



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

Page 1	Charity Information
Pages 2-4	Trustees' Annual Report
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		-	-	-	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		3,527	- 1,113	2,414	- 16,668
Cash funds as at last year end		14,651	1,694	16,345	33,012
Cash funds at this year end	A	18,178	581	18,759	16,344

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	Restricted	2023	2022
Notes	funds	funds		
	£	£	£	£
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.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		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
	<u>83,249</u>	<u>4,149</u>	<u>87,398</u>	<u>89,643</u>
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	
	<u>-</u>	<u>913</u>	<u>913</u>	<u>12,369</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 £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	- 250	414
Kidzplay	401	-	-	401	-	-
Utilities		1,175	-	1,395	220	-
Refreshments			-	30	30	-
	<u>1,694</u>	<u>3,949</u>	-	<u>5,061</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>582</u>
Total funds	<u>16,345</u>	<u>90,226</u>	-	<u>87,811</u>	<u>-</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.