

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

England & Wales · Charity number 1199341

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [13651153](#)

Registered 2022-06-16

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF OF PERSONS IN NEED, AND IN PARTICULAR OF ELDERLY PERSONS IN NEED, WHO ARE: A) SICK OR INFIRM; AND B) EITHER MEMBERS OF, OR REGULARLY ATTEND, A GOSPEL STANDARD CHURCH, BY ALLEVIATING THEIR SUFFERING OR ASSISTING THEIR RECOVERY.

Activities: Provision of care homes and managed flatlets for the elderly from Gospel Standard Strict Baptist chapels.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Elderly/old People

Geography

- East Sussex
- Hertfordshire
- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£1,629,351	£1,806,530	£5,221,416	71
2023-12-31	£1,494,429	£1,691,257	£4,017,321	66
2022-12-31	£804,150	£809,339	£4,214,149	65

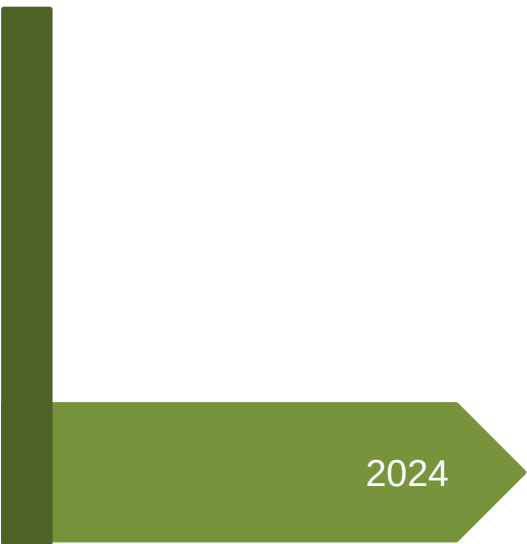
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MICHAEL DAVID RIDOUT	Chair	2021-09-29
David Francis Stevens		2021-09-29
Dr RICHARD WILLIAM WOODHAMS		2021-09-29
JOHN BENJAMIN HART		2022-06-08
PHILIP JOHN POCOCK		2021-09-29
Raymond Alec Saunders		2021-09-29
SAMUEL BENJAMIN COTTINGHAM		2021-09-29

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1199341

Accounts

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2024

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

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GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Registered Charity 1199341
Company Number 13651153

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A large print version of this document is available on request or an electronic version for those with assistive screen technology

Trustees Annual Report to 31 December 2024

Introduction

The Trustees (and Directors) are pleased to present their report and financial statements for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. The Trustees' report incorporates the Directors' report as required by Company Law.

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund, Company Number 13651153 (Registered Charity 1199341), was formed as a private charitable company, limited by guarantee on 29 September 2021. The process of incorporation was completed on 30 December 2022 with all the assets and liabilities transferred as a going concern from the unincorporated Charitable Trust, also known as the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (Registered Charity 209376). 2024 has been a year of further consolidation of the new charitable structure around the new governance structures / procedures and seeking to know the Lord's will for Bethesda for the future, ensuring the Charity continues to meet its purpose for future generations.

The Trustees would acknowledge the Lord's gracious help during the last 12 months.

Trustees/Directors and Officers of the Charity serving since 1 January and throughout 2024

Mr. M.D. Ridout (Chairman)
Mr. A.J. Collins (Vice-Chairman), resigned 5 October 2024
Mr. D.F. Stevens (Vice-Chairman from 11 October 2024)
Dr. G. Christie (resigned 20 January 2025)
Mr. S.B. Cottingham
Mr. J.B. Hart
Mr. P.J. Pocock
Mr. R.A. Saunders
Mr. J. Sayers
Mr. R.W. Woodhams
Mr. A.J.H. Topping (General Manager/Company Secretary)
Miss. C.M. Pepler (PA to the Board)
Miss S. Williamson (Registered Home Manager, Brighton)
Mrs. D. Scott (Registered Home Manager, Harpenden)

Objective of the Charity and how this is met

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (the Charity) provides accommodation, personal care and support to elderly persons who are members of Gospel Standard Strict and Particular Baptist churches, or who regularly attend Gospel Standard chapels and who have a wide range of personal care needs including, physical infirmity, loneliness and dementia. Current residents with increasing and progressive nursing requirements are provided with additional support in the Bethesda Homes by community/district nurses.

The Charity makes available four types of provision: permanent residency, short stays and day care together with independent living accommodation.

The way Bethesda provides care and support for its residents is through understanding the background to their beliefs and lifestyle, which can be summarised in the following way:

In 1944 the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund was formed to provide a Christian Home for the elderly and infirm from the Gospel Standard group of Churches. The provision of this care and accommodation provided a spiritual and homely atmosphere for like-minded people.

The residents are Bible-believing Christians whose rule of life is the Gospel, and Bethesda strives to respect this in providing for their mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing.

The spiritual life of the Bethesda Homes centres around:

- Daily Bible reading and prayer.
- Chapel services which can be attended in person or listened to in the Homes.
- Prayer meetings and hymn singing organised in the Homes.

In addition, the Homes endeavour to match the previous lifestyle of the residents which would not have included, for example, television or visiting places such as theatres and cinemas.

The Bethesda Homes are rooted and grounded in the churches with which the residents were formerly associated. This means that residents in our Homes will often be living with lifelong friends and, in many cases, relatives as well. The management and staff of the Homes (some of whom are also from the same background) are supported by volunteers drawn from local chapels that are within the Gospel Standard group of churches, which means residents living in the Homes can stay in contact with the people they knew prior to moving.

The Charity achieves its purpose through providing high quality care that meets the individual physical, mental and spiritual well-being of the residents which is delivered with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect. This is underpinned by ensuring that the Homes are well governed, led and managed to provide a framework for delivering high quality care centred on meeting the individual needs of the residents, which seeks to ensure:

- The residents are safe and free from harm.
- The residents, their families, staff and external agencies are confident that the Homes provide a secure and caring environment.
- The individual care needs of the residents are assessed, reviewed and monitored from pre-admission to end of life.
- Any concerns regarding the appropriateness of the care provided are identified, listened to and acted upon.
- The care, treatment and support provided to the residents is delivered in a transparent and appropriate way by staff competent and confident to do so, in facilities that are adapted, as appropriate, to meet individual needs, so the health and well-being of residents is maintained and improved.
- Opportunities are available for residents, and others associated with the Homes, to provide feedback on the quality of care provided, as part of Bethesda's commitment to service improvement.

Governing Document

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund is a private charitable company, limited by guarantee registered with Companies House on 29 September 2021 and with the Charity Commission on 16 June 2022. It operates under its Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 29 September 2021.

Constitution and Organisational Structure

The Trustees of the Charity (also called Directors), of which there must be a minimum of six and a maximum of twelve, have general control and management of the administration of the Charity and its property and funds. The Trustees are responsible for the appointment of Trustees who then become Members by virtue of their appointment as Trustees. No person other than a Trustee may be admitted as a Member. A Trustee serves for a period of three years after which they retire. A retiring Trustee may be re-appointed for a maximum of three consecutive terms of office including their initial term. At the end of 2024 there were nine Trustees.

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund has a Supporters Group. The supporters attend an Annual Meeting at which they are invited to express their opinion on the following matters by means of a show of hands:

- a) The appointment of new trustees

- b) The reappointment of trustees standing for re-election
- c) The annual report and financial statements.

The Company Secretary and PA to the Board support the Trustees in ensuring that the governance of the Charity remains in accordance with regulatory requirements.

The General Manager has the responsibility for ensuring that the Bethesda Homes are managed effectively and in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements and is assisted in this by the management team of each Home.

Public Benefit

As a charitable organisation, Bethesda is required to demonstrate that there is an identifiable benefit to a section of the general public as a direct result of its activities in pursuit of its charitable aims. To this end the Charity's Trustees have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 having due regard to Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Bethesda's charitable objects are the relief of persons in need and, in particular, elderly persons in need who are; a) sick or infirm; and b) either members of, or regularly attend, a Gospel Standard church/chapel, by alleviating their suffering or assisting with their recovery.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity and Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the current position of the Charity at the year end and of its income and expenditure during that year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 required to keep proper accounting records which 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Charity's governing documents. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Achievements and Outcome of Activities

Charity overview

The trustees have in recent years identified the challenges facing Bethesda as:

- Sustaining the distinct identity and Christian ethos of Bethesda in an age of compromise and an increasing secular society. More recently this has manifest itself in the promotion of ideologies contrary to the word of God regarding the end of life.
- Sustaining the financial viability of Bethesda to ensure levels of care and support are sufficient to meet the individual needs of residents together with ensuring Bethesda's physical resources are fit for purpose.
- Responding to the changing needs of those in later life and seeking to provide accommodation and/or services that meet these needs, respect their independence and, where possible, allow them to live near their place of worship, all within the constraints of the current premises.
- Recruiting staff (at all levels) who are sympathetic to the Christian ethos of Bethesda and lifestyle needs of our residents.

Maintaining the viability of Bethesda

This continues to be one of the pressing burdens of the Trustees and General Manager, due to the challenges of meeting the complex needs of those using Bethesda's services, within the constraints of external and internal pressures.

Key external challenges have been identified as follows:

- The national care crisis impacting on local authority budgets and availability of funds and support for social care.
- Central government focus on care in the community and individuals staying in their own homes and communities.
- The decline in the Gospel Standard (GS) group of churches - a shrinking potential resident base and the understandable desire of relatives for a care provision near to where they live.
- The National Living Wage increasing staffing costs.
- The care sector, in general, having challenges recruiting staff due to a low perception of working in the care industry.
- Increasing external scrutiny to ensure that care homes are fit for purpose - increasing staffing costs.
- The promotion and widespread support of euthanasia - which may put increasing pressure on Christian care homes to separate from state finance and support.
- The diminishing financial support for residents without means.

In addition to the external factors impacting the Charity's ability to maintain its service, are a large range of internal factors that apply to a greater or lesser extent to the Bethesda Homes.

Key internal challenges have been identified as follows:

- Limited financial resources available to sustain new development and provide working capital.
- Low levels of occupancy, due to the numerical decline in the GS group of churches. This impacts on the financial sustainability of both Homes with the situation being made worse when central costs are allocated.
- The ageing building fabric and design at the Harpenden and Brighton Homes impacting on:
 - Maintenance and repair costs.
 - The ability to cope with high dependency needs (physical and mental) and/or Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).
 - The ability to cope with residents having complex needs which might affect the 'well-being' of other residents and the resilience of management and staff in coping with the challenges faced.
 - The appeal of facilities to potential residents.

More specifically,

Buildings and grounds

Although there are differences in specifics, both Homes are over 50 years old, and face challenges in respect of adaptability to changing complex care needs. They are difficult to heat due to poor or non-existent insulation in the floors, wall and roofs. It has been observed that the bedrooms are considered small by current standards which could influence the desirability and attractiveness for potential new residents and might possibly affect the well-being of existing residents. In addition, the en-suite facilities provided to the bedrooms consist only of a toilet and basin and are too small to safely accommodate hoisting equipment, making them unsuitable for providing safe and effective care for residents with complex care needs, both in terms of the dignity of the person living there, and the safety of staff operating the equipment when giving support.

The Harpenden Home faces a series of very serious practical challenges due to extensive cracking to the walls and floors arising from foundation and ground movement, which is both unsightly and unsettling to staff and residents. The flat roof is coming to the end of its useful life, with multiple occurrences of leaks. In addition, the plumbing network requires continuous running repairs and is

likely to require complete replacement within the short to medium term (with all the cost and disruption this is likely to cause). Connected to this, the boilers are also coming to the end of their useful life. It is not inconceivable that a minimum investment in the property in the region of £350,000 - £400,000 within the next two to three years would be required to keep it operational.

The grounds of both properties are attractive and spacious, however at Harpenden these are not secure, so do not lend themselves to the safe accommodation of people living with memory loss and dementia, leading to a risk of a resident getting lost if unaccompanied. The concern is that this could trigger a safeguarding incident - consequently, people living with dementia at Harpenden are unable to access the grounds unsupervised which is counter to effective service provision. This could be resolved, but at additional expense.

Staffing the services

There is currently a full complement of staff in both Homes, with a number of bank staff. The Harpenden Home in particular, has struggled to recruit care staff but it has been pleased to welcome several overseas staff who are in the UK on student visas, or with other employers and are working the additional 20 hours they are allowed on their visas, with Bethesda. However, overseas staff on visas currently represent 25% of the entire care complement of the Harpenden Home and due to their other commitments, they may not be able to remain with us. Bethesda has therefore explored the Home Office overseas sponsorship programme. However, whilst it would have potentially resolved the business continuity risks in respect of recruitment, it was not deemed an appropriate route for Bethesda to pursue at the present time.

Ability to meet the changing needs of the residents

As has been reported in the Charity's newsletters, that the residents who move into Bethesda now are very often above 90 years old, are increasingly frail and living with at least two or three medical diagnoses which they are struggling to control. These include, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart failure, kidney failure and dementia.

The knowledge base and training of the staff team is constantly being furthered to understand and successfully support people with these needs. The development of IT systems also assists the staff in meeting care and record-keeping requirements. However, as previously mentioned, the current layout of the buildings and grounds can be a limiting factor in supporting a 'mixed' service provision with a wide spectrum of care needs.

Occupancy

Overall occupancy in the Bethesda Homes has been decreasing steadily for several years, although there was a 0.8% increase for 2024, that saw Brighton with a 57% occupancy level and Harpenden with a 38% occupancy level. There are no indications of a long-term change to the general downward trend in occupancy in the days ahead, which raises the question as to the sustainability and viability of Bethesda.

Addressing the challenges

The Trustees have, in the fear of the Lord, taken a number of actions over recent years to address the situation facing the Charity, particularly the financial situation, and in seeking to provide accommodation that would be fit for purpose to meet future needs. The actions taken include:

Increasing fees to realistic levels: Following consultation, a significant one-off adjustment to residents' fees was made in 2020 to a more sustainable level, with fees being subsequently adjusted annually in line with inflation (which included a large inflationary increase in recent years).

Negotiations with local authorities to ensure full fees are paid: Since 2020, Bethesda has offered help and support to families in negotiating with the Local Authorities which were funding their loved ones in our Homes to ensure that full fees are paid. Where this has been the case, to date this has been successful.

Financial controls: Rigorous cost control measures include monthly budgeting, financial accountability and monthly reporting on performance have been introduced.

A feasibility study for upgrading the current Harpenden building: Work was undertaken in 2017 to assess the feasibility of carrying out substantial works to upgrade the existing Harpenden facility. However, it was felt that the potential benefits of this were greatly outweighed by the costs of essentially upgrading a building that was no longer fit for purpose.

A feasibility study for building a new home on the Harpenden site: At about the same time, a feasibility study was carried out, including architects' drawings, on building a new replacement home whilst continuing to run the existing facility. This resulted in the proposed new building being cramped into a corner with a less than desirable outcome and there were considerable concerns about turning an existing care home site into a building site.

Stewarding of investment income: The investment policy has been recently revised and updated, and an investment platform is being used to ensure investment income is being fully realised.

Entry criteria: The exceptional entry criteria were revisited, with a change of emphasis, and have been advertised within the group of churches to try to encourage wider take-up of the service. Over the ten year period 2014-2024, 10% of the entries into the Bethesda Homes during this time have been exceptional entry. In the case of the Harpenden Bethesda Home the figure is 15%.

Consultation on the future structure of the service provision: Consultations have been undertaken to seek views on the future structure of the service provision. Arising from this, three key factors were identified, being, people's desire to live near their place of worship, maintain their independence and ensure that there is an inheritance for the following generation.

The future of Bethesda is a heavy burden both to the Trustees and General Manager and they look to the Lord to make provision to supply the needs of current and future residents, so that all honour might be given unto the Lord.

Reviewing the Quality of our Service

There have been no inspections by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) during the period and the ratings applied in 2023 remain unchanged.

At Harpenden we continue to work closely with our partners in the Hertfordshire County Council and enjoy a good working relationship with them. The Home recently received its annual inspection from them under the East of England PAMMS process. At the time of writing the outcome of this had not been received, but having worked hard to address their requirements, a good result is anticipated.

During 2024, we implemented electronic care planning systems within the Harpenden Home, joining the Brighton Home, which has had this facility for a number of years. This promotes a high-quality care provision through robust care planning and information sharing and analysis within the team.

In addition to electronic care planning, we have also made use of IT to develop and improve other aspects of our service quality and assurance systems.

We continue to make use of external resources through mock inspections to guide us in our quality control processes, along with a number of internal systems for obtaining feedback on possible areas of improvement.

