cash at bank with immediate access	43,657	5,919	49,576	18,760
	43,657	5,919	49,576	18,760
B Other monetary assets				
Gift aid due to charity	2,986	-	2,986	1,305
Employment overpayment owed back	-	283	283	-
	2,986	283	3,269	1,305
C Liabilities				
Falling due within one year				
Fee for Independent Examination	840	-	840	840
	840	-	840	840
Total	840	-	840	840
D Assets retained for charity's own use				
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost £	
Music & PA Equipment		General	10,210	
Computers & IT		General	2,698	
Furniture		General	12,829	
Other		General	10,349	
			-	
			36,086	

Trustees have used the original cost of these assets to assess the value; this is also the current insured value.

E Guarantees and secured debts

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

R.Ainscough
R.Ainscough (Dec 2, 2024 16:33 GMT)

RACHEL AINSCOUGH

Date: Dec 2, 2024

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	Unrestricted Funds		Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	General funds	Restricted funds		
	£	£		
1 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly				
Employment costs inc Travel Expenses (See note 3)	30,844	3,958	34,803	38,234
Rent	28,393	-	28,393	27,250
Light, heat & water	11,716	-	11,716	7,675
Insurance	2,174	-	2,174	2,053
Support Services (ministry, training, hospitality)	5,568	839	6,407	2,700
Outreach / Community action activities	3,023	747	3,770	2,680
Maintenance of buildings & equipment	3,768	-	3,768	3,438
Work among the young	874	1,001	1,875	937
	-	-		
Costs incurred on support & administration	-	-		
Independent examiner's fee	840	-	840	840
Administration & Communication	2,154	-	2,154	1,591
	<u>89,354</u>	<u>6,545</u>	<u>95,899</u>	<u>87,398</u>
2 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others				
Grants for:				
ChristCentral Churches - Christian Mission in the UK & Overseas	4,350	1,033	5,383	413
ChristCentral Church in Cambodia	600	-	600	500
Other UK Charity	200	-	200	
	<u>5,150</u>	<u>1,033</u>	<u>6,183</u>	<u>913</u>

3 Transactions with related parties

David Keeping, a Trustee, who is the son-in-law of Robert Mundy (Trustee) served as church leader and was paid gross £28,530 [2023: £26,299] and pension contributions of £2,568 [2023: £2,366] for serving in that capacity and not as a Trustee. These payments are permitted by the charity's governing document

The ChristCentral Church in Cambodia who we made a donation of £600 to is led by Abi & Sam Little. Abi is the sister of Rebekah Chalmers who as of January 2024 is the Chair of Trustees for Grace Church. The financial and spiritual support of this church had began prior to Rebekah becoming a Trustee.

4 Movement of funds

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General Funds	18,178	119,982	- 94,504	-	43,656
Restricted Funds					
SocialAction	168	120	- 288	-	-
ChristCentral	-	1,033	- 1,033	-	-
Grace Money	-	380	- 320	-	60
Craft & Chat	414	-	- 139	-	275
GraceKids	-	10,544	- 4,959	-	5,584
Refreshments	-	839	- 839	-	-
	<u>582</u>	<u>12,915</u>	<u>- 7,578</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,919</u>
Total funds	<u>18,760</u>	<u>132,898</u>	<u>- 102,082</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,575</u>

* Social Action fund - Grant received through Stoke on Trent Council from DEFRA to support struggling local residents with essential supplies e.g. sleeping bags, mats, rucksacks, toiletries. This was received in Dec 2020. Further to this in Feb 23 £574 was received through the Coop who partnered with Crowdfunding and match funded donations received through crowdfunding and gave a little extra too to support 'Open House' as a warm space.

*ChristCentral - This fund was used to collect donations given towards an offering ChristCentral held in June/July 2023. This was paid out in August 2023

*Grace Money - £320 of this was received from CMA (Community Money Advice) in September 2023 after a successful application to their trust fund to help us with training costs for our advisors to complete essential training. The remainder was a gift from a church member for the same purpose. The money was spent throughout the year and the remaining £60 was spent in August 2024 when the relevant training was available.