As our supporters may be aware, the CQC is changing the way it inspects care homes, with full implementation of the new single assessment framework taking place during 2024. The CQC single assessment framework is a new approach intended by the CQC to assess and monitor the quality of health and social services in England, with the expectation of providing a more comprehensive and individualised assessment of care services, focusing on compliance and quality of care. It consists of quality statements known as 'we' statements, categorised under the original five key questions of safe, effective, caring, responsive and well led. We are yet to be inspected under the new framework but will be interested to see how this works in practice.

Other Properties and Services

Harpenden Flatlets

During 2024, all three flatlets were occupied for at least part of the year and the building remains fully occupied since yearend.

The ongoing assistance of the volunteers who support those living in the flatlets and contribute towards the maintenance and repairs of the flats are acknowledged with appreciation.

Moden Hill Chapel

Moden Hill Chapel was closed in April 2022 and the trust deed specified that the proceeds of the sale of the chapel should be bequeathed to the GSBF. However, as the original Moden Hill Chapel trustees had all passed away it was necessary, in early 2023, to appoint new trustees comprising Fred Ince, Timothy Parish, John Hart, Philip Pocock, Ray Saunders and Michael Ridout (who was appointed chairman). There were a number of matters that initially required attention before proceeding with the sale during 2023, that included registering the plot with the Land Registry and seeking permission to demolish the building. It was also advised to seek outline planning permission for the plot which was subsequently approved.

Following the granting of planning consent, in November 2023, for a dwelling house on the site, the trustees then sought an estate agent to handle the marketing and sale of the plot. Proposals were received including two which recommended that a sale by auction was the preferred method. After prayerful consideration, one of these agents was instructed to proceed with marketing ahead of an auction in March 2024. Mercifully, the property sold in excess of the reserve price.

The Trustees would acknowledge the help, support and oneness of mind granted to them in making a way for the disposal of the Chapel and providing funds to support the continued work of Bethesda. Although, in the Lord's purposes, the work of Moden Hill Chapel has ended, we do pray that the Lord will continue to support the witness of sister causes of truth in the area and that there might be a returning of those who have wandered from the House of the Lord.

Redhill Flatlets

On Friday, 1 December 2023, the Trustees, after prayerful consideration, took the final decision to sell the Redhill Flatlets, as there were no longer any eligible beneficiaries (residents) and no one eligible showing interest in taking up residence. The building was originally the first Bethesda Home (1948 – February 1988) prior to being converted into flatlets in December 1988. The Trustees would acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the local support of the Church and congregation worshipping at Hope Chapel, Shaw's Corner over many years.

The property was sold on Wednesday, 29 May 2024. The Trustees would acknowledge the good hand of the Lord in providing a suitable buyer for the Redhill Flatlets and answering prayer regarding the sale and transfer of the property.

Studley

After consulting on the future of the vacant former Studley Bethesda Home, the Trustees took the prayerful decision, in April 2023, to sell the site. The property was put into the hands of a selling agent and after considering the interest shown in the property, it was agreed to pursue a favourable offer made by a property developer. In the Lord's purposes, the potential purchaser withdrew their offer in September 2023, and following much prayer that the Lord would provide a suitable purchaser, it was agreed, in November 2023, to re-market the property. Through the Lord's mercy a buyer was provided, and the sale was completed on 26 July 2024.

Ebenezer Lodge, Swavesey, Independent Living Accommodation (ILA) Project

As the Trustees have previously recorded, at the end of 2022, the planning permission needed for the development at Swavesey faced being turned down. Over the Christmas period, much prayer and supplication was made before the Lord as to His will and purpose in this matter.

Mercifully, in January 2023 the Trustees were to prove that the hearts of all men (and women) are in the Lord's sovereign Hand and a subgroup of the Trustees was led to contact and meet with the

Swavesey local district councillor. The councillor was very understanding of what Bethesda was trying to achieve in the provision of ILA and willingly took up the matter with the South Cambridgeshire Planning Department. As a consequence, the way was made for a helpful meeting with the Area Planning Officer, the architects and the Trustee liaising on the project. As a result of the meeting, plans were resubmitted on 23 March 2023 and approved on 26 May 2023.

There were a number of conditions that needed to be met. In particular, the Trustees would acknowledge the Lord's Hand in overruling the temperatures during Autumn 2023 that allowed the Newt Survey to be undertaken successfully, otherwise there would have been a delay until Spring 2024. How the Trustees proved that truly all things are in the Hand of the Lord and how His people have to prove the reality of Matthew 10:29-31.

In the latter part of 2023, the Trustees ventured in obtaining tenders for the proposed building work at Swavesey. In the Lord's mercies, a contractor was appointed, after the reporting period, and the tender price was 30% below the expected £2 million cost of the scheme. The existing property was demolished on 27 June 2024 and the start of construction (digging foundations) commenced on 8 July 2024. Good progress was made throughout the remainder of 2024, such that at the Board meeting on 13 December 2024, Trustees were informed that construction of the roof was scheduled to commence on 6 January 2025.

The Trustees would once more record the faithfulness and mercy of the Lord in making provision for them at Swavesey. In 2023 the Trustees published a document "Show Me Now Thy Way" which records, with thanksgiving, the Lord's dealings, thus far, as a testimony to the generation following. Copies of this document can be found on the Bethesda website or by contacting the General Manager. If the Lord will, it is hoped to add to this document a further record of how the Trustees have proved the reality and truth of "Jehovah Jireh" in the matters of Swavesey (and indeed in so many other ways).

Gospel Standard Library

As previously reported, the Gospel Standard Baptist Library was built within the grounds of the Brighton and Hove Bethesda Home and the project was completed in 1980. However, there was an anomaly with this situation, in that the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (GSBF) owns the land on which the Library stands, whereas the Gospel Standard Baptist Library Fund (GSBLF) owns the building. Although this arrangement has worked well over the years, there has never been any formal agreement regarding the occupancy of the land.

As a consequence, in 2020, the GSBLF and GSBF established a working group to consider this matter, with a view to addressing the anomaly for future generations. During 2024, the working group continued to build on the discussions and progress previously made. The focus, during the reporting period, was to consider the practicalities and actions needed for the GSBLF to make a purchase of the freehold of the land on which the Library stands plus an adjoining strip of land, if needed, to secure vehicular access to the building.

After the reporting period, further discussions continued and thankfully a way was made to agree the sale of the land to the GSBLF and place the matter in the hands of solicitors. The sale was completed after yearend on 7 March 2025.

It must also be stressed that the GSBLF will continue with the car parking and access arrangements to the Brighton and Hove Bethesda site and alterations will not take place until such time, in the Lord's purposes, the Bethesda Home ever becomes vacant.



Financial Review

The financial information in this document covers the 12-month period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. The full financial statements for the period are published in a separate booklet.

The Statement of Financial activities shows that total income for the 12-month period was £1,629,351.

Several legacies were received during the 12-month period, including those from the estates of Mr. A. Baldwin, Mrs. M. Brooks, Mr. F. Hayden, Mr. D. Keeling and Mrs. L. Prior to the total amount of £28,845. We would record our gratitude to the Lord for these provisions.

The investment income from short-term deposit interest for the 12-month period was £119,139 compared with £69,055 for the previous equivalent 12-month period. This reflects the much improved interest rates now available to financial investments as well as the policy of actively seeking out high-interest rate accounts.

Income from Home residents' fees for the 12-month period was £1,311,431. Expenditure on charitable activities for the 12-month period, which includes employment costs, was £1,784,400. The cost of repairs and renewals for the Homes during the same period, remains a significant investment at £91,575. The expenditure on building maintenance is in line with the Charity's policy on maintaining its properties in good condition and meeting all safety and registration requirements. Occasionally, heavy and unexpected repairs can suddenly become a necessity.

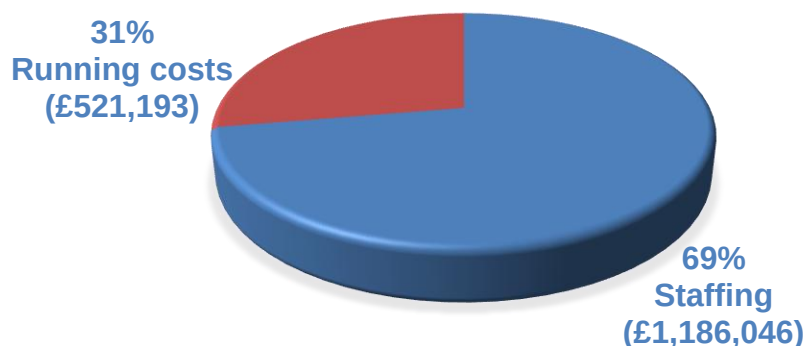
Summary of Financial Results for each Home for the 12 months to 31 December 2024

	<i>Brighton</i>	<i>Harpenden</i>	<i>Studley</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
Residents' fees	779,949	531,482	-	1,311,431
Other income	13,642	15,190	-	28,832
Total income	793,591	546,672	-	1,340,263
Employment and agency costs	556,803	629,243	-	1,186,046
Depreciation	13,827	18,952	-	32,779
Hardware, cleaning and laundry	6,600	11,972	-	18,572
Insurance	13,968	16,174	6,898	37,040
Motor and travel	696	1,314	-	2,010
Power and heating	32,065	25,974	1,353	59,392
Provisions	26,099	28,894	-	54,993
Registration fees	3,268	3,268	-	6,536
Repairs and renewals	28,111	61,638	1,826	91,575
Staff training	998	4,068	-	5,066
Telephone, relay and internet	3,808	6,472	-	10,280
Water services	4,520	5,307	32	9,859
Council tax	1,669	3,066	1,656	6,391
Garden expenses	206	11,657	166	12,029
Medical supplies	7,556	1,317	-	8,873
Personal protective equipment	1,817	906	-	2,723
Postage & stationery	917	1,143	-	2,060
Waste collection	3,922	5,150	-	9,072
Sundry expenses	3,465	6,006	446	9,917
Central office support costs	54,686	62,143	7,457	124,286
Other costs	19,440	18,134	-	37,574
Total expenditure	784,441	922,798	19,834	1,727,073
Surplus (deficit) for year	£9,150	(£376,126)	(£19,834)	(£386,810)

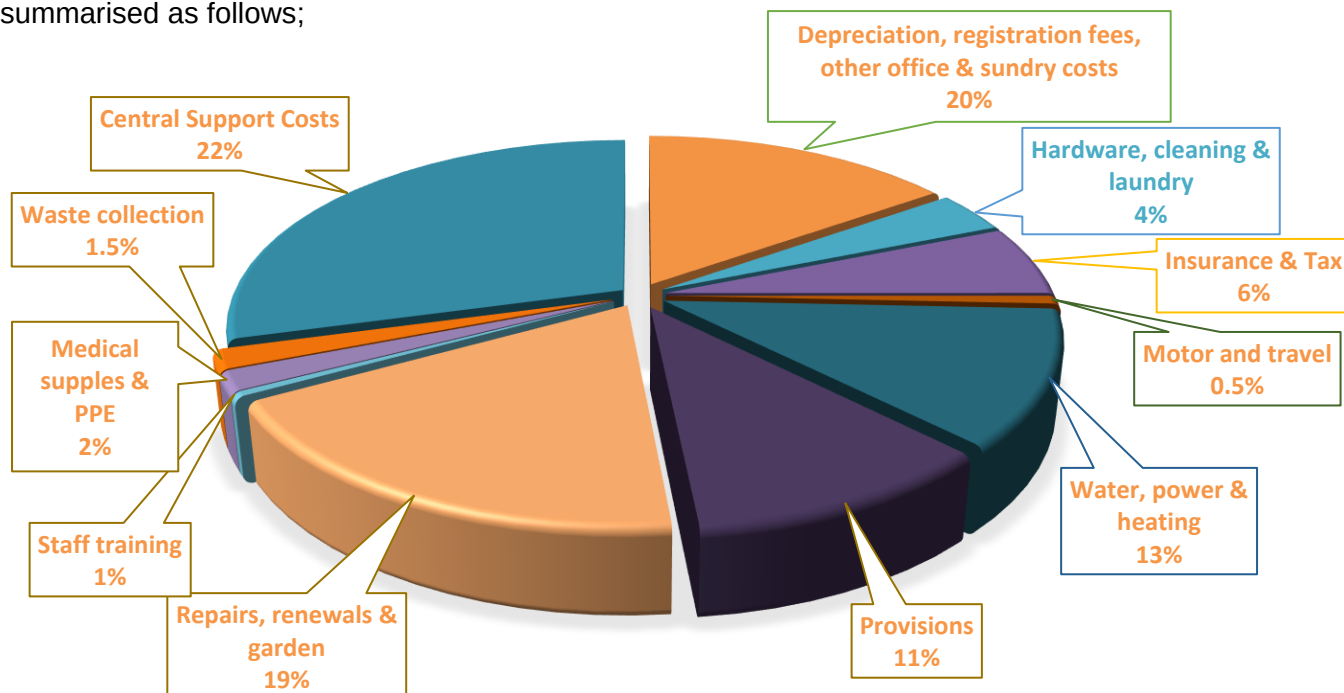
The overall deficit of running the two Homes and Studley for the 12-month period was £386,810.

As usual, the biggest single cost of running the Homes is that of staffing, representing 69% (68% in 2023) of the total operating expenditure (excluding Studley), equating to 90% (89% in 2023) of our resident fee income being spent on staffing the Homes to ensure a safe, caring, effective and responsive service.

Home Running Costs (12 months - £1,707,239 **excluding** Studley)



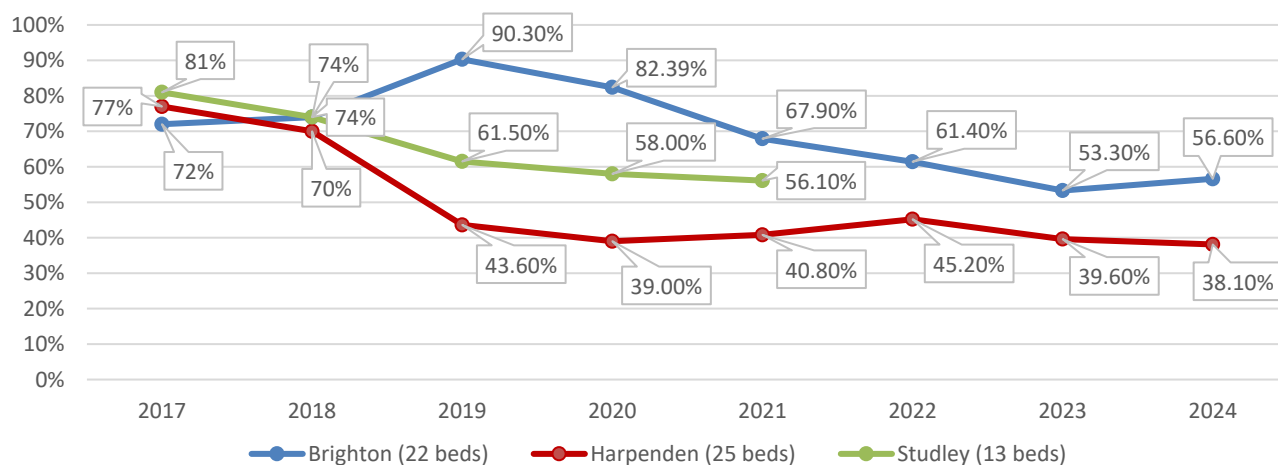
Of the 31% of running costs not associated with the Home's staffing costs, the remainder can be summarised as follows;



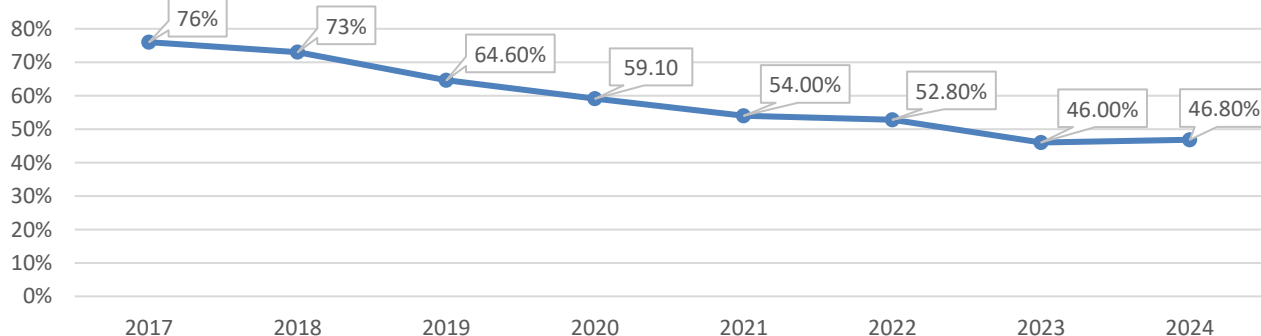
Occupancy

As has been commented many times in the past, occupancy is key to the financial viability of the Charity. Overall occupancy for the twelve months of 2024 stood at 46.8% compared with 46% in the previous year, a very slight increase.