* Craft & Chat - This fund is restricted for the work of the Craft & Chat project. A grant was received in December 2021 from Stoke on Trent City Council from the local councillors ward budget specifically for this project. A second grant for £500 was given by Vast's Totally Stoked Small Group Support Grant in July 2022.

* GraceKids - This fund was set up in Oct 2023 just prior to us employing a Youth & Childrens worker. The money was raised from a special offering to be used to fund the employment costs and any other costs of GraceKids and GraceYouth

* Refreshments - This fund was set up in Jan 23 as Craft & Chat wanted to make a donation from their restricted fund to cover some of the costs of the refreshments they use whilst in the venue. It has been used since if donations have been given specifically for hospitality purposes.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1195662

Accounts



GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

Report and Accounts

Year ended - 31st May 2023

**GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023**

Address for Correspondance

Grace Church Stoke on Trent
Unit B, Metro Business Park
Clough Street, Hanley.
Stoke on Trent ST1 4AF

Governing Document

CIO Constitution Dated - 23rd August 2021

Charity Registration Number

1195662

Trustees

Laura Pickering	Chairperson	Resigned Dec 2023
Rachel Ainscough	Treasurer	
Victoria Terry		Resigned July 2023
Nathan Ainscough		
Robert Mundy		
David Keeping		
Nick Bradley-Carter		Appointed Dec 2023
Rebekah Chalmers	Chairperson	Appointed Jan 2024

Independent Examiner

Archie McDowall BA,CA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

INDEX

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Page 5	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 6	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 7-8	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Pages 9-10	Notes to the Accounts

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2023

Objects of the charity

The charity has been a Charitable Incorporated Organisation since 23rd August 2021 (Charity Number 1195662) and is registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales.

The objects of the charity, as set out in the governing document are:

- a) the advancement of the Christian religion in accordance with our statement of faith appearing in the
- b) the relief of those in need by reason of hardship, distress and/or sickness, in particular (but not limited to) the provision of loans, gifts, accommodation or shelter.

The trustees note that the Church is not a building, but a gathering of ordinary people of different ages and backgrounds, whose lives have been changed by Jesus Christ. 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 lived. Grace Church Stoke on Trent, its trustees, elders and members are committed to the restoration of those New Testament principles. It is not alone in this, it is one of many Churches in the area, country and all over the world that is re-discovering the excitement of knowing Jesus Christ. Our purpose is to help to see the people of Stoke on Trent come into this experience of knowing Jesus as their Lord, Saviour and friend and become a part of their local church. In Summary, along with the other churches in Stoke on Trent, 'Build Church the City can't do without'.

Our vision is that 'By the end of 2025, Grace Church Stoke on Trent will be thriving as a place of welcome, safety and growth'

Grace Church Stoke on Trent is one of many ChristCentral Churches (Registered Charity No. 1151447) working together under the apostolic leadership of Jeremy Simpkins and his team. ChristCentral is part of the worldwide Newfrontiers family of churches (Registered Charity No. 1060001), providing opportunities for us to impact not just our UK region but also into other nations.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

- ▶ Holding regular Sunday services available to all. Community groups met midweek, gathering
- ▶ Meeting together publicly to worship God, hear preaching of the Bible, corporate prayer, run children's activities and enjoy fellowship.
- ▶ The training and teaching of both staff and church members
- ▶ Utilisation of church facilities and provision of support for the local community, e.g. running a Foodbank distribution centre and debt advice centre
- ▶ Utilisation of church facilities to support church members e.g. Training events, worship nights, prayer meetings, hot meals provided to our students
- ▶ The resourcing and equipping of other churches and Christian ministries within the City, UK and overseas.
- ▶ Organising a wide range of evangelistic activities for both church members and for non believers. Events such as a Quiz Night, Games Night and Carol Service have been hosted within this year.

The church recognises the need to impact our local community and wider city. These are some of the activities undertaken to achieve this:

► **Kidzplay @ Grace Church** - Free stay and play group for parents and carers and children under 5. We open once a week during term time and offer free play, story time, singing, crafts and sensory activities with free refreshments for adults and children. On average we see 18-20 children and 15 adults attend the group regularly. Until February 2023 the group was led by our Community Worker and supported by volunteers and since February 2023 the group has been led by a team of volunteers.