Individual Home Occupancy



Overall Occupancy



Summary of Financial Results for the Flatlets for the 12 months to 31 December 2024

	<i>Harpenden</i>	<i>Redhill</i>	<i>Swavesey</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
Resident's fees	26,837	3,430	-	30,267
Total income	26,837	3,430	-	30,267
Cleaning, windows and waste	546	269	-	815
Council tax on unoccupied properties	-	3,655	2,507	6,162
Depreciation	4,287	-	-	4,287
Garden maintenance	300	214	-	514
Insurance	1,138	1,833	1,993	4,964
Power and heating	3,650	1,087	442	5,179
Repairs and renewals	2,856	1,033	-	3,889
Central office support costs	4,842	9,684	9,684	24,210
Other costs	1,737	1,033	446	3,216
Total expenditure	19,356	18,808	15,072	53,236
Surplus (deficit) for the period	£7,481	(£15,378)	(£15,072)	(£22,969)

At Harpenden, the three flatlets were occupied for the 12-month period and show a surplus of £7,481, which includes the £4,287 allocation for depreciation. This is mainly depreciation on buildings by accounting rules and does not represent money spent annually out of the bank.

The Redhill Flatlets were closed in the early part of the year and the property was sold on Wednesday, 29 May 2024.

Plans for the Future subject to the Lord's will

Independent retirement living project

The independent retirement living project at Ebenezer Lodge, Swavesey continues to be developed, and it is hoped to open the facility in summer 2025 if the Lord will.

Future structure of the Charity

The future structure of the Charity, in terms of its service provision and accommodation, remains under continued prayerful consideration and we look to the Lord for guidance on the way forward in this.



Swavesey Front Elevation



Ebenezer Lodge, Swavesey under construction

Conclusion

We are thankful to the Lord for bringing the Charity through another year with all the challenges that have come into our pathway. We have been enabled to continue to provide high-quality care that meets the individual physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of our residents with compassion, kindness, dignity, and respect. Although the Trustees and Management team are very conscious of the many internal and external concerns still before the Charity in maintaining the viability and distinct identity of Bethesda in an increasingly secular society, the commitment to sustaining the Christian ethos and providing a secure and caring environment for our residents remains a top priority.

The Lord knows what is before us and the pathway in which He would have Bethesda to walk, and we pray that He will go before us, and that submission and wisdom might be given to know and do His will for the Charity. The prayers of all those with an interest in Bethesda for the Lord to appear and to guide the Trustees, support the managers, staff and residents, are felt to be needed more than ever at this time.

On behalf of the Trustees

Michael Ridout

M.D. Ridout, Chairman
09/05/2025



Appendix 1: Reference and Administrative Information

Name of Charity: Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund
Charity Number: 1199341
Company Number: 13651153

Trustees serving during the financial year and since the year end:

(Also known as the Bethesda Fund Committee)

Mr. M.D. Ridout (Chairman)
Mr. A.J. Collins (Vice-Chairman), resigned 5 October 2024
Mr. D.F. Stevens (Vice-Chairman from 11 October 2024)
Dr. G. Christie (resigned 20 January 2025)
Mr. S.B. Cottingham
Mr. J.B. Hart
Mr. P.J. Pocock
Mr. R.A. Saunders
Mr. J. Sayers
Mr. R.W. Woodhams

Company Secretary: Mr. A.J.H. Topping
General Manager: Mr. A.J.H. Topping
PA to the Board: Miss C.M. Pepler

Address of the Principal Office of the Charity:

Bethesda General Office
12(b) Roundwood Lane
Harpenden, Herts.
AL5 3BZ
Telephone: 01582 460522
Email: adriantopping@gsbf.uk

Connected Charity

The Piggott Charity is a “connected Charity” under the control of the Trustees of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund. It exists to help Residents of the Bethesda Homes who are in financial need to pay the cost of their care. Further information can be obtained from the General Manager.

Auditors: Begbies Chartered Accountants, 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4DJ

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc, 60 George Street, Luton, LU1 2BB

Solicitors: Ellis-Fermor & Negus, 2 Devonshire Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1BS

Appendix 2: Reserves Policy

Reserves Policy

As required by the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Paragraph 31 (e). This policy statement is the February 2025 review edition.

Definition

Reserves are that part of our general-purpose funds which do not need to be spent immediately and which are not committed or designated. They are the resources we have or can make available to spend on any of our objectives once we have met our known commitments and covered any other planned expenditure. The reserves at any year end are represented by the net current assets shown in the Balance Sheet less designated funds, restricted funds and expenditure contracted for or planned.

Reasons why the charity needs reserves

The charity has a commitment, not only to the present generation of Gospel Standard Strict Baptists, but also to a generation to come. The fees charged to our residents in the Bethesda Homes form the main income of the charity. However, experience has shown that occupancy levels can fluctuate. A drop in occupancy levels results in a serious drain on our reserves. Legacy income is our second most important source of income but varies greatly year by year and can never be predicted. Legacy income is sometimes restricted for the benefit of one particular Home, and not therefore available for general purposes. The charity has no endowment funding and is therefore entirely dependent (apart from residents' fees) upon donor funding from year to year. Apart from the usual insurances, the charity has no protection against catastrophic or lesser but damaging events.

The level of reserves needed

The Committee considers that the charity should endeavour to hold, **as a minimum, free reserves amounting to "six months expenditure" in one year as stated in the last published Statement of Financial Activities**. However, from the past history of the charity, it is recognised that to state an absolute figure is not entirely appropriate, as from time to time, in the providence of God, major legacies and other resources have been received in times of need. The trustees are firmly convinced that the charity should be run on Scriptural lines, whereby they look to the Lord to provide for what they believe is His work, remembering that "the silver *is* Mine, and the gold *is* Mine, saith the Lord of hosts" (Haggai 2.8); "*He is* their strength in the time of trouble" (Psalm 37.39). The trustees recognise that they have a responsibility for the continuing care of vulnerable residents in the Bethesda Homes.

How these reserves are to be maintained

Major property maintenance and improvement work will be planned and undertaken only as the objectives of this policy statement allow. All operational costs will be carefully monitored, in the case of the Homes, by the General Manager and Home Managers, and in the case of the Bethesda Flatlets and of support costs and management and administration costs, by the General Manager.

This policy will be reviewed by the trustees at least annually, usually in January as part of the business planning process.

Free reserves at Year-end

Free reserves at 31 December 2024 were £2,259,345, which is 150% above the six months' expenditure required to meet the reserves policy. The free reserves are calculated after deducting amounts committed under contracts for the Swavesey development anticipated to be spent in 2025. This is estimated at around £1.1m, of which £613,763 is to be covered by the 31 December 2024 balance in the designated fund for Future Development.

Appendix 3: Risks Management Policy

Risks Management Policy

This policy constitutes the 'Risks Management Policy' as required by the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Paragraph 31 (g).

General policy statement

It is the policy of the Bethesda Fund Committee that all risks associated with the charity's activities be minimised by the implementation of risk management and prevention systems or procedures. The Committee will ensure that all significant risks are identified, assessed and monitored.

Major risks identified

The Committee has identified the most serious risks to the charity and recorded these in the Risks Register.

How the policy is to be maintained

Each component part of this policy is clearly delegated to either the Committee as trustees, other officers of the charity or members of staff. The Committee adopts the principle that effective risk management is the responsibility of all levels of management and staff.

Arrangements for monitoring and reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed by the trustees at least annually, usually in January, with any changes to the Risk Register notified to them quarterly.

Appendix 4: Investment Policy

Investment Policy

As required by the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Paragraph 31 (e). This policy statement is the February 2025 review edition.

Objectives in investing the charity's funds

The objectives of the trustees are:

- i) to ensure that the funds are properly protected: that is, that the capital is not put at risk and will be protected against inflation as far as is reasonably practical.
- ii) to obtain the best income from those funds (consistently with the above) with which to carry out the charity's purposes.

Powers of investment

The Charity Commission Scheme under which the charity operates contains no specific powers of investment. The charity's investments will, therefore, be governed by the Trustee Investments Act 1961.

Risk profile

The Trustees are willing only to accept investments classified as low risk.

Policy statement

The Trustees invest the charity's funds in two principal ways. Firstly, freehold property is held to provide homes and independent retirement living accommodation for persons in need, in particular elderly persons in need, who are sick or infirm, in accordance with the objectives of the charity. Over the years freehold property has been shown to hold its value against inflation. Such property is maintained in a good state of repair. Secondly, surplus funds are maintained in deposit accounts with reputable banks, building societies, and common deposit funds, which may, or may not, include money-market deposits, normally in at least three different entities. From time to time the Trustees may consider investing in government stocks. The Trustees do not invest in ordinary shares of quoted companies owing to the difficulty in finding companies which maintain ethical and moral standards which are consistent with the Scriptures.

Investment advice

The charity is currently going through a transitional period where its capital will be needed for development, and as such it is currently held in short term investments. Once decisions have been made in respect of new properties the need for financial advice in investing any residual funds will then be reviewed.

Arrangements for monitoring and reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed by the trustees at least annually, usually in January as part of the business planning process. Maturing bonds will be reinvested promptly.

Appendix 5: Policy Statement on paying staff

Policy Statement on Paying Staff

How we decide how much to pay our staff

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund ('The Bethesda Fund') is committed to ensuring that we pay and reward our staff fairly and in a way which ensures we attract and retain the right skills to have the greatest impact in delivering our charitable objectives.

In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) we:

- Disclose the number of staff in receipt of more than £60,000 and above (in bands of £10,000)
- Disclose pensions and other benefits

The Bethesda Fund Committee ('The Committee') meets annually to set the pay for all staff. The General Manager is in attendance for the meeting (leaving for the discussion regarding the General Manager's remuneration).

The main responsibilities of the Committee in respect of setting pay are to:

- review the level of the Bethesda Fund salaries and wages against an agreed independent market benchmarking tool and to make sure amendments are appropriate to ensure that salaries and wages remain competitive.
- determine the remuneration package of the General Manager, Home Managers and Deputy Managers.
- approve the annual percentage increase in the payroll for all staff (which can be zero) taking into account Consumer Prices Index including Owner Occupiers' Housing costs (CPIH) as at 30 November for the previous year.
- approve any consolidated pay awards and staff salary increases outside of the annual review process as recommended from time to time by the General Manager.
- determine pension arrangements and
- ensure that contractual terms on termination are fair to the individual and the Charity, that poor performance is not rewarded and a duty to mitigate loss is recognised.

In determining the Bethesda Fund's remuneration policy the Committee takes into account all factors which are deemed necessary. The appropriateness and relevance of the remuneration policy is reviewed annually ensuring the Bethesda Fund remains sensitive to the broader issues e.g. pay and employment conditions elsewhere.

We aim to recruit, subject to experience, at the lower – medium point within a band, providing scope to reward excellence. We pay at or above the national living wage for all our staff.

Delivery of the Bethesda Fund's charitable vision and purpose is primarily dependent on our staff which is the largest single element of charitable expenditure. In 2022 the Bethesda Fund made adjustments to wages to reflect inflationary increases and the national living wage requirements.

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Financial Statements

for the year ended

31 December 2024

Charity number 1199341

Company number 13651153 registered in England and Wales

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Company registered office address:

Bethesda General Office

12(b) Roundwood Lane

Harpenden

Herts

AL5 3BZ

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

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The Annual Report for 2024, along with these financial statements, are available together from the address above.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and its industry, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: employment regulation, health and safety regulation, anti-money laundering regulation, and non-compliance with implementation of government support schemes relating to Covid-19.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- Enquiries and confirmation of management and those charged with governance as to their identification of any non-compliance with laws or regulations, or any actual or potential claims;
- Inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations to the engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and

- Considering the risk of acts by the charitable company which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In addition, we evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements, including the risk of management override of controls, and determined that the principal risks related to income recognition and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Review of minutes of Board meetings throughout the period;
- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- In relation to the risk of management override of internal controls, by undertaking procedures to review journal entries and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Begbies

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

Unit 14, Park Barn, Evegate Business Park, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SX

19/5/2025

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024
(including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	----Unrestricted funds----		Restricted funds	Total funds
		General	Designated		2024
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	50,766	5,000	4,006	59,772
Charitable activities	4	1,363,932	-	3,776	1,367,708
Investments	5	85,089	33,511	2,414	121,014
Grant: The Piggott Charity	6	-	-	19,050	19,050
Grant: Luton Ebenezer Chapel	27	61,807	-	-	61,807
Total		1,561,594	38,511	29,246	1,629,351
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7-8	22,130	-	-	22,130
Charitable activities	7-13	1,749,074	6,330	28,996	1,784,400
Total		1,771,204	6,330	28,996	1,806,530
Net income/(expenditure)		(209,610)	32,181	250	(177,179)
Transfers between funds	22,23	470,811	(482,194)	11,383	-
Other recognised gains:					
Gain on sale of properties	17	1,381,274	-	-	1,381,274
Net movement in funds		1,642,475	(450,013)	11,633	1,204,095
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		2,872,969	1,087,984	56,368	4,017,321
Total funds carried forward		£4,515,444	£637,971	£68,001	£5,221,416

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND
Comparative figures for the prior period
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023
(including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	----Unrestricted funds----		Restricted funds	Total funds
		General	Designated		2023
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	68,783	-	8,789	77,572
Charitable activities	4	1,263,613	-	3,333	1,266,946
Investments	5	41,907	28,230	1,418	71,555
Grant: The Piggott Charity	6	-	-	9,507	9,507
Chapel sale: Moden Hill	27	68,849	-	-	68,849
Total		1,443,152	28,230	23,047	1,494,429
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7-8	20,198	-	-	20,198
Charitable activities	7-13	1,647,160	3,046	20,853	1,671,059
Total		1,667,358	3,046	20,853	1,691,257
Net (expenditure)/income		(224,206)	25,184	2,194	(196,828)
Transfers between funds	22	(2,500)	-	2,500	-
Net movement in funds		(226,706)	25,184	4,694	(196,828)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		3,099,675	1,062,800	51,674	4,214,149
Total funds carried forward		£2,872,969	£1,087,984	£56,368	£4,017,321

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND
(Charity number 1199341 - Company number 13651153)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	15-17	<u>1,769,862</u>	<u>1,309,499</u>
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		<u>1,769,862</u>	<u>1,309,499</u>
Current assets:			
Property to be sold	17	-	234,064
Debtors	18	69,915	177,268
Investments	19	3,267,684	1,999,788
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>289,128</u>	<u>459,359</u>
<i>Total current assets</i>		3,626,727	2,870,479
Liabilities:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	20	<u>(175,173)</u>	<u>(162,657)</u>
<i>Net current assets</i>		<u>3,451,554</u>	<u>2,707,822</u>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		<u>5,221,416</u>	<u>4,017,321</u>
Total net assets		<u>£5,221,416</u>	<u>£4,017,321</u>
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted -			
General	21	4,515,444	2,872,969
Designated	21,23	637,971	1,087,984
Restricted income funds	21,22	<u>68,001</u>	<u>56,368</u>
Total charity funds		<u>£5,221,416</u>	<u>£4,017,321</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 09/05/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

M. RIDOUT, Chairman: 

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
<i>Net cash (used in) operating activities</i>	24(a)	<u>(138,243)</u>	<u>(260,098)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest and rents from investments		121,014	71,555
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		1,615,338	5,250
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		<u>(500,444)</u>	<u>(97,211)</u>
<i>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</i>		<u>1,235,908</u>	<u>(20,406)</u>
<i>Change in cash & cash equivalents in reporting period</i>		1,097,665	(280,504)
<i>Cash & cash equivalents at start of reporting period</i>		<u>2,459,147</u>	<u>2,739,651</u>
<i>Cash & cash equivalents at end of reporting period</i>	24(b)	<u>£3,556,812</u>	<u>£2,459,147</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting Policies

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund is a private company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 29th September 2021. It is also registered with the Charity Commission as a charity and is a public benefit entity. It was set up to take forward in a corporate structure the existing work of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund, which was an unincorporated charity established in 1944.

(a) Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Articles of Association, and applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, FRS 102 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice SORP (FRS 102) (2nd edition) published by the Charity Commission in 2019.

Merger accounting on incorporation: As mentioned above, the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund was an unincorporated charity but changed its legal form by a transfer of all its assets, liabilities and undertaking to a charitable company of the same name on 30 December 2022. The purposes and beneficiary class of the charity remained unchanged, hence accounting rules required that the reconstruction of the charity be treated as a merger for accounting purposes.

Merger accounting involves aggregating the assets, liabilities and funds of the old unincorporated charity and the new charitable company, and presenting them as though they had always been part of the same reporting charity. Thus assets owned by the unincorporated charity and still owned at the current year end by the charitable company, are stated in these accounts at their original cost to the unincorporated charity (subject to normal accounting rules for depreciation or impairment as appropriate).

(b) Going concern

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate and have identified no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of 12 months from the date of approval of the Financial Statements.

(c) **Income**

Voluntary income, including donations, Gift Aid, and chapel collections, is recognised in the period in which the income is received.

Investment income and rent is recognised on a receivable basis.

Legacies are accounted for as income either upon receipt or where the receipt of the legacy is probable. Receipt is normally probable when:

- there has been a grant of probate
- the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate, after settling any liabilities, to pay the legacy; and
- any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.

Legacies which have been notified, but are not recognised as income in the Statement of Financial Activities, are disclosed within the note 'Donations and legacies' with an estimate (if possible) of the amount receivable.

Fees from residents in the care homes and flatlets are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided.

Government grants are not recognised in income until there is reasonable assurance that (a) any attached conditions will be satisfied, and (b) the grants will be received. Grants are recognised using the performance model such that a grant without future performance-related conditions is recognised in income when it is receivable, and other grants are recognised when the future performance-related conditions are met. Grants received before the revenue recognition criteria are satisfied are shown as a liability.

(d) **Income tax recoverable**

Any income tax due to be reclaimed from HMRC on donations made under Gift Aid or refundable income tax deducted from income received net of tax, has been brought into these financial statements as a debtor.

(e) **Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, that is, when a liability is incurred. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

Support costs are costs incurred in support of both income generation, charitable activities, and governance, as shown in the note 'Allocation of support costs.' These costs comprise a proportion of central office staff, information systems and internal accounting costs, and costs relating to the premises. Also included is a proportion of the management and administration costs in the Bethesda Homes and servicing of the Homes' premises.

Governance costs are costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity which relate to the general running of the charity as distinct from those costs associated with its charitable activities. They include the cost of meeting constitutional and statutory requirements, audit fees, legal fees, and a proportion of central office costs.

(f) **Pension scheme contributions**

Contributions payable to the Charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. For further information see the note 'Employee information.'

(g) **Capitalisation and depreciation of tangible fixed assets**

Freehold properties

Freehold properties are carried in the accounts at their original cost. Depreciation is provided to write down the original cost of the buildings, and the cost of later permanent additions and improvements, on a straight-line basis over a period of fifty years. No depreciation is charged on freehold land.

Equipment

Due to the large number of fixed assets owned and used by the charity, our policy is to recognise within the assets register only those assets that cost more than £1,000. Numerous items purchased at the same time costing in total more than £1,000 but each item individually costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised. This policy of depreciation applies only to assets acquired after January 1990; all equipment acquired before that date has been written off completely in previous accounting periods.

Equipment in the Homes and Flatlets costing more than £1,000 is capitalised and written off on a straight-line basis over a period of five years, and is shown in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation, the annual depreciation being charged as a running cost of the Homes and Flatlets. Equipment in the Homes and Flatlets costing less than £1,000 is not capitalised but is written off in the year of acquisition as an expense, being charged directly to the running costs of the Homes and Flatlets under 'Repairs and renewals.'

Equipment in the Bethesda General Office at Harpenden costing more than £1,000 is capitalised and written off on a straight-line basis over a period of five years, and is shown in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation, the annual depreciation being charged as a running cost under 'Central office costs.'

Equipment in the Bethesda General Office costing less than £1,000 is written off as an expense in the year of acquisition, being charged to 'Central office costs' under 'Repairs and maintenance.'

Motor vehicles

Motor vehicles are written off at 25% per annum on a reducing balance.

(h) **Transactions with trustees and related parties**

No trustees received any remuneration for their services as a trustee. 8 trustees (2023: 5 trustees) were reimbursed travel and subsistence expenses totalling £2,238 (2023: £1,152). Expense reimbursements were waived by some trustees; the amounts were not material. One trustee, Philip Pocock, is employed part-time by Adkins, the agents instructed to sell the Studley Bethesda home. No financial benefit accrued to Philip Pocock for the Studley Bethesda sale under this arrangement and it was considered in the best interests of the charity to appoint Adkins. Besides the disclosures in these financial statements, no trustee or connected persons had any beneficial interest in any material contract, transaction or arrangement with the Charity during the period.

(i) **Indemnity insurance**

The charity carries a comprehensive insurance package provided by Travelers Insurance. Engineering Insurance and Inspection is provided by Allianz Insurance, Trustees Liability by AXA XL Insurance via Angel Risk Management Ltd., Group Personal Accident by Chubb Insurance, Cyber & Data Risks by Lloyd's via CFC Underwriting Ltd., and Motor Vehicle Insurance by QBE Insurance.

(j) **Stocks of foods and other supplies**

Stocks held at the period end have not been brought into these Financial Statements, as the amounts held are relatively insignificant.

(k) **Funds**

Unrestricted funds - these comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds that are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds - these are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees at their discretion from the general funds for specific purposes.

Restricted funds - these comprise funds subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors and funders.

Further details of the nature and purpose of each fund are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Surplus cash is held on fixed term deposits. Deposits maturing in less than one year are recognised as current investments and those that mature in more than one year from the period end are recognised as fixed investments.

2 Statement of Financial Activities

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all income, gains, expenditure and losses recognised for the reporting period. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

3 Donations and legacies

	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>Total 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£
Collections & donations from chapels:				
For general purposes	8,061	-	8,061	7,338
For specific Homes	-	1,000	1,000	400
For assisting short-stay residents	-	1,142	1,142	2,445
Personal donations & subscriptions:				
For general purposes	9,195	-	9,195	1,613
For general purposes - Gift Aid	9,665	-	9,665	8,475
For assisting short-stay residents	-	-	-	200
For specific Homes	-	1,670	1,670	5,621
For specific Homes - Gift Aid	-	63	63	-
Home collecting boxes	-	131	131	68
Total	26,921	4,006	30,927	26,160
Legacies received:				
Mr A Baldwin	5,000	-	5,000	-
Mrs M Brooks	2,355	-	2,355	-
Mrs E Burgess	-	-	-	55
Mr F Hayden	2,003	-	2,003	-
Mr D Keeling	14,487	-	14,487	-
Mrs B Mercer	-	-	-	5,000
Mrs L Prior	5,000	-	5,000	-
Miss B Wickens	-	-	-	46,199
Income tax reclaimable	-	-	-	158
Total	28,845	-	28,845	51,412
Total	£55,766	£4,006	£59,772	£77,572

4 Income from charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fees from residential care homes	1,311,431	1,206,407
Fees from flatlets	30,267	42,141
Staff board charges	13,743	11,469
Sundry receipts	12,267	6,929
	<u>£1,367,708</u>	<u>£1,266,946</u>

5 Investment income

	<i>Unrestricted funds</i>	<i>Restricted funds</i>	<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>Total 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£
Interest on short-term deposits	116,725	2,414	119,139	69,055
Use of bookroom	<u>1,875</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,875</u>	<u>2,500</u>
	<u>£118,600</u>	<u>£2,414</u>	<u>£121,014</u>	<u>£71,555</u>

The bookroom within the Bethesda General Office, Harpenden was occupied by The Gospel Standard Trust in connection with its publications activity until 30 September 2024.

6 Transactions with The Piggott Charity

Grants of £19,050 (2023: £9,507) were received from The Piggott Charity towards the fees of residents in financial need. (Grants were initially understood as being for the assistance of any short-stay residents but the purpose was subsequently advised by The Piggott Charity to be only for residents in need.)

The Piggott Charity is a ‘connected charity.’ The trustees of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund are also trustees of The Piggott Charity. However, the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund does not exercise any dominant influence over The Piggott Charity. The Piggott Charity makes grants at its own discretion to the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund. Therefore, based on this, no consolidated accounts are prepared. For further information see notes on ‘Designated funds’ and ‘Restricted funds.’

7 Analysis of expenditure

	<i>Direct costs</i>	<i>Governance & support costs</i>	<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>Total 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds	-	22,130	22,130	20,198
Charitable activities:				
Running costs of care homes	1,366,115	337,116	1,703,231	1,579,323
Running costs of flatlets	29,025	24,211	53,236	70,592
Future development fund	-	3,467	3,467	3,045
Short-stay residents' fund	23,842	624	24,466	18,099
	1,418,982	365,418	1,784,400	1,671,059
Total	£1,418,982	£387,548	£1,806,530	£1,691,257

'Raising funds' is the term required by accounting rules to be used for expenditure in relation to dealing with donations, grants, legacies, subscriptions and management of investments, hence a proportion of costs are allocated under this caption.

8 Allocation of Governance and support costs

Support costs comprise costs incurred in support of both income generation, charitable activities, and governance, as shown below. These costs comprise a proportion of central office staff, information systems and internal accounting costs, and costs relating to the premises. Also included is a proportion of the management and administration costs in the Bethesda Homes and Flatlets and the servicing of the buildings.

Governance costs are those for the governance arrangements of the charity. These include audit, legal advice for trustees and costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as trustee meetings and preparing statutory accounts. Governance costs are not shown separately in the Statement of Financial Activities but are instead included as a sub-category of support costs and allocated to activities along with the other support costs. Governance costs are shown in Note 9.

	<i>Staff costs</i>	<i>Other costs</i>	<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>Total 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds	12,727	9,403	22,130	20,199
Charitable activities:				
Care homes	267,150	69,966	337,116	317,515
Flatlets	11,795	12,416	24,211	21,080
Future development fund	2,110	1,357	3,467	3,045
Subsidies: short-stay residents	111	513	624	607
Total Governance & support costs	£293,893	£93,655	£387,548	£362,446

9 Governance costs

	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>
	£	£
Audit fees incl disbursements	12,490	11,800
Advertising and Website costs	30	30
Bank charges	2,392	1,642
Committee members' expenses	2,238	1,152
Printing	1,331	200
Legal and professional costs	4,361	4,873
Management and finance staff costs	29,993	25,513
Administrative office, travel & other costs	9,568	10,328
	£62,403	£55,538

10 Subsidies paid for short-stay residents

During the period 11 residents coming into a Bethesda Home for a short stay obtained discounts from full fee rates funded by the Short-Stay Fund (2023: 17 residents). During the period the Short-Stay Fund was supported by 2 (2023: 4) chapel collections.

11 Assistance towards residents' fees

Fee subsidies amounting to £9,932 (2023: £11,685) were given to residents supported by Local Authorities under the Community Care Act in cases where the maximum amount paid by the Local Authority was less than the Bethesda fee. These were funded from the Residents Support Fund (see Note 22). During the period 3 residents were assisted in this way: 1 resident at the Brighton Home and 2 at Harpenden Home (2023: 4 residents).

During the period contributions amounting to £400,144 (2023: £217,641) were received from Local Authorities towards residents' fees.

12 Ex gratia payments

One honoraria amount of £250 was paid in the year (2023: £nil). In addition, various small amounts (per person) were spent in the period as appreciation to people who assist the charity in various ways. These payments did not exceed £1,441 in total (2023: £1,099). In some cases such payments, or part of the payments, have been used by the recipients to defray expenses incurred in rendering services to the charity.

13 Employee information

The average number of care home staff employed during the period, including part time workers, was 71 (2023: 66). The number of management and administration staff at the Bethesda General Office was 2 (2023: 2). Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,147,414	1,006,396
Social security costs	84,378	72,408
Pension costs	29,228	26,916
Agency workers	2,433	32,941
	<u>£1,263,453</u>	<u>£1,138,661</u>
Cost of raising funds - support costs	12,727	10,826
Costs relating to charitable activities:		
Care homes - direct costs	969,560	877,160
Care homes - support costs	267,150	238,753
Flatlets - support costs	11,795	10,033
Future development fund - support costs	2,110	1,795
Short-stay Fund - support costs	111	94
	<u>£1,263,453</u>	<u>£1,138,661</u>

No employee earned at a rate of £60,000 per annum or more in either period. Premiums of £1,280 (2023: £1,280) were paid into a private pension plan held by 1 officer (2023: 1 officer). Employer's premiums of £27,948 (2023: £25,636) were payable into 'The People's Pension' scheme, an auto-enrolment scheme which commenced in October 2015.

Key management personnel are identified as the General Manager and 2 Home Managers. The compensation for the year of these staff members amounts to £140,176 (2023: £136,264) including remuneration and all benefits paid.

14 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities by virtue of Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010.

15 Freehold land and buildings

(a) *Net book value*

The Trustees consider that the open market value of the freehold land and buildings is in excess of the net book value at which they are shown in the Balance Sheet.

(b) *Note concerning the Brighton and Hove Home*

The Gospel Standard Baptist Library is situated within the grounds of the Brighton & Hove Bethesda Home. The cost of the library building, which was erected in 1980 and extended in 2003, was met entirely from the funds of the library. There has previously been no formal agreement with the trustees of the library and no ground rent or similar payments have been received.

During 2023, and after obtaining professional valuations to establish market value, it was agreed that should the Brighton Bethesda Home site ever be sold, a transfer of the land on which the library building stands would be made to the trustees of the Gospel Standard Library for £61,667. Further agreement was reached in 2024, that such transfer would include an enlarged area of land around the library for a revised total price of £105,619. As stated at Note 28 below, a sale of the land was completed after the year end.

15 Freehold land and buildings (continued)

	Bethesda Homes £	Bethesda Flatlets £	Office Premises £	Total £
COST				
At start of period	868,871	910,861	125,019	1,904,751
Additions	-	475,671	-	475,671
At end of period	868,871	1,386,532	125,019	2,380,422
DEPRECIATION				
At start of period	453,877	107,718	63,310	624,905
Charge for period	16,868	4,287	2,484	23,639
At end of period	470,745	112,005	65,794	648,544
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31.12.24	£398,126	£1,274,527	£59,225	£1,731,878
At 31.12.23	£414,994	£803,143	£61,709	£1,279,846

Included within the cost of freehold property is land of £93,050 (2023: £93,050) which is not depreciated. Additionally, the cost of Bethesda Flatlets includes £1,105,368 (2023: £629,697) for acquisition of a site at Swavesey plus professional fees and construction costs incurred subsequently for the building of new independent living apartments; no depreciation is charged until the apartments have been completed.

16 Equipment and motor vehicles

	Equipment in Homes £	Equipment in Flatlets £	Office Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
COST					
At start of period	214,964	14,914	6,082	22,700	258,660
Additions	3,864	-	2,659	18,250	24,773
Disposals	(2,271)	-	-	-	(2,271)
Transfers	1,079	-	(1,079)	-	-
At end of period	217,636	14,914	7,662	40,950	281,162
DEPRECIATION					
At start of period	201,626	14,914	6,082	6,385	229,007
Charge for period	7,269	-	532	8,641	16,442
Disposals	(2,271)	-	-	-	(2,271)
Transfers	1,079	-	(1,079)	-	-
At end of period	207,703	14,914	5,535	15,026	243,178
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31.12.24	£9,933	£-	£2,127	£25,924	£37,984
At 31.12.23	£13,338	£-	£-	£16,315	£29,653

17 Tangible assets and gain on sale of properties

	2024	2023
<i>Fixed assets:</i>	£	£
Freehold land and buildings (Note 15)	1,731,878	1,279,846
Equipment and motor vehicles (Note 16)	37,984	29,653
	<u>£1,769,862</u>	<u>£1,309,499</u>
<i>Current assets: Property to be sold:</i>		
Studley Bethesda Home net book value	-	178,801
Redhill Flatlets net book value	-	55,263
	<u>£-</u>	<u>£234,064</u>

Gain on sale of properties:

	<i>Studley Home</i>	<i>Redhill Flatlets</i>	<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>Total 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£
Net sale proceeds	679,772	935,566	1,615,338	-
Less net book value	<u>(178,801)</u>	<u>(55,263)</u>	<u>(234,064)</u>	-
Gain on sale	<u>£500,971</u>	<u>£880,303</u>	<u>£1,381,274</u>	<u>£-</u>

18 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid	3,639	1,694
Income tax recoverable on legacy income	158	158
Interest accrued on short-term deposits	23,579	21,821
Gospel Standard Trust - use of bookroom	2,359	3,141
Moden Hill, Sedgley chapel gross sale proceeds (Note 27)	-	84,389
Prepayments and accrued income	28,238	35,351
Residents' fees receivable	11,942	30,714
	£69,915	£177,268

19 Investments: short-term deposits

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Current assets</i>		
Buckingham Building Society 120 day account	-	110,000
CAF Charity Deposit Platform (Flagstone: 8 accounts)	1,199,836	699,998
Cambridge & Counties Bank 1 year bond	110,000	110,000
Charity Bank 1 year bond	110,000	110,000
Close Brothers 1 year bond	117,644	110,000
COIF Charities deposit fund	1,194,567	419,790
Harpندن Building Society 35 day notice	86,709	-
Lloyds Bank 1 year bond	-	110,000
Redwood Bank 35 day account (2023: 1 year bond)	113,545	110,000
United Trust Bank 6 month bond	111,235	-
Vernon Building Society 35 day account	110,000	110,000
Virgin Money 1 year bond	114,148	110,000
	£3,267,684	£1,999,788

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued expenses	47,399	21,846
Accrued expenses re Moden Hill, Sedgley chapel (Note 27)	-	7,719
Accrued holiday pay	14,154	10,499
Financial services fees	11,000	10,000
PAYE & NIC due to HMRC	22,955	19,929
Pension premiums due	5,369	4,989
Deferred government grant income	59,392	59,392
Residents' fees repayable or paid in advance	3,605	6,515
Trade creditors	11,299	21,768
	<u>£175,173</u>	<u>£162,657</u>

Government grant income shown above as deferred at the period end is for grants received but not confirmed whether the attached grant conditions are satisfied. The accounting policy on government grants is detailed at Note 1(c). There was no movement on the deferred income account in the year or in the prior period.