► **Foodbank Distribution Centre** - Working in partnership with Trussell Trust Stoke on Trent Foodbank (Registered charity No. 1132208) Since the beginning of this financial year we open every Thursday morning as a foodbank distribution centre. Teams of volunteers provide emergency food parcels to individuals and families in crisis on receipt of a Foodbank referral. As a church we also collect food donations as one of the Foodbank's collection points. Prior to February 2023 our Foodbank was led by our Community Worker who handed responsibility over to a team of volunteers in February 2023

► **Open House** - On a Wednesday evening, we run what we call 'Open House.' This is a warm space where anyone is welcome to come along whether it be for a simple meal, company, activities or simply just to stay warm for a couple of hours. Guests who are experiencing homelessness, low income and/or loneliness can attend. We provide soup, bread, biscuits, hot and cold drinks, and essential items, such as sleeping bags, hats, gloves, socks, rucksacks, roll mats, toiletries, cutlery, crockery, and tin openers are available if required. Small groups might watch a programme, do a jigsaw, play a game or sit and chat.

► **CMA Grace Money** - A free to client debt advice service affiliated with Community Money Advice (CMA - Charity No. 1111436) is run from the church premises by trained volunteers for those in the city struggling with debt. Providing accredited advice, support, budgeting and undertaking negotiations with creditors. Community Money Advice (CMA) have provided expert training and support for our team and a level of governance for good practice.

► **Craft & Chat** - Craft and Chat was launched in May 2022, the group offers therapeutic craft and community for anyone experiencing low level mental ill-health, isolation, and loneliness. The group is a referral only group with both self-referral and professional referral available. This group runs once a week during term time and is led by a volunteer and supported by other volunteers. Many of the people who have attended Craft & Chat have found it very helpful, addressing their social isolation and improving their mental health.

► **Families grown by Adoption** - For the past couple of years we have ran a support group that provides whole family activities and support for local families who are growing, or who have grown their family through adoption. This group runs 6 times a year, with activities and refreshments for families to enjoy together, whilst also offering a space and welcoming place for families to meet others with similar situations and experiences, giving them the opportunity to draw on peer support and advice and make local connections and relationships with others in the local area. This group is led by a volunteer and supported by other volunteers.

A significant number of Church members volunteer their time to lead, sustain and develop the ministries and activities of the church. Their contribution is vital to the success of the charity and cannot be quantified. Our total membership at the end of May 2023 was 80 adults.

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial review

During the year unrestricted income increased by £5570, to £86777 (£81,207 - May 2022), and unrestricted expenditure decreased by £10,540, to £83,249 (£93,789 - May 2022). As a result the unrestricted cash held by the charity increased by £3,527, to £18,178 (£14,651 - May 2022), which can be used for any charitable purpose.

For the coming year the Trustees and Eldership team have set a balanced budget with expenditure scaled down. If income is received above the predicted level then we will expand our expenditure to areas which have been cut back from.

Within this financial year our employees were; David Keeping, Church Leader (22.5 hours per week) and Rebekah Chalmers, a Community Worker (13 hours per week), and Cleaning & Building Maintenance Co-ordinator (3 hours per week). Rebekah handed her notice in December 2022 and finished her employment with us on 31st January 2023. We have plans to employ a Children's Ministry Leader starting in November 2023. Staffing needs are kept under review by the Elders and Trustees who are continually assessing the needs of the church. The Staff, Trustees and Elders are all committed members of the Church.

Reserves policy

It is the aim of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted funds, not committed or invested in fixed assets, at a level which covers between 2 and 3 months of committed expenditure. This policy is in place to ensure that the charity could continue to operate should income and/or expenditure vary adversely. At year end the church's reserves totalled £18,178 which is above 2 months of committed expenditure and the charity is complying with its reserves policy.

Governance

Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rests with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. Responsibility for the spiritual governance and leadership of the Church Fellowship has been delegated to the Eldership team. These teams work alongside each other closely with the Church Leader also being a Trustee. The annual budget is set by the joint working and agreement of both parties. New trustees are recruited and appointed from the church membership by the existing trustees, by a majority vote.