21 Net asset analysis by fund

	---Unrestricted funds---		Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Designated	General		2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible	-	1,769,862	-	1,769,862	1,309,499
Current assets:					
Investments	637,971	2,561,712	68,001	3,267,684	1,999,788
Other	-	359,043	-	359,043	870,691
Current liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>(175,173)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(175,173)</u>	<u>(162,657)</u>
	<u>£637,971</u>	<u>£4,515,444</u>	<u>£68,001</u>	<u>£5,221,416</u>	<u>£4,017,321</u>

22 Restricted funds

	<i>Balance</i> <i>01.01.24</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Net</i> <i>transfers</i>	<i>Balance</i> <i>31.12.24</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Brighton Amenity	35,394	6,863	(2,721)	-	39,536
Harpenden Amenity	20,520	2,033	(1,808)	-	20,745
Residents Support	-	19,187	-	(12,110)	7,077
Short-stay Residents	454	1,163	(24,467)	23,493	643
	<u>£56,368</u>	<u>£29,246</u>	<u>(£28,996)</u>	<u>£11,383</u>	<u>£68,001</u>

Restricted funds are to be used only for the purpose for which the funds were given. For the named Bethesda Homes listed above, the expenditure allocated to these funds is therefore for those specific Homes.

The Residents Support Fund arises from grants received from the Piggott Charity (see Note 6 above) which are restricted for payment of Bethesda's fees for residents in financial need.

The Short-stay Residents Fund is supported by chapel collections and is used to assist people coming into the Bethesda Homes for short stays. The Short-stay fund income was insufficient to cover the support given to short-stay residents and the fund required the transfer of £33,000 from General funds to it.

Income includes interest received on unexpended balances. See Note 1(k) for more information on Restricted funds.

The net transfers above are comprised as follows:

£

Residents Support Fund

Piggott Charity 2023 grant reallocated from Short Stay (Note 6)	9,507
Fee subsidies for 2023 year (Note 11)	(11,685)
Fee subsidies for 2024 year (Note 11)	<u>(9,932)</u>
	<u>(£12,110)</u>

Short-stay Residents Fund

Remove Piggott Charity 2023 year grant (Note 6)	(9,507)
Transfer from General Funds	<u>33,000</u>
	<u>£23,493</u>

23 Designated funds

	<i>Balance 01.01.24</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers to capital</i>	<i>Balance 31.12.24</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Future Development	1,060,396	32,505	(3,467)	(475,671)	613,763
Information Technology	-	5,000	(2,341)	(2,659)	-
Miss K E Aston dec'd	27,588	1,006	(522)	(3,864)	24,208
	<u>£1,087,984</u>	<u>£38,511</u>	<u>(£6,330)</u>	<u>(£482,194)</u>	<u>£637,971</u>

The Future Development Fund is designated for capital investment into new and existing buildings. Expenditure includes an allocation for support costs (see Note 8 for further details on support costs). The £475,671 costs of the Swavesey development incurred in the year have been charged to this fund.

The Information Technology fund arose from a distribution by the D G Keeling Settlement and has been used to buy 3 laptop and 2 tablet computers. Equipment items costing less than £1,000 each are included in the £2,341 expenditure above, and other items are transferred to capital (£2,659) as per the accounting policy at Note 1(g) above.

Part of a legacy received in 2009 from Miss K E Aston deceased was placed into a Designated Fund for Brighton Bethesda Home. This fund has been used in 2024 for a new cooker (including related electrical works) costing £3,864 and for a telephone system costing £522 at the Home.

Income includes interest received on unexpended balances. See Note 1(k) for more information on Designated funds.

24 Notes to Statement of Cash Flows

(a) Reconciliation of net (expenditure) to net cash (used in) operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net (expenditure) for the period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(177,179)	(196,828)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	40,081	52,925
Profit on disposal of motor vehicle	-	(5,132)
Interest and rents from investments	(121,014)	(71,555)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	107,353	(57,995)
Increase in creditors	12,516	18,487
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(£138,243)	(£260,098)
(b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank and in hand	289,128	459,359
Cash on deposit (current asset investments)	3,267,684	1,999,788
	£3,556,812	£2,459,147

25 Commitments under operating leases

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
<i>Amounts due:</i>		
Within 1 year	4,445	8,087
Between 1 and 5 years	2,345	6,957
	£6,790	£15,044

26 Commitments for expenditure

Independent living apartments are in process of construction at the charity's Swavesey development. The contract with the builders and for related services is expected to involve further total expenditure after the year end of approximately £0.9m to £1.1m.

27 Funds from Chapel sale proceeds

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Luton Ebenezer chapel:</i>		
Grant by trustees following sale of chapel	61,807	-
<i>Moden Hill, Sedgley:</i>		
Gross sale proceeds of property & furniture items	-	84,389
Legal, planning, agents & other expenses	-	(15,540)
	£61,807	£68,849

28 Non-adjusting events after the period end

Harpenden Bethesda Home

After the year end, the trustees initiated a consultation process with a view to closing the Harpenden Bethesda Home. On 6 May 2025 the decision was taken to close the home by 26 September 2025. It is not possible to accurately state the financial effects but assuming that following the closure of the home the property is sold, it is expected that the sale proceeds, net of all closure costs, will be materially above the net book value of £345,471 at which this home (including office building) is stated in the accounts at 31 December 2024.

Studley Bethesda Home

The sale of the Studley Home was completed during the year, as detailed at Note 17. The sale contract included overage provisions and after the year end, planning permission was granted for change of use, resulting in a further £25,000 becoming due to the charity. This amount has not been accrued in these financial statements.

Brighton Home: land for Gospel Standard Baptist Library

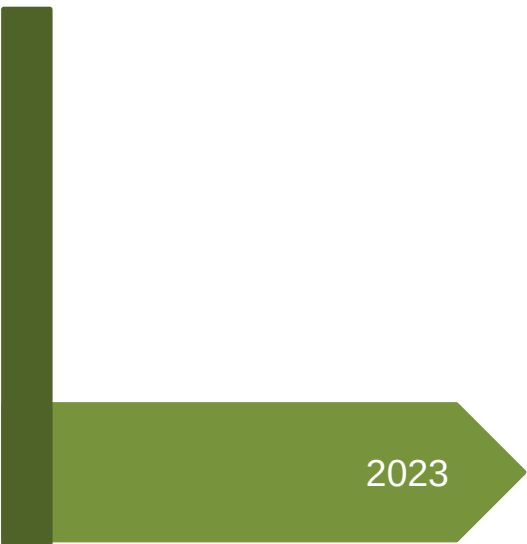
Further to Note 15(b) above, after the year end a sale of the land on which the library stands was completed to the trustees of the library for the sum of £103,523 after deducting legal costs.

END OF NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1199341

Accounts

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2023

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

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GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Registered Charity 1199341
Company Number 13651153

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

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A large print version of this document is available on request or an electronic version for those with assistive screen technology

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

Trustees Annual Report to 31 December 2023

Introduction

The Trustees (and Directors) are pleased to present their report and financial statements for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023. The Trustees' report incorporates the Directors' report as required by Company Law.

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund, Company Number 13651153 (registered Charity 1199341), was formed as a private charitable company, limited by guarantee on 29 September 2021. The process of incorporation was completed on 30 December 2022 with all the assets and liabilities transferred as a going concern from the unincorporated Charitable Trust, also known as the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (registered charity 209376). 2023 has been a year of consolidating the new charitable structure around new governance structures and procedures.

We would acknowledge the Lord's gracious help in leading and guiding us through the successful process of changing the charitable status of Bethesda. As anticipated, the change had no impact on the day-to-day service provision within the Homes.

Trustees/Directors and Officers of the Charity serving since 1 January and throughout 2023

Mr. M.D. Ridout (Chairman)
Mr. A.J. Collins (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. S.B. Cottingham
Mr. P.J. Pocock
Mr. J.B. Hart

Mr. R.A. Saunders
Mr. D.F. Stevens
Mr. R.W. Woodhams
Dr. G. Christie (from 1 September 2023)
Mr. J. Sayers (from 1 September 2023)

Mr. A.J.H. Topping (General Manager/Company Secretary)
Miss S. Williamson (Registered Home Manager, Brighton)
Mrs. D. Scott (Registered Home Manager, Harpenden)

Objective of the Charity and how this is met

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (the Charity) provides accommodation, personal care and support to elderly persons who are members of Gospel Standard Strict and Particular Baptist churches, or who regularly attend Gospel Standard chapels and who have a wide range of personal care needs including, physical infirmity, loneliness and dementia. Current residents with increasing and progressive nursing requirements are provided with additional support in our homes by community/district nurses.

The Charity makes available four types of provision: permanent residency, short stays and day care together with independent living flatlets at Harpenden and, up until the end of 2023, Redhill.

The way Bethesda provides care and support for its residents is through understanding the background to their beliefs and lifestyle, which can be summarised in the following way:

In 1944 the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund was formed to provide a Christian Home for the elderly and infirm from the Gospel Standard group of Churches. The provision of this care and accommodation provided a spiritual and homely atmosphere for likeminded people.

The residents are Bible-believing Christians whose rule of life is the Gospel, and Bethesda strives to respect this in providing for their mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing.

The spiritual life of the Bethesda Homes centres around:

- Daily Bible reading and prayer.

- Chapel services which can be attended in person or listened to in the Homes.
- Prayer meetings and hymn singing organised in the Homes.

In addition, the Homes endeavour to match the previous lifestyle of the residents which would not have included, for example, television or visiting places such as theatres and cinemas.

The Bethesda Homes are rooted and grounded in the churches with which the residents were formerly associated. This means that residents in our Homes will often be living with lifelong friends and, in many cases, relatives as well. The management and staff of the Homes (some of whom are also from the same background) are supported by volunteers drawn from local Gospel Standard chapels, which means residents living in the Homes can stay in contact with the people they knew prior to moving.

The Charity achieves its purpose through providing high quality care that meets the individual physical, mental and spiritual well-being of the residents which is delivered with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect. This is underpinned by ensuring that the Homes are well governed, led and managed to provide a framework for delivering high quality care centred on meeting the individual needs of the residents which seeks to ensure:

- The residents are safe and free from harm.
- The residents, their families, staff and external agencies are confident that the Homes provide a secure and caring environment.
- The individual care needs of the residents are assessed, reviewed and monitored from pre-admission to end of life.
- Any concerns regarding the appropriateness of the care provided are identified, listened to and acted upon.
- The care, treatment and support provided to the residents is delivered in a transparent and appropriate way by staff competent and confident to do so, in facilities that are adapted, as appropriate, to meet individual needs, so the health and well-being of residents is maintained and improved.
- Opportunities are available for residents, and others associated with the Homes, to provide feedback on the quality of care provided, as part of Bethesda's commitment to service improvement.

Governing Document

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund is a private charitable company, limited by guarantee registered with Companies House on 29 September 2021 and with the Charity Commission on 16 June 2022. It operates under its Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 29 September 2021.

Constitution and Organisational Structure

The Trustees of the Charity (also called Directors) have general control and management of the administration of the Charity and its property and funds, of which there must be a minimum of six and a maximum of twelve. The Trustees are responsible for the appointment of Trustees who become Members by virtue of their appointment as Trustees. No person other than a Trustee may be admitted as a Member. A Trustee serves for a period of three years after which they retire. A retiring Trustee may be re-appointed for a maximum of three consecutive terms of office including their initial term. At the end of 2023 there were ten Trustees.

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund has a Supporters Group who are invited to attend an Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting the supporters will be invited to express their opinion on the following matters by means of a show of hands:

- a) The appointment of new trustees
- b) The reappointment of trustees standing for re-election
- c) The annual report and financial statements.

Since the year end, a PA to the Board was appointed to support the Trustees in the practical administration of the Charity. The Company Secretary supports the Trustees in ensuring that the governance of the Charity remains in accordance with regulatory requirements.

The General Manager has the responsibility for ensuring that the Bethesda Homes are managed effectively and in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements and is assisted in this by the management team of each Home.

Public Benefit

As a charitable organisation, Bethesda is required to demonstrate that there is an identifiable benefit to a section of the general public as a direct result of its activities in pursuit of its charitable aims. To this end the Charity's Trustees have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 having due regard to Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Bethesda's charitable objects are the relief of persons in need and, in particular, elderly persons in need who are; a) sick or infirm; and b) either members of, or regularly attend, a Gospel Standard church/chapel, by alleviating their suffering or assisting with their recovery.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity and Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the current position of the Charity at the year end and of its income and expenditure during that year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 required to keep proper accounting records which 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Charity's governing documents. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Achievements and Outcome of activities

Charity overview

The trustees have in recent years identified the challenges facing Bethesda as:

- Sustaining the distinct identity and Christian ethos of Bethesda in an age of compromise and an increasing secular society. More recently this has manifest itself in the promotion of ideologies contrary to the word of God regarding the end of life.
- Sustaining the financial viability of Bethesda to ensure levels of care and support are sufficient to meet the individual needs of residents together with ensuring Bethesda's physical resources are fit for purpose.
- Responding to the changing needs of those in later life and seeking to provide accommodation and/or services that meet these needs, respect their independence and, where possible, allow them to live near their place of worship, all within the constraints of the current built facilities.
- Recruiting staff (at all levels) who are sympathetic to the Christian ethos of Bethesda and lifestyle needs of our residents.

Maintaining the viability of Bethesda

This continues to be one of the pressing burdens of the trustees and General Manager, due to the challenges of meeting the complex needs of those using our services, within the constraints of external and internal pressures.

Key external challenges have been identified as follows:

- The national care crisis impacting on local authority budgets and availability of funds and support for social care.
- Central government focus on care in the community and individuals staying in their own homes and communities.
- The demise of the Gospel Standard (GS) group of churches - a shrinking potential resident base and the possible view that Bethesda is a prerogative of the GS 'denomination' rather than a provision of the Lord. A lack of understanding by some relatives as to the nature of Bethesda and why their loved ones prefer the environment of the Homes. Allied to this is the challenge of relatives looking for a care provision near to where they live.
- The National Living Wage increasing staffing costs at many times the rate of inflation.
- The care sector, in general, having challenges recruiting staff due to a low perception of working in the care industry.
- Increasing external scrutiny to ensure that care homes are fit for purpose - increasing staffing costs.
- The acceptability of euthanasia - which may put increasing pressure on Christian care homes to separate from state finance and support.
- The diminishing financial support for residents without means.

In addition to the external factors impacting the Charity's ability to maintain its service, are a large range of internal factors that apply to a greater or lesser extent to the Bethesda Homes.

Key internal challenges have been identified as follows:

- Limited financial resources available to sustain new development and provide working capital.
- Low levels of occupancy, due to the numerical decline in the GS causes of truth. This impacts on the financial sustainability of both homes with the situation being exacerbated when central costs are allocated and/or legacies as sundry receipts are removed.
- The ageing building fabric and design at the Harpenden and Brighton Homes impacting on:
 - Maintenance and repair costs.
 - The ability to cope with high dependency needs (physical and mental) and/or Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).
 - The ability to cope with residents having complex needs – which impacts on the 'well-being' of other residents and the resilience of management and staff in coping with the challenges faced.
 - The appeal of facilities to potential residents.

More specifically,

Buildings and grounds

Although there are differences in specifics, both homes are over 50 years old, and face challenges in respect of adaptability to changing complex care needs. They are difficult to heat due to poor or non-existent insulation in the floors, wall and roofs. It has been observed that the bedrooms are considered small by current standards which impacts desirability and attractiveness for potential new residents and may impact the well-being of existing residents. In addition, the en-suite facilities provided to the bedrooms consist only of a toilet and basin which are too small to safely accommodate hoisting equipment, making them unsuitable for providing safe and effective care for residents with complex care needs, both in terms of the dignity of the person living there, and the safety of staff operating the equipment when giving support.

The Harpenden Home faces a series of very serious practical challenges due to extensive cracking to the walls and floors arising from foundation and ground movement, which is both unsightly and

unsettling to staff and residents. The flat roof is coming to the end of its useful life, with multiple occurrences of leaks. In addition, the plumbing network requires continuous running repairs and is likely to require complete replacement within the short to medium term (with all the cost and disruption this is likely to cause). Connected to this, the boilers are also coming to the end of their useful life and will need to be replaced within the next 12 to 24 months. It is not inconceivable that a minimum investment in the property in the region of £350,000 - £400,000 within the next two to three years will be required to keep it operational.

The grounds of both properties are attractive and spacious, however at Harpenden these are not secure, so do not lend themselves to the safe accommodation of people living with memory loss and dementia, leading to a risk of a resident getting lost if unaccompanied. The concern is that this could trigger a safeguarding incident - consequently, people living with dementia at Harpenden are unable to access the grounds unsupervised which is counter to effective service provision. This could be resolved, but at additional expense.

Staffing the services

There is currently a full complement of staff in both Homes, with an increasing number of bank staff available, meaning that reliance on agency staff has substantially reduced in recent months. Whilst this is a significant improvement on the past situation, the Harpenden Home, in particular, has struggled to recruit care staff. We have been pleased to welcome several overseas staff who are in the UK on student visas, or with other employers and are working their additional 20 hours allowed on their visas with Bethesda, which has resolved the situation for now. However, overseas staff on visas currently represent 25% of the entire care compliment of the Harpenden Home and due to their other commitments, they may not be able to remain with us. To resolve this, Bethesda has been exploring how it can engage with the Home Office overseas sponsorship programme. However, this comes with significant challenges and costs, which whilst potentially resolving the business continuity risks in respect of recruitment, is likely to exacerbate staff costs and administrative pressures around regulatory compliance.

Ability to meet the changing needs of the residents

As has been recently reported in our newsletters, the residents who move into Bethesda now are very often above 90 years old, are increasingly frail and living with at least two or three medical diagnoses which they are struggling to control. These include, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart failure, kidney failure and dementia.

The knowledge base and training of the staff team is constantly developing to understand and successfully support people with these needs. Combined with this, the development of IT systems assists the staff in meeting care and record keeping requirements. However, whilst staff and IT support systems are keeping pace with the changing care and support needs of the residents, the same cannot be said of the built facilities. In addition to the inadequate size of the ensuite bathrooms (already reported on), the current layout of the building and grounds does not effectively support a 'mixed' service provision where there is a wide spectrum of care needs, leading to the risk of a breach of duty of care to residents and a high risk of safeguarding incidents.

Occupancy

Occupancy in the two homes has been dropping steadily for several years with occupancy for the year being 53% at Brighton and 40% at Harpenden. Although there have been brief stabilisations in occupancy, there are no indications that the trend of the last few years will change, indeed, since year end, overall occupancy has continued to decline. The brief stabilisations in occupancy could well be a reflection that the use of our service is the place of final resort once all other care options have been exhausted. Whilst it is understandable that people would use our service in this way, this does raise the question as to the sustainability and viability of Bethesda given that it needs to be resourced 24/7, regardless of occupancy levels.

Efforts have been made to increase occupancy through the change of emphasis on exceptional entry rules, which have been extensively advertised, but do not appear to have made much difference overall, although have helped in one or two isolated cases.

Addressing the challenges

The trustees have, in the fear of the Lord, taken a number of actions over recent years to address the situation facing the Charity, particularly the financial situation, and in seeking to provide accommodation that would be fit for purpose to meet future needs. The actions taken include:

Increasing fees to realistic levels: Following consultation, a significant one-off adjustment to residents' fees was made in 2020 to a more sustainable level, with fees being subsequently adjusted annually in line with inflation (which included a large inflationary increase in recent years).

Negotiations with local authorities to ensure full fees are paid: Since 2020, Bethesda has offered help and support to families in negotiating with the Local Authorities which were funding their loved ones in our Homes to ensure that full fees are paid. Where this has been the case, to date this has been successful.

Financial controls: rigorous cost control measures include budgeting, financial accountability and monthly reporting on performance have been introduced.

A feasibility study for upgrading the current Harpenden building: work was undertaken in 2017 to assess the feasibility of carrying out substantial works to upgrade the existing Harpenden facility. However, it was felt that the potential benefits of this were greatly outweighed by the costs of essentially upgrading a building that was no longer fit for purpose.

A feasibility study for building a new home on the Harpenden site: at about the same time, a feasibility study was carried out, including architects' drawings, on building a new replacement home whilst continuing to run the existing facility. This resulted in the proposed new building being cramped into a corner with a less than desirable outcome and there were considerable concerns about turning an existing care home site into a building site.

Stewarding of investment income: the investment policy has been recently revised and updated, and an investment platform is being used to ensure investment income is being fully realised.

Entry criteria: the exceptional entry criteria were revisited, with a change of emphasis, and has been widely advertised within the group of churches to try to encourage wider take-up of the service.

Consultation on the future structure of the service provision: consultations have been undertaken to seek views on the future structure of the service provision. Arising from this, three key factors were identified, being, people's desire to live near their place of worship, maintain their independence and ensure that there is an inheritance for the following generation.

The future of Bethesda is a heavy burden both to the Trustees and General Manager and they look to the Lord to make provision to supply the needs of current and future residents, so that all honour might be given unto the Lord.

Reviewing the Quality of our Service

The Harpenden Home was inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 18 April 2023. This was a focused inspection with the CQC looking at outcomes under the 'Safe' and 'Well-led' Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE). The overall rating for the Home was '**Requires Improvement**', with the 'Safe and Well-led' KLOE being rated 'requires improvement' and the other KLOEs, 'Caring', 'Effective' and 'Responsive' remaining as 'good'.

In the report the CQC commented very favourably on the standards of care and support received by the residents of the Home. It nevertheless recommended improvements to the care plans to ensure that they fully cross reference all aspects of support needed, along with ensuring that audits (governance systems) were consistently completed and followed up to allow ourselves to fully implement the improvements that were identified.

Having fully reviewed and updated all care plans and put in place an electronic care planning system, along with a range of other governance systems, including auditing, quality control and

policies and procedures, we believe that all recommendations have been, not just met, but exceeded, and look forward to a return visit by the CQC so that our ratings can reflect this work.

In addition to the CQC inspection process, the Harpenden Home is also subject to inspection by the Hertfordshire County Council under the East of England PAMMS process. This also made recommendations for improvement. We are pleased to be able to report strong progress against this rating process and enjoy a constructive working relationship with the Hertfordshire County Council.

The Brighton Home was inspected by the Care Quality Commission over two days, on 12 and 16 October 2023. This was a full inspection, the first since 2017, and resulted in an overall rating of 'Good', with 'Good' ratings against all five of the key questions. The Home was commended for the quality of its care and support to the residents and relatives, along with excellent working relationships with other agencies.

We continue to make use of external resources through mock inspections to guide us in our quality control processes, along with a number of internal systems for obtaining feedback on possible areas of improvement.

As our supporters may be aware, the CQC is changing the way it inspects care homes, with full implementation of the new single assessment framework taking place in 2024. The CQC single assessment framework is a new approach intended by the CQC to assess and monitor the quality of health and social services in England, with the expectation of providing a more comprehensive and individualised assessment of care services, focusing on compliance and quality of care. It consists of quality statements known as 'we' statements, categorised under the original five key questions of safe, effective, caring, responsive and well led. Bethesda has been working to adapt its systems to ensure it is compliant with the new framework. Work is underway to ensure that Bethesda's quality assurance framework is able to evidence the future needs of the CQC.

Other Properties and Services

Harpenden Flatlets

During 2023, all three flatlets were occupied for at least part of the year and the building remains fully occupied since yearend.

The ongoing assistance of the volunteers who support those living in the flatlets and contribute towards the maintenance and repairs of the flats are acknowledged with appreciation.

Moden Hill Chapel

Moden Hill Chapel was closed in April 2022 and the trust deed specified that the proceeds of the sale of the chapel should be bequeathed to the GSBF. However, as the original Moden Hill Chapel trustees had all passed away it was necessary, in early 2023, to appoint new trustees comprising Fred Ince, Timothy Parish, John Hart, Philip Pocock, Ray Saunders and Michael Ridout (who was appointed chairman). There were a number of matters that initially required attention before proceeding with the sale during 2023, that included registering the plot with the Land Registry and seeking permission to demolish the building. It was also advised to seek outline planning permission for the plot which was subsequently approved.

Following the granting of planning consent, in November 2023, for a dwelling house on the site, the trustees then sought an estate agent to handle the marketing and sale of the plot. Proposals were received including two which recommended that a sale by auction was the preferred method. After prayerful consideration, one of these agents was instructed to proceed with marketing ahead of an auction in March 2024. Mercifully the property sold in excess of the reserve price.

The trustees would acknowledge the help, support and oneness of mind granted to them in making a way for the disposal of the Chapel and providing funds to support the continued work of Bethesda. Although, in the Lord's purposes, the work of Moden Hill Chapel has ended, we do pray that the Lord will continue to support the witness of sister causes of truth in the area and that there might be a returning of those who have wandered from the House of the Lord.

Redhill Flatlets

As previously reported, Mrs Dorothy Sayers passed away unexpectedly during 2021, which left Mrs Rosie Mercer as the only eligible beneficiary in the Redhill Flatlets. In the Lord's purposes, Mrs Mercer passed away in July 2023.

Consequently, on Friday, 1 December 2023, the trustees, after prayerful consideration, took the final decision to sell the Redhill Flatlets, as there were no longer any eligible beneficiaries (residents) and no one eligible showing interest in taking up residence. The building was originally the first Bethesda Home (1948 – February 1988) prior to being converted into flatlets in December 1988. The trustees would acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the local support of the Church and congregation worshipping at Hope Chapel, Shaw's Corner over many years.

The property was sold after yearend on Monday, 29 April 2024. The trustees would acknowledge the good hand of the Lord in providing a suitable buyer for the Redhill Flatlets and answering prayer regarding the sale and transfer of the property. The trustees are prayerfully seeking the Lord's guidance on the use of the proceeds of the sale for the future good of Bethesda and ultimately providing for the current and future residents' complexity of needs.

Studley

After consulting on the future of the vacant former Studley Bethesda Home, the trustees took the prayerful decision, in April 2023, to sell the site. The property was put into the hands of a selling agent and after considering the interest shown in the property, it was agreed to pursue a favourable offer made by a property developer. In the Lord's purposes, the potential purchaser withdrew their offer in September 2023, and following much prayer that the Lord would provide a suitable purchaser, it was agreed, in November 2023, to re-market the property.

After the reporting period, through the Lord's mercy a suitable buyer was provided for the former Studley Bethesda Care Home and the sale was completed in July 2024.

Swavesey Independent Living Accommodation (ILA) Project

As the trustees have recorded, at the end of 2022, the planning permission needed for the development at Swavesey faced being turned down. Over the Christmas period, much prayer and supplication was made before the Lord as to His will and purpose in this matter.

Mercifully, in January 2023 the trustees were to prove that the 'hearts of all men (and women) are in the Lord's sovereign Hand' and a subgroup of the trustees was led to contact and meet with the Swavesey local district councillor. The councillor was very understanding of what Bethesda was trying to achieve in the provision of ILA and willingly took up the matter with South Cambridgeshire Planning Department. As a consequence, the way was made for a helpful meeting with the Area Planning Officer, the architects and the trustee liaising on the project. As a result of the meeting, plans were resubmitted on 23 March 2023 and approved on 26 May 2023.

There were a number of conditions that needed to be met. In particular, the trustees would acknowledge the Lord's Hand in overruling the temperatures during Autumn 2023 that allowed the Newt Survey to be undertaken successfully, otherwise there would have been a delay until Spring 2024. How the trustees proved that truly all things are in the Hand of the Lord and how His people have to prove the reality of Matthew 10:29-31.

In the latter part of 2023, the trustees ventured in obtaining tenders for the proposed building work at Swavesey. In the Lord's mercies, a contractor was appointed, after the reporting period, and the tender price was 30% below the expected £2 million cost of the scheme. In the Lord's purposes, the property was demolished on 27 June 2024 and the start of construction (digging foundations) commenced on 8 July 2024.

So, as the trustees started this reporting period proving 'all men's hearts are in His Hand', there was also a proving once more of the Lord's overruling Hand at the end of the year.

The trustees would once more record the faithfulness and mercy of the Lord in making provision for them at Swavesey. In 2023 the trustees published a document "Show Me Now Thy Way" which records, with thanksgiving, the Lord's dealings, thus far, as a testimony to the generation following. Copies of this document can be found on the Bethesda website or by contacting the General Manager. If the Lord will, it is hoped to add to this document a further record of how the trustees have proved the reality and truth of "Jehovah Jireh" in the matters of Swavesey (and indeed in so many other ways).

Gospel Standard Library

As previously reported, the Gospel Standard Baptist Library was built within the grounds of the Brighton and Hove Bethesda Home and the project was completed in 1980. However, there was an anomaly with this situation, in that the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (GSBF) owns the land on which the Library stands, whereas the Gospel Standard Baptist Library Fund (GSBLF) owns the building. Although this arrangement has worked well over the years, there has never been any formal agreement regarding the occupancy of the land.

As a consequence, the GSBLF and GSBF established, in 2020, a working group to consider this matter so that the anomaly was addressed for future generations. The working group continued, during 2023, to build on the discussions and progress previously made. The focus, during the reporting period, was to consider the practicalities and actions needed for the GSBLF to make a purchase of the freehold of the land on which the Library stands plus an adjoining strip of land, if needed, to secure vehicular access to the building.

After the reporting period, further discussions continued and thankfully a way was made to agree the sale of the land to the GSBL and place the matter in the hands of solicitors.

It must also be stressed that the GSBLF will continue with the car parking and access arrangements to the Brighton and Hove Bethesda site and alterations will not take place until such time, in the Lord's purposes, the Bethesda Home ever becomes vacant.

Financial Review

The financial information in this document covers the 12-month period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023. The full financial statements for the period are published in a separate booklet.

The Statement of Financial activities shows that total income for the 12-month period was £1,494,429.

Several legacies were received during the 12-month period, including those from the estates of Mrs. B. Mercer and Miss B. Wickens to the total amount of £51,199. We would record our gratitude to the Lord for these provisions.

The investment income from short-term deposit interest for the 12-month period was £69,055 compared with £28,338 for the previous equivalent 12-month period. This reflects the much improved interest rates now available to financial investments as well as the policy of actively seeking out high interest rate accounts.

Income from Home residents' fees for the 12-month period was £1,206,407. Expenditure on charitable activities for the 12-month period, which includes employment costs, was £1,671,059. The cost of repairs and renewals during the same period, remains a significant investment at £117,638. The expenditure on building maintenance is in line with the Charity's policy on maintaining its properties in good condition and meeting all safety and registration requirements. Occasionally, heavy and unexpected repairs can suddenly become a necessity.