Risk statement

The charity is exposed to various risks - be they operational, financial or reputational. The trustees review the charity's activities regularly to identify significant risks and, where possible, they take appropriate measures to mitigate those risks.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

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.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

R.AINSCOUGH

RACHEL AINSCOUGH

Date: 21st February 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Grace Church Stoke on Trent ('the charity') for the year ended 31 May 2023 on pages 6 to 10 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. 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.

Archie McDowall BA,CA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 21st February 2024

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

Notes	General Fund £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	2022 £			
INCOME:							
Donations	68,585	1,466	70,051	64,218			
HMRC Gift Aid	15,026	235	15,260	14,101			
Job Retention Scheme Payments	-	-	-	274			
Stoke-on-Trent Craft & Chat Grant	-	-	-	500			
Other Grants - Tesco Groundworks	-	-	-	1,000			
Special Offering Restricted Grants	-	-	-	2,170			
Grants	2,000	1,375	3,375	-			
Charitable activities	150	-	150	-			
Hire of venue	-	-	-	345			
Church Events	-	-	-	318			
Other trading activities	645	-	645	2,418			
Other income	371	874	1,245	-			
Total receipts	86,777	3,949	90,726	85,344			
Payments							
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	1	83,249	4,149	87,398	89,643		
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	2	-	913	913	12,369		
		<u>83,249</u>	<u>5,062</u>	<u>88,311</u>	<u>102,012</u>		
Total payments		83,249	5,062	88,311	102,012		
Net of receipts / (payments) before		3,527	-	1,113	2,414	-	16,668
Transfers between funds	4	-	-	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds		<u>3,527</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,113</u>	<u>2,414</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,668</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		14,651	1,694	16,345	33,012		
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>18,178</u>	<u>581</u>	<u>18,759</u>	<u>16,344</u>		

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

	<u>Inrestricted Fund:</u>			
	General funds	Restricted funds	2023	2022
Notes	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds				
Cash at bank with immediate access	18,178	582	18,760	16,345
	<u>18,178</u>	<u>582</u>	<u>18,760</u>	<u>16,345</u>
B Other monetary assets				
Gift aid due to charity	1,305	-	1,305	1,307
Other debtors	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,305</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,305</u>	<u>1,307</u>
C Liabilities				
Falling due within one year				
Fee for Independent Examination	840	-	840	840
	<u>840</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>840</u>
Total	<u>840</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>840</u>

D Assets retained for charity's own use

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost £
Music & PA Equipment	General	6,087
Computers & IT	General	2,698
Furniture	General	10,624
Other	General	10,349
		-
		<u>29,758</u>

Trustees have used the original cost of these assets to assess the value; this is also the current insured value

E Guarantees and secured debts

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

R.AINSCOUGH

RACHEL AINSCOUGH

Date: 21st February 2024

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	Unrestricted Funds		Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
	General funds £	Restricted funds £		
1 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly				
Employment costs inc Travel Expenses (See note 3)	38,234	-	38,234	38,503
Rent	27,250	-	27,250	27,250
Light, heat & water	6,280	1,395	7,675	3,310
Insurance	2,053	-	2,053	1,807
Support Services (ministry, training, hospitality)	2,670	30	2,700	3,751
Outreach / Community action activities	1,145	1,535	2,680	3,509
Maintenance of buildings & equipment	2,650	788	3,438	6,400
Work among the young	536	401	937	1,252
	-	-		
Costs incurred on support & administration				
Independent examiner's fee	840	-	840	744
Administration & Communication	1,591	-	1,591	3,115
	83,249	4,149	87,398	89,643
2 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others				
Grants for:				
ChristCentral Churches - Christian Mission in UK & Overseas		413	413	12,369
ChristCentral Church in Cambodia		500	500	
	-	913	913	12,369

3 Transactions with related parties

David Keeping, a Trustee, who is the son-in-law of Robert Mundy (Trustee) served as church leader and was paid gross £26,299 [2022: £24,558] and pension contributions of £2,366 [2022: £2,210] for serving in that capacity and not as a Trustee. These payments are permitted by the charity's governing document

4 Movement of funds

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General Funds	14,651	86,277	-	82,749	18,178
Restricted Funds					
SocialAction	912	574	-	1,318	168
ChristCentral	-	413	-	413	-
Building Fund	-	788	-	788	-
Cambodia	-	500	-	500	-
Craft & Chat	381	500	-	217	414
Kidzplay	401	-	-	401	-
Utilities		1,175	-	1,395	-
Refreshments			-	30	-
	<u>1,694</u>	<u>3,949</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,061</u>	<u>582</u>
Total funds	<u>16,345</u>	<u>90,226</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>87,811</u>	<u>18,760</u>

* Social Action fund - Grant received through Stoke on Trent Council from DEFRA to support struggling local residents with essential supplies e.g. sleeping bags, mats, rucksacks, toiletries. This was received in Dec 2020. Further to this in Feb 23 £574 was received through Crowdfunding to support 'Open House' as a warm space

*ChristCentral - This fund was used to collect donations given towards an offering ChristCentral held in June/July 2023. This was paid out in August 2023

* Building Fund - In Feb 2023 we received donations to replace the lights in the church venue & for general building needs. This money was then paid out to purchase the lights in March 2023 and the remainder of the fund was spent on building needs in April 2023

* Cambodia - This fund was set up to collect donations given towards supporting Sam & Abi Little who are setting up a ChristCentral Church Plant in Cambodia. Money collected in Autumn 2022 and paid out in Jan 2023.

* Craft & Chat - This fund is restricted for the work of the Craft & Chat project. A grant was received in December 2021 from Stoke on Trent City Council specifically for this project.

* Kidzplay - This fund is restricted for Kidzplay our parent and toddler group. A grant was received from Tesco Bags of help in July 2021 specifically for this project. This fund was exhausted during this financial year.

* Utilities - This fund was set up as part of the Crowdfunding in Feb 23 was to pay towards the heating bills at the venue. In Jan 2023 & May 2023 there were transfers from the Craft & Chat fund as a contribution towards heating bills as they use the venue weekly.

* Refreshments - This fund was set up in Jan 23 as Craft & Chat wanted to make a donation from their restricted fund to cover some of the costs of the refreshments they use whilst in the venue. It has been used since if donations have been given specifically for hospitality purposes.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1195662

Accounts

Grace Church Stoke on Trent

Report and Accounts
Year ended 31st May 2022

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

**GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022**

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	Grace Church Stoke on Trent Unit B, Metro Business Park Clough Street, Hanley. Stoke on Trent ST1 4AF
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO Constitution Dated - 23rd August 2021
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1195662
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Laura Pickering - Chairperson Rachel Ainscough - Treasurer Victoria Terry - resigned 1 July 2022 Nathan Ainscough Robert Mundy David Keeping
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Archie McDowall Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB
Page 1	Legal & Administrative Details
Pages 2-5	Trustees' Report
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Page 7	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 8	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Pages 9-10	Notes to the Accounts

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2022

The trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year.

Objects of the charity

The charity has been a Charitable Incorporated Organisation since 23rd August 2021 (Charity Number 1195662) and previous to that a Charitable Trust (Charity Number 1110459) both were registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The charitable trust was removed from the Central Register of Charities in March 2022.

The objects of the charity, as set out in the governing document are:

- a) the advancement of the Christian religion in accordance with our statement of faith appearing in the schedule hereto in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire or other parts of the United Kingdom and/or the world as the trustees of the charity may from time to time see fit.
- b) the relief of those in need by reason of hardship, distress and/or sickness, in particular (but not limited to) the provision of loans, gifts, accommodation or shelter.