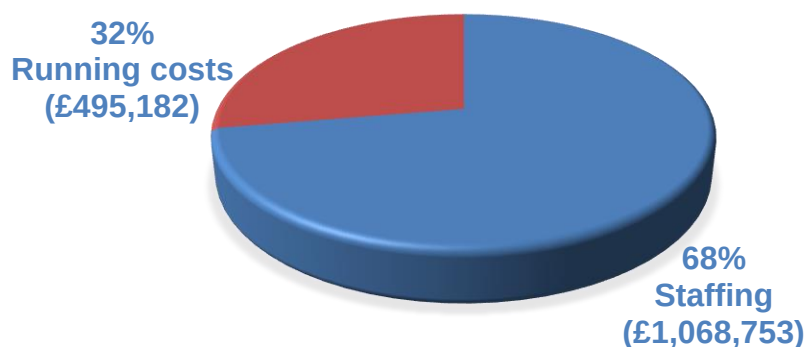
Summary of Financial Results for each Home for the 12 months to 31 December 2023

	<i>Brighton</i>	<i>Harpenden</i>	<i>Studley</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
Residents' fees	690,448	515,959	-	1,206,407
Other income	10,153	14,333	-	24,486
Total income	700,601	530,292	-	1,230,893
Employment and agency costs	525,267	543,486	-	1,068,753
Depreciation	17,581	9,296	9,601	36,478
Hardware, cleaning and laundry	4,966	14,646	-	19,612
Insurance	12,983	14,473	6,806	34,262
Motor and travel	986	1,880	-	2,866
Power and heating	28,850	26,805	1,958	57,613
Provisions	24,155	27,027	-	51,182
Registration fees	3,268	3,268	-	6,536
Repairs and renewals	19,861	84,493	2,680	107,034
Staff training	1,559	2,231	-	3,790
Telephone, relay and internet	3,222	6,139	-	9,361
Water services	3,563	4,603	38	8,204
Council tax	1,589	2,916	3,433	7,938
Garden expenses	85	8,800	327	9,212
Medical supplies	3,859	384	-	4,243
Personal protective equipment	1,233	330	-	1,563
Postage & stationery	874	2,382	-	3,256
Waste collection	3,723	4,109	-	7,832
Sundry expenses	3,245	5,991	539	9,775
Central office support costs	54,986	62,484	7,498	124,968
Other costs	9,958	12,379	-	22,337
Total expenditure	725,813	838,122	32,880	1,596,815
Surplus (deficit) for year	(£25,212)	(£307,830)	(£32,880)	(£365,922)

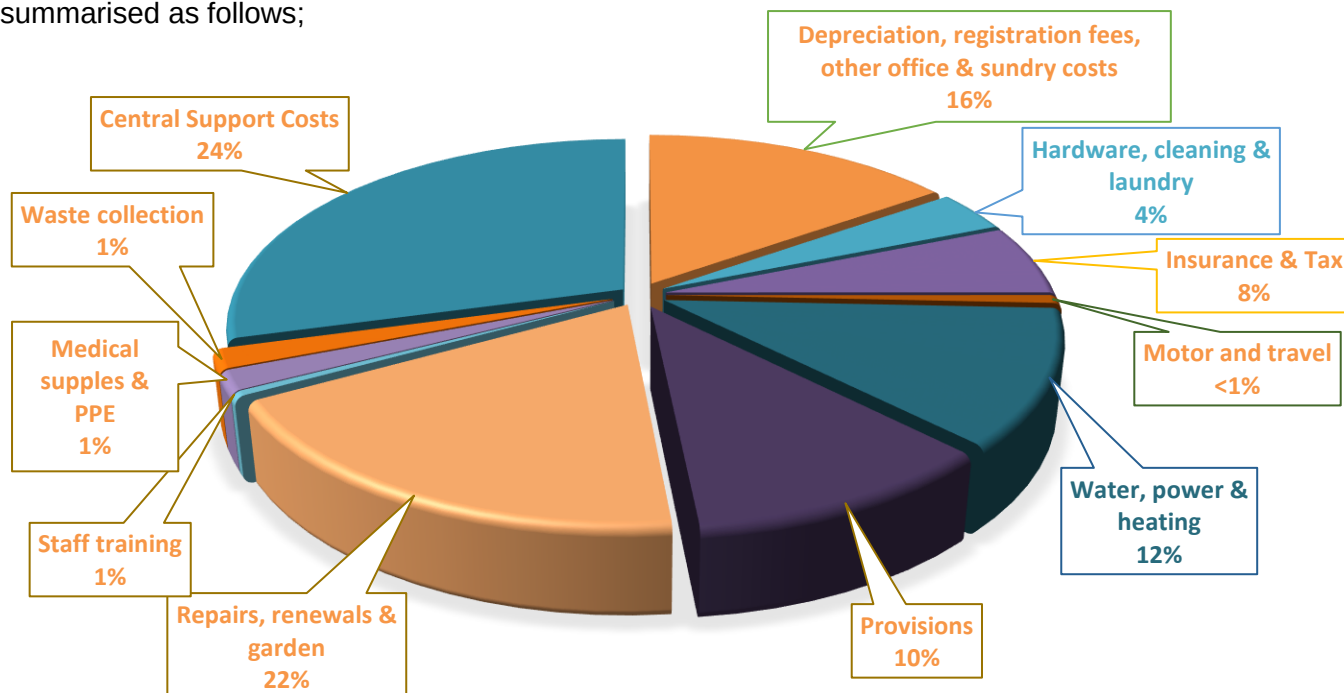
The overall deficit of running the two Homes and Studley for the 12 month period was £365,922.

As usual, the biggest single cost of running the Homes is that of staffing, representing 68% of the total operating expenditure (excluding Studley), equating to 87% of our income being spent on staffing the Homes to ensure a safe, caring, effective and responsive service.

Home Running Costs (12 months - £1,563,935 **excluding** Studley)



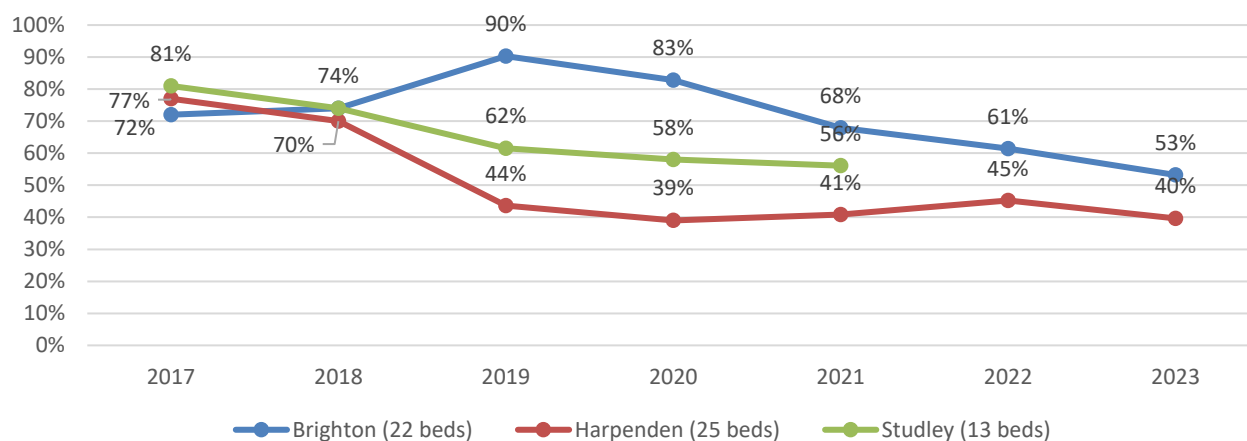
Of the 32% of running costs not associated with the Home's staffing costs, the remainder can be summarised as follows;



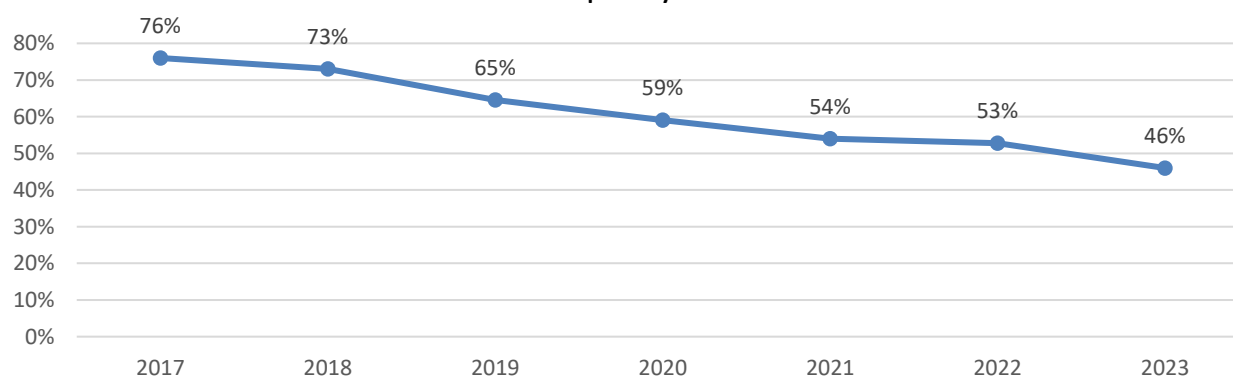
Occupancy

As has been commented many times in the past, occupancy is key to the financial viability of the Charity, and as the following graphs demonstrate, residency in the Homes has continued to drop overall, year on year, as demand for the Charity's service falls. Overall occupancy for the twelve months of 2023 stood at 46% compared with 53% in the previous year.

Individual Home Occupancy



Overall Occupancy



Summary of Financial Results for the Flatlets for the 12 months to 31 December 2023

	<i>Harpenden</i>	<i>Redhill</i>	<i>Swavesey</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
Residents fees	21,412	20,729	-	42,141
Total income	21,412	20,729	-	42,141
Cleaning, windows and waste	150	1,551	-	1,701
Council tax on unoccupied properties	1,216	4,914	3,385	9,515
Depreciation	5,293	3,325	-	8,618
Garden maintenance	1,315	1,311	-	2,626
Insurance	1,047	2,094	1,832	4,973
Power and heating	3,480	5,054	(228)	8,306
Repairs and renewals	9,336	1,268	-	10,604
Central office support costs	4,216	8,432	8,432	21,080
Other costs	1,177	1,523	469	3,169
Total expenditure	27,230	29,472	13,890	70,592
Surplus (deficit) for the period	(£5,818)	(£8,743)	(£13,890)	(£28,451)

At Harpenden, three of the flatlets were occupied for at least part of the 12 month period. The Harpenden flatlets show a deficit for the 12 month period of £5,818, which includes the £5,293 allocation for depreciation. This is mainly depreciation on buildings by accounting rules but does not represent money spent annually out of the bank. Without the depreciation taken into account, the deficit was £525 which was as a result of higher-than-expected repair and renewal costs.

At Redhill, one of the flatlets was occupied by a Bethesda resident for most of the year. However, several of the flats have been occupied by other people, thus producing an additional income. Overall, the Redhill flatlets were showing a deficit of £8,743, which included £3,325 for the depreciation charge. Again, as with the Harpenden Flatlets, without depreciation being taken into account, the actual operating deficit is lower.

Plans for the Future subject to the Lord's will

Independent living

The independent living project at Swavesey will continue to be developed as we work with our professional advisers and the local planning authorities.

Future structure of the Charity

The future structure of the Charity, in terms of its service provision and accommodation, remains under continued prayerful consideration and we look to the Lord for guidance on the way forward in this.



Swavesey Front Elevation

Conclusion

We are thankful to the Lord for bringing the Charity through another year with all the challenges that have come into our pathway. We have been enabled to continue to provide high-quality care that meets the individual physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of our residents with compassion, kindness, dignity, and respect. Although the Trustees and Management team are very conscious of the many internal and external concerns still before the Charity in maintaining the viability and distinct identity of Bethesda in an increasingly secular society, the commitment to sustaining the Christian ethos and providing a secure and caring environment for our residents remains a top priority.

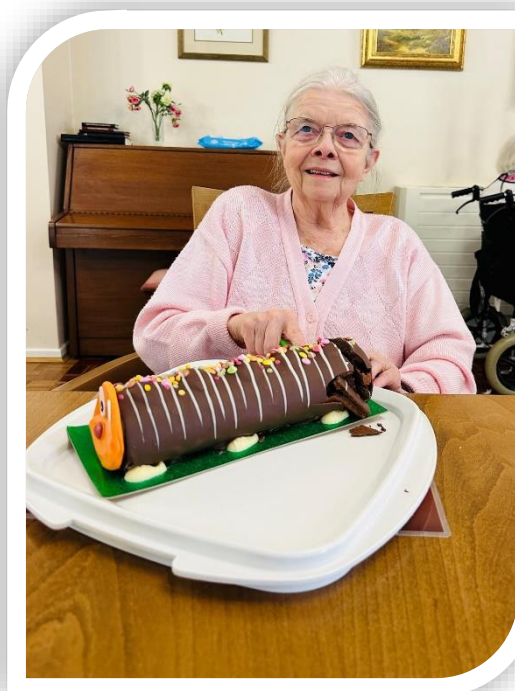
The Lord knows what is before us and the pathway in which He would have Bethesda to walk, and we pray that He will go before us, and that submission and wisdom might be given to know and do His will for the Charity. The prayers of all those with an interest in Bethesda for the Lord to appear and to guide the Trustees, support the managers, staff and residents, are felt to be needed more than ever at this time.

On behalf of the trustees

Michael Ridout

M.D. Ridout, Chairman

06/09/2024





Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

Appendix 1: Reference and Administrative Information

Name of Charity: Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Charity Number: 1199341

Company Number: 13651153

Trustees serving during the financial year and since the year end:

(Also known as the Bethesda Fund Committee)

Mr. M.D. Ridout (Chairman)

Mr. A.J. Collins (Vice-Chairman)

Mr. S.B. Cottingham

Mr. P.J. Pocock

Mr. J. B. Hart

Mr. R.A. Saunders

Mr. D.F. Stevens

Mr. R.W. Woodhams

Dr. G. Christie

Mr. J. Sayers

Company Secretary: Mr. A.J.H. Topping

General Manager: Mr. A.J.H. Topping

Address of the Principal Office of the Charity:

Bethesda General Office

12(b) Roundwood Lane

Harpenden, Herts.

AL5 3BZ

Telephone: 01582 460522

Email: adriantopping@gsbf.uk

Connected Charity

The Piggott Charity is a "connected Charity" under the control of the Trustees of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund. It exists to help Residents of the Bethesda Homes who are in financial need to pay the cost of their care. Further information can be obtained from the General Manager.

Auditors: Begbies Chartered Accountants, 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4DJ

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc, 60 George Street, Luton, LU1 2BB

Solicitors: Ellis-Fermor & Negus, 2 Devonshire Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1BS

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

Appendix 2: Reserves Policy

Reserves Policy

As required by the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Paragraph 31 (e). This policy statement is the February 2023 review.

Definition

Reserves are that part of our general-purpose funds which do not need to be spent immediately and which are not committed or designated. They are the resources we have or can make available to spend on any our objectives once we have met our known commitments and covered any other planned expenditure. The reserves at any year end are represented by the net current assets shown in the Balance Sheet less designated funds, restricted funds and expenditure contracted for or planned.

Reasons why the charity needs reserves

The charity has a commitment, not only to the present generation of Gospel Standard Strict Baptists, but also to a generation to come. The fees charged to our residents in the Bethesda Homes is the main income of the charity. However, experience has shown that occupancy levels can fluctuate. A drop in occupancy levels results in a serious drain on our reserves. Legacy income is our second most important source of income but varies greatly year by year and can never be predicted. Legacy income is sometimes restricted for the benefit of one particular Home, and not therefore available for general purposes. The charity has no endowment funding and is therefore entirely dependent (apart from residents' fees) upon donor funding from year to year. Apart from the usual insurances, the charity has no protection against catastrophic or lesser but damaging events.

The level of reserves needed

The Committee considers that the charity should endeavour to hold, **as a minimum, free reserves amounting to "six months expenditure" in one year as stated in the last published Statement of Financial Activities**. However, from the past history of the charity, it is recognised that to state an absolute figure is not entirely appropriate, as from time to time, in the providence of God, major legacies and other resources have been received in times of need. The trustees are firmly convinced that the charity should be run on Scriptural lines, whereby they look to the Lord to provide for what they believe is His work, remembering that "the silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, saith the Lord of hosts" (Haggai 2.8); "He is their strength in the time of trouble" (Psalm 37.39). The trustees recognise that they have a responsibility for the continuing care of vulnerable residents in the Bethesda Homes.

How these reserves are to be maintained

Major property maintenance and improvement work will be planned and undertaken only as the objectives of this policy statement allow. All operational costs will be carefully monitored, in the case of the Homes, by the General Manager and Home Managers, and in the case of the Bethesda Flatlets and of support costs and management and administration costs, by the General Manager.

This policy will be reviewed by the trustees at least annually, usually in January as part of the Business planning process.

Free reserves at Year-end

Free reserves at 31 December 2023 were £1,320,010, which is 56% above the six months expenditure required to meet the reserves policy. The free reserves are calculated after deducting substantial future expenditure under the contract for around £1.3m signed after the year end to build the Swavesey development. However, a good part of this expenditure is covered by the £1,060,396 balance at 31 December 2023 in the designated fund for Future Development.