The trustees note that the Church is not a building, but a gathering of ordinary people of different ages and backgrounds, whose lives have been changed by Jesus Christ. 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 lived. Grace Church Stoke on Trent, its trustees, elders and members are committed to the restoration of those New Testament principles. It is not alone in this, it is one of many Churches in the area, country and all over the world that is re-discovering the excitement of knowing Jesus Christ. The vision is to see the people of Stoke on Trent come into this experience of knowing Jesus as their Lord, Saviour and friend and become a part of their local church. In Summary to 'Build Church the City can't do without'

Grace Church Stoke on Trent is one of many ChristCentral Churches (Registered Charity No. 1151447) working together under the apostolic leadership of Jeremy Simpkins and his team. ChristCentral is part of the worldwide New frontiers family of churches (Registered Charity No. 1060001), providing opportunities for us to impact not just our UK region but also into other nations. During this financial year we gave regularly towards the work of ChristCentral throughout the world.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

- ▶ Holding regular Sunday services available to all. Throughout this financial year we held in person meetings alongside a live stream of the service in line with the Covid19 restrictions in place at the time. Mid week Community groups met in person when allowed with other members joining online through zoom throughout this accounting year gathering small groups of members for fellowship, worship, prayer and bible study.
- ▶ Meeting together publicly to worship God, hear preaching of His word, corporate prayer, run children's activities and enjoy fellowship.
- ▶ The training and teaching of both staff and church members
- ▶ Utilisation of church facilities and provision of support for the local community, e.g. running a Foodbank Distribution centre and debt advice centre
- ▶ Utilisation of church facilities to support church members e.g. Training events, worship nights, prayer meetings, hot meals provided to our students
- ▶ Running online Alpha courses using materials provided by Alpha International (No. 1086179) to explore the Christian faith with the older children and young people of the church using the youth alpha series and also a course for non-Christians.
- ▶ The resourcing and equipping of other churches and Christian ministries within the City, UK and overseas.
- ▶ Organising a wide range of evangelistic activities for both church members and for non believers. Events such as a Comedy Night and Carol Service have been hosted within this year.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2022

The church recognises the need to impact our local community and wider city. These are some of the activities undertaken to achieve this:

► **Kidzplay @ Grace Church** - Free stay and play group for parents and carers and children under 5. We open once a week during term time and offer free play, story time, singing, movement and sensory activities with free refreshments for adults and children. On average we see 15 children and 10 adults attend the group regularly. In May 2021 we were able to run some in person meet ups in a local park and in June 2021 we re-opened Kidzplay indoors which has continued throughout this financial year. This group is led by our Community Worker and supported by volunteers.

► **Foodbank Distribution Centre** - Working in partnership with Trussell Trust Stoke on Trent Foodbank (Registered charity No. 1132208) we open every Wednesday evening as a foodbank distribution centre. Teams of volunteers provide emergency food parcel to individuals and families in crisis on receipt of a Foodbank voucher. As a church we also collect food as one of the foodbank's food collection points.

► **Soup Kitchen** - Alongside our foodbank distribution Centre on a Wednesday evening, we run a soup kitchen. Both foodbank guests and non-foodbank guests who are experiencing homelessness, low income and/or loneliness can attend. We provide soup, bread, biscuits, hot and cold drinks, and essential items, such as sleeping bags, gats, gloves, socks, rucksacks, roll mats, toiletries, cutlery, crockery, and tin openers for anyone attending the foodbank and/or the soup kitchen.

We have continued to run our foodbank distribution centre and Soup Kitchen throughout the pandemic in a Covid secure manner, In June 2022 we re-opened the foodbank distribution centre fully on Thursday mornings instead of Wednesday evenings. The Soup Kitchen will then run independently on a Wednesday evening as of June 2022. Both the foodbank DC and Soup Kitchen are led by our Community Worker and supported by volunteers.

► **CMA Grace Money** - A debt advice service affiliated with Community Money Advice (CMA - Charity No. 1111436) is run from the church premises by trained volunteers for those in the city struggling with debt. Providing accredited advice, support and undertaking negotiations with creditors. Community Money Advice (CMA) have provided expert training and support for our team and a level of governance for good practice.

► **Sanctus (St Marks)** (CIC 09269649)- We support a local charity who support asylum seekers and refugees in the local area by providing baby and children's clothing and equipment. We wash and sort baby clothes into age-appropriate parcels ready for Sanctus to give to those in need. This provision is led by our Community Worker and supported by volunteers.

► **Craft & Chat** - During this financial year we started a new community project as a response to the impact of the pandemic. Craft and Chat was launched in May 2022, the group offers therapeutic craft and community for anyone experiencing low level mental ill-health, isolation, and loneliness. The group is a referral only group with both self-referral and professional referral available. This group runs once a week during term time and is led by a volunteer and supported by our Community Worker and other volunteers.

► **Families grown by Adoption** - Another new community project launched during this financial year is our Families grown by Adoption Group. Beginning in May 2021, we now run a support group that provides whole family activities and support for local families who are growing, or who have grown their family through adoption. This group runs 6 times a year, with activities and refreshments for families to enjoy together, whilst also offering a space and welcoming place for families to meet others with similar situations and experiences, giving them the opportunity to draw on peer support and advice and make local connections and relationships with others in the local area. This group is led by a volunteer and supported by our Community Worker and other volunteers.

A significant number of Church members volunteer their time to lead, sustain and develop the ministries and activities of the church. Their contribution is vital to the success of the charity and cannot be quantified. Our total membership at the end of May 2022 was 80 adults.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2022

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Structure, Governance and Management

Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rests with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. Responsibility for the spiritual governance and leadership of the Church Fellowship has been delegated to the Eldership team. These teams work alongside each other closely. The annual budget is set by the joint working and agreement of both parties. New trustees are recruited and appointed from the church membership by the existing trustees, by a majority vote.

Financial review

Unrestricted income for the year ending 2022 was £81,207 which was a decrease from the previous year (£91,178 - Year End May 2021) The year ended May 2021 included a grant for £10,000 which boosted our income for that year. Unrestricted expenditure totalled £93,789 which was greater than the previous year (£82,235).

For the coming year the Trustees and Eldership team have set a balanced budget with expenditure scaled down. If income is received above the predicted level then we will expand our expenditure to areas which have been cut back from.

Within this financial year our employees were; David Keeping, Church Leader (22.5 hours per week) and Rebekah Chalmers, a Community Worker (13 hours per week), and Cleaning & Building Maintenance Co-ordinator (3 hours per week). Staffing needs are kept under review by the Elders and Trustees who are continually assessing the needs of the church. The Staff, Trustees and Elders are all committed members of the Church.

Reserves policy

It is the aim of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted funds, not committed or invested in fixed assets, at a level which covers between 2 and 3 months of committed expenditure. This policy is in place to ensure that the charity could continue to operate should income and/or expenditure vary adversely. At year end the church's reserves totalled £14,651 which is above 2 months of committed expenditure and the charity is complying with its reserves policy.

Key risks and uncertainties

The charity is exposed to various risks - be they operational, financial or reputational. The trustees review the charity's activities regularly to identify significant risks and, where possible, they take appropriate measures to mitigate those risks.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2022

Responsibilities of trustees under charity law

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. state whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
5. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Rachel Ainscough

RACHEL AINSCOUGH

Date: 15 January 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Grace Church Stoke on Trent ('the charity') for the year ended 31st May 2022 on pages 7 to 10 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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 2011 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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. 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.

Archie McDowall

Archie McDowall BA CA

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 16 January 2023

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

	General Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
Notes	£	£	£	£
Donations	64,218	-	64,218	70,866
Job Retention Scheme Payments	274	-	274	4,064
Stoke-on-Trent Council Social Action Grant	-	-	-	2,550
Stoke-on-Trent Covid Grant	-	-	-	1,500
Stoke-on-Trent Craft & Chat Grant	-	500	500	-
Other Grants - Tesco Groundworks	-	1,000	1,000	-
Special Offering Restricted	-	2,170	2,170	-
Gift aid receipts	13,633	468	14,101	14,219
Interest Received	-	-	-	4
Hire of venue	345	-	345	40
Church Events	318	-	318	0
Other	2,418	-	2,418	1,085
	<u>81,207</u>	<u>4,138</u>	<u>85,344</u>	<u>94,328</u>
Capital and similar receipts				
Loan repayments	-	-	-	500
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>500</u>
Total receipts	<u>81,207</u>	<u>4,138</u>	<u>85,344</u>	<u>94,828</u>
Payments				
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	84,058	5,585	89,643
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	9,731	2,638	12,369
Total payments		<u>93,789</u>	<u>8,222</u>	<u>102,011</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before		(12,582)	(4,085)	(16,667)
Net movement in funds		(12,582)	(4,085)	(16,667)
Cash funds as at last year end		27,233	5,779	33,012
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>14,651</u>	<u>1,694</u>	<u>16,345</u>

The notes on pages 8-9 form part of these accounts.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

	Notes	General funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 £	2021 £
Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access		14,651	1,694	16,345	33,012
Total		<u>14,651</u>	<u>1,694</u>	<u>16,345</u>	<u>33,012</u>
 B Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity		1,307	-	1,307	1,415
Total		<u>1,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,307</u>	<u>1,415</u>
 C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year					
Fee for Independent Examination		840	-	840	720
Total		<u>840</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>720</u>
 D Assets retained for charity's own use					
				Fund to which asset belongs	Cost £
Music and PA equipment				General	3,548
Computers and IT				General	2,419
Furniture				General	3,428
Other				General	2,991
					<u>12,386</u>

Trustees have used the original cost of these assets to assess the value; this is also the current insured value

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Rachel Ainscough

PRINT NAME - RACHEL AINSCOUGH

Date: 15 January 2023

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Total 2022	Total 2021
	General funds	Restricted Funds		
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly				
Employment costs inc Travel Expenses	38,503	-	38,503	35,222
Rent	27,250	-	27,250	20,438
Light, heat & water	3,310	-	3,310	3,804
Insurance	1,807	-	1,807	1,620
Support services (ministry, training, hospitality)	3,751	-	3,751	5,283
Outreach / Community action activities	2,291	1,218	3,509	1,861
Maintenance of buildings & equipment	2,633	3,768	6,400	2,768
Work among the young	654	599	1,252	210
Independent examination	744	-	744	720
Administration & Communication	3,115	-	3,115	1,958
	<u>84,058</u>	<u>5,585</u>	<u>89,643</u>	<u>73,884</u>
3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others				
Grants for:				
Overseas mission & Relief of Poverty in UK & Overseas	9,731	2,638	12,369	9,730
			-	-
	<u>9,731</u>	<u>2,638</u>	<u>12,369</u>	<u>9,730</u>

4 Transactions with related parties

The above employment costs refer to 2 individuals who have been employed on a part time basis during the accounting year.

One of the employees was David Keeping, a Trustee, who served as church leader and was paid gross £24,558 [2021: £21,796] and pension contributions of £2,210 [2021: £1,962] for serving in that capacity and not as a Trustee. These payments are permitted by the charity's governing document

GRACE CHURCH STOKE ON TRENT
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

5 Movement of funds

	Balance at 1st June 2021 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers	Balance at 31st May 2022 £
General funds	27,234	81,207	93,789	-	14,651
Restricted funds					
Social Action	2,011	-	1,099		912
Special Offering (CC) Devoted	-	1,363	1,363		-
Special Offering (CC) Ukraine	-	925	925	-	-
Building Fund	3,768	-	3,768	-	-
Cambodia	-	350	350	-	-
Craft & Chat	-	500	119	-	381
Kidzplay	-	1,000	599	-	401
Total funds	<u>33,013</u>	<u>85,344</u>	<u>100,943</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,414</u>

- * Social Action fund - Grant received through Stoke on Trent Council from DEFRA to support struggling local residents with essential supplies e.g. sleeping bags, mats, rucksacks, toiletries. This was received in Dec 2020
- * Special Offering - These funds were used to collect donations given towards offerings Christ Central held in September 2021 and March 2022. These were then paid out in September 2021 and April 2022.
- * Building Fund - This is the balance of the special offering taken in Oct 2019 for improvements to our building and future building needs. The balance has been spent within this financial year.
- * Cambodia - This fund was set up to collect donations given towards supporting Sam & Abi Little who are setting up a Christ Central Church Plant in Cambodia. Money collected in June 2021 and paid out in July 2021.
- * Craft & Chat - This fund is restricted for the work of the Craft & Chat project. A grant was received in December 2021 from Stoke on Trent City Council specifically for this project.
- * Kidzplay - This fund is restricted for Kidzplay our parent and toddler group. A grant was received from Tesco Bags of help in July 2021 specifically for this project