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

Appendix 3: Risks Management Policy

Risks Management Policy

This policy constitutes the 'Risks Management Policy' as required by the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Paragraph 31 (g).

General policy statement

It is the policy of the Bethesda Fund Committee that all risks associated with the Charity's activities be minimised by the implementation of risk management and prevention systems or procedures. The Committee will ensure that all significant risks are identified, assessed and monitored.

Major risks identified

The Committee has identified the most serious risks to the charity and recorded these in the Risks Register.

How the policy is to be maintained

Each component part of this policy is clearly delegated to either the Committee as trustees, other officers of the charity or members of staff. The Committee adopts the principle that effective risk management is the responsibility of all levels of management and staff.

Arrangements for monitoring and reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed by the trustees at least annually, usually in January, with any changes to the Risk Register notified to them quarterly.

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

Appendix 4: Investment Policy

Investment Policy

As required by the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Paragraph 31 (e). This policy statement is the February 2023 review.

Objectives in investing the charity's funds

The objectives of the trustees are:

- i) to ensure that the funds are properly protected: that is, that the capital is not put at risk and will be protected against inflation as far as is reasonably practical.
- ii) to obtain the best income from those funds (consistently with the above) with which to carry out the charity's purposes.

Powers of investment

The Charity Commission Scheme under which the charity operates contains no specific powers of investment. The charity's investments will, therefore, be governed by the Trustee Investments Act 1961.

Risk profile

The trustees are willing only to accept investments classified as low risk.

Policy statement

The trustees invest the charity's funds in two principal ways. First, freehold property is held to provide homes for the elderly and infirm in accordance with the objectives of the charity. Over the years freehold property has been shown to hold its value against inflation. Such property is maintained in a good state of repair. Second, surplus funds are maintained in deposit accounts with reputable banks, building societies, and common deposit funds, which may, or may not, include money-market deposits, normally in at least three different entities. From time to time the trustees may consider investing in government stocks. The trustees do not invest in ordinary shares of quoted companies owing to the difficulty in finding companies which maintain ethical and moral standards which are consistent with the Scriptures.

Investment advice

The Charity is currently going through a transitional period where its capital will be needed for development, and as such it is currently held in short term investments. Once decisions have been made in respect of new properties the need for financial advice in investing any residual funds will then be reviewed.

Arrangements for monitoring and reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed by the trustees at least annually, usually in January as part of the Business planning process. Maturing bonds will be reinvested promptly.

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

Appendix 5: Policy Statement on paying staff

Policy Statement on Paying Staff

How we decide how much to pay our staff

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund ('The Bethesda Fund') is committed to ensuring that we pay and reward our staff fairly and in a way which ensures we attract and retain the right skills to have the greatest impact in delivering our charitable objectives.

In accordance with the SORP:-

- Disclose the number of staff in receipt of more than £60,000 and above (in bands of £10,000)
- Disclose pensions and other benefits

The Bethesda Fund Committee ('The Committee') meets annually to set the pay for all staff. The General Manager is in attendance for the meeting (leaving for the discussion regarding the General Manager's remuneration).

The main responsibilities of the Committee in respect of setting pay are to:-

- review the level of the Bethesda Fund salaries and wages against an agreed independent market benchmarking tool and make sure amendments are appropriate to ensure that salaries and wages remain competitive
- determine the remuneration package of the General Manager, Home Managers and Deputy Managers
- approve the annual percentage increase in the payroll for all staff (which can be zero) taking into account CPIH as at 31 October for the previous year.
- approve any consolidated pay awards and staff salary increases outside of the annual review process as recommended from time to time by the General Manager.
- determine pension arrangements and
- ensure that contractual terms on termination are fair to the individual and the charity, that poor performance is not rewarded and a duty to mitigate loss is recognised.

In determining the Bethesda Fund's remuneration policy the Committee takes into account all factors which are deemed necessary. The appropriateness and relevance of the remuneration policy is reviewed annually ensuring the Bethesda Fund remains sensitive to the broader issues e.g. pay and employment conditions elsewhere.

We aim to recruit, subject to experience, at the lower – medium point within a band, providing scope to reward excellence. We pay at or above the national living wage for all our staff.

Delivery of the Bethesda Fund's charitable vision and purpose is primarily dependent on our staff which is the largest single element of charitable expenditure. In 2022 the Bethesda Fund made adjustments to wages to reflect inflationary increases and the national living wage requirements.

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Financial Statements

for the year ended

31 December 2023

Charity number 1199341

Company number 13651153 registered in England and Wales

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Company registered office address:

Bethesda General Office

12(b) Roundwood Lane

Harpenden

Herts

AL5 3BZ

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for prior period	7
Balance Sheet	8
Statement of Cash Flows	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10

The Annual Report for 2023, along with these financial statements, are available together from the address above.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and its industry, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: employment regulation, health and safety regulation, anti-money laundering regulation, and non-compliance with implementation of government support schemes relating to Covid-19.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- Enquiries and confirmation of management and those charged with governance as to their identification of any non-compliance with laws or regulations, or any actual or potential claims;
- Inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations to the engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and

- Considering the risk of acts by the charitable company which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In addition, we evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements, including the risk of management override of controls, and determined that the principal risks related to income recognition and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Review of minutes of Board meetings throughout the period;
- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- In relation to the risk of management override of internal controls, by undertaking procedures to review journal entries and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.


Begbies

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Unit 14, Park Barn, Evegate Business Park, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SX

25/09/2024

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023
(including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	----Unrestricted funds----		Restricted funds	Total funds
		General	Designated		2023
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	68,783	-	8,789	77,572
Charitable activities	4	1,263,613	-	3,333	1,266,946
Investments	5	41,907	28,230	1,418	71,555
Grant - The Piggott Charity	6	-	-	9,507	9,507
Chapel sale - Moden Hill	27	68,849	-	-	68,849
Total		1,443,152	28,230	23,047	1,494,429
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7-8	20,198	-	-	20,198
Charitable activities	7-13	1,648,485	1,721	20,853	1,671,059
Total		1,668,683	1,721	20,853	1,691,257
Net income/(expenditure)		(225,531)	26,509	2,194	(196,828)
Transfers between funds	22	(2,500)	-	2,500	-
Net movement in funds		(228,031)	26,509	4,694	(196,828)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		3,099,675	1,062,800	51,674	4,214,149
Total funds carried forward		£2,871,644	£1,089,309	£56,368	£4,017,321

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Comparative figures for the prior period

Statement of Financial Activities from 29 September 2021 to 31 December 2022 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

*showing the charity operating results for the 6 month period to 31 December 2022
under merger accounting rules, see Note 1(a)*

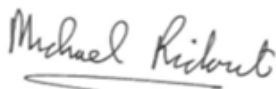
	Note	----Unrestricted funds----		Restricted funds	Total funds
		General	Designated		2022
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	102,229	-	6,214	108,443
Charitable activities	4	671,635	-	2,479	674,114
Investments	5	13,403	7,813	377	21,593
Total		787,267	7,813	9,070	804,150
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7-8	11,265	-	-	11,265
Charitable activities	7-13	788,497	1,721	7,856	798,074
Total		799,762	1,721	7,856	809,339
Net (expenditure)/income		(12,495)	6,092	1,214	(5,189)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(12,495)	6,092	1,214	(5,189)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		3,112,170	1,056,708	50,460	4,219,338
Total funds carried forward		£3,099,675	£1,062,800	£51,674	£4,214,149

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND
(Charity number 1199341 - Company number 13651153)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	31 December 2023 £	31 December 2022 £
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	15-17	1,309,499	1,499,395
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		1,309,499	1,499,395
Current assets:			
Property to be sold	17	234,064	-
Debtors	18	177,268	119,273
Investments	19	1,999,788	2,504,074
Cash at bank and in hand		459,359	235,577
<i>Total current assets</i>		2,870,479	2,858,924
Liabilities:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	20	(162,657)	(144,170)
<i>Net current assets</i>		2,707,822	2,714,754
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		4,017,321	4,214,149
Total net assets		£4,017,321	£4,214,149
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted -			
General	21	2,872,969	3,099,675
Designated	21,23	1,087,984	1,062,800
Restricted income funds	21,22	56,368	51,674
Total charity funds		£4,017,321	£4,214,149

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 06/09/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

M. RIDOUT, Chairman:



GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2023

		<i>Year ended</i>	<i>6 months to</i>
		<i>31 December</i>	<i>31 December</i>
	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
<i>Net cash (used in) operating activities</i>	24(a)	<u>(260,098)</u>	<u>(15,172)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest and rents from investments		71,555	21,593
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		5,250	4,700
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		<u>(97,211)</u>	<u>(42,848)</u>
<i>Net cash (used in) investing activities</i>		<u>(20,406)</u>	<u>(16,555)</u>
<i>Change in cash & cash equivalents in reporting period</i>		(280,504)	(31,727)
Cash & cash equivalents at start of reporting period		<u>2,739,651</u>	<u>2,771,378</u>
Cash & cash equivalents at end of reporting period	24(b)	<u>£2,459,147</u>	<u>£2,739,651</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting Policies

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund is a private company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 29th September 2021. It is also registered with the Charity Commission as a charity and is a public benefit entity. It was set up to take forward in a corporate structure the work of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund, which was an unincorporated charity established in 1944.

(a) Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Articles of Association, and applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, FRS 102 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice SORP (FRS 102) (2nd edition) published by the Charity Commission in 2019.

Merger accounting for the prior 6 month period to 31 December 2022: As mentioned above, the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund was an unincorporated charity but changed its legal form by a transfer of all its assets, liabilities and undertaking to a charitable company of the same name on 30 December 2022. The purposes and beneficiary class of the charity remained unchanged, hence accounting rules required that the reconstruction of the charity be treated as a merger for accounting purposes.

Merger accounting involves aggregating the assets, liabilities and funds of the old unincorporated charity and the new charitable company, and presenting them as though they had always been part of the same reporting charity.

The transfer into the charitable company took place on 30 December 2022, and the accounts were required to be drawn up to include the results of both entities for the whole of the reporting period in which the merger occurred.

The merger occurred in the charitable company's first accounting period from its incorporation on 29 September 2021 to 31 December 2022. No operating activity took place in the charitable company until it received the assets, liabilities and undertaking on 30 December 2022. The unincorporated charity had last reported its results to 30 June 2022.

Therefore the combined activity of both the unincorporated and incorporated charities in the 6 months to 31 December 2022 was required to be reported under merger accounting rules, and these form the comparative figures presented in these financial statements.

(b) **Going concern**

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate and have identified no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of 12 months from the date of approval of the Financial Statements.

(c) **Income**

Voluntary income, including donations, Gift Aid, and chapel collections, is recognised in the period in which the income is received.

Investment income and rent is recognised on a receivable basis.

Legacies are accounted for as income either upon receipt or where the receipt of the legacy is probable. Receipt is normally probable when:

- there has been a grant of probate
- the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate, after settling any liabilities, to pay the legacy; and
- any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.

Legacies which have been notified, but are not recognised as income in the Statement of Financial Activities, are disclosed within the note 'Donations and legacies' with an estimate (if possible) of the amount receivable.

Fees from residents in the care homes and flatlets are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided.

Government grants are not recognised in income until there is reasonable assurance that (a) any attached conditions will be satisfied, and (b) the grants will be received. Grants are recognised using the performance model such that a grant without future performance-related conditions is recognised in income when it is receivable, and other grants are recognised when the future performance-related conditions are met. Grants received before the revenue recognition criteria are satisfied are shown as a liability.

(d) **Income tax recoverable**

Any income tax due to be reclaimed from HMRC on donations made under Gift Aid or refundable income tax deducted from income received net of tax, has been brought into these financial statements as a debtor.

(e) **Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, that is, when a liability is incurred. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

Support costs are costs incurred in support of both income generation, charitable activities, and governance, as shown in the note 'Allocation of support costs.' These costs comprise a proportion of central office staff, information systems and internal accounting costs, and costs relating to the premises. Also included is a proportion of the management and administration costs in the Bethesda Homes and servicing of the Homes' premises.

Governance costs are costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity which relate to the general running of the charity as distinct from those costs associated with its charitable activities. They include the cost of meeting constitutional and statutory requirements, audit fees, legal fees, and a proportion of central office costs.

(f) **Pension scheme contributions**

Contributions payable to the Charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. For further information see the note 'Employee information.'

(g) **Capitalisation and depreciation of tangible fixed assets**

Freehold properties

Freehold properties are carried in the accounts at their original cost. Depreciation is provided to write down the original cost of the buildings, and the cost of later permanent additions and improvements, on a straight-line basis over a period of fifty years. No depreciation is charged on freehold land.

Equipment

Due to the large number of fixed assets owned and used by the charity, our policy is to recognise within the assets register only those assets that cost more than £1,000. Numerous items purchased at the same time costing in total more than £1,000 but each item individually costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised. This policy of depreciation applies only to assets acquired after January 1990; all equipment acquired before that date has been written off completely in previous accounting periods.

Equipment in the Homes and Flatlets costing more than £1,000 is capitalised and written off on a straight-line basis over a period of five years, and is shown in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation, the annual depreciation being charged as a running cost of the Homes and Flatlets. Equipment in the Homes and Flatlets costing less than £1,000 is not capitalised but is written off in the year of acquisition as an expense, being charged directly to the running costs of the Homes and Flatlets under 'Repairs and renewals.'

Equipment in the Bethesda General Office at Harpenden costing more than £1,000 is capitalised and written off on a straight-line basis over a period of five years, and is shown in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation, the annual depreciation being charged as a running cost under 'Central office costs.'

Equipment in the Bethesda General Office costing less than £1,000 is written off as an expense in the year of acquisition, being charged to 'Central office costs' under 'Repairs and maintenance.'

Motor vehicles

Motor vehicles are written off at 25% per annum on a reducing balance.

(h) **Transactions with trustees and related parties**

No trustees received any remuneration for their services as a trustee. Five trustees (2022: 3 trustees) were reimbursed travel expenses totalling £1,152 (2022: £321). Expense reimbursements were waived by some trustees; the amounts were not material. Purchases of groceries were made from Staverton Nursery Ltd, a company in which Sam Cottingham, a trustee, has an interest, totalling £30 (2022: £57) these amounts being at cost without markup. One trustee, Philip Pocock, is employed part-time by Adkins, the agents instructed to sell the Studley Bethesda home. No financial benefit accrues to Philip Pocock for the Studley Bethesda sale under this arrangement and it was considered in the best interests of the charity to appoint Adkins. Besides the disclosures in these financial statements, no trustee or connected persons had any beneficial interest in any material contract, transaction or arrangement with the Charity during the period.

(i) **Indemnity insurance**

The charity carries a comprehensive insurance package provided by Travelers Insurance. Engineering Insurance and Inspection is provided by Allianz Insurance, Trustees Liability by AXA XL Insurance via Angel Risk Management Ltd., Group Personal Accident by Chubb Insurance, Cyber & Data Risks by Lloyd's via CFC Underwriting Ltd., and Motor Vehicle Insurance by QBE Insurance.

(j) **Stocks of foods and other supplies**

Stocks held at the period end have not been brought into these Financial Statements, as the amounts held are relatively insignificant.

(k) **Funds**

Unrestricted funds - these comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds that are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds - these are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees at their discretion from the general funds for specific purposes.

Restricted funds - these comprise funds subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors and funders.

Further details of the nature and purpose of each fund are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Surplus cash is held on fixed term deposits. Deposits maturing in less than one year are recognised as current investments and those that mature in more than one year from the period end are recognised as fixed investments.

2 Statement of Financial Activities

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all income, gains, expenditure and losses recognised for the reporting period. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

3 Donations and legacies

			<i>(6 months)</i>	
	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>Total 2022</i>
	£	£	£	£
Collections & donations from chapels:				
For general purposes	7,338	-	7,338	5,443
For specific Homes	-	400	400	-
For assisting short-stay residents	-	2,445	2,445	1,465
Personal donations & subscriptions:				
For general purposes	1,613	-	1,613	1,311
For general purposes - Gift Aid	8,475	-	8,475	2,475
For assisting short-stay residents	-	200	200	-
For specific Homes	-	5,621	5,621	2,310
Home collecting boxes	-	68	68	72
Total	17,426	8,734	26,160	13,076
Legacies received:				
Mrs E Burgess	-	55	55	-
Mrs B Mercer	5,000	-	5,000	-
Mr D Keeling	-	-	-	33,000
Miss B Wickens	46,199	-	46,199	60,000
Other	-	-	-	2,367
Income tax reclaimable	158	-	158	-
Total	51,357	55	51,412	95,367
Total	£68,783	£8,789	£77,572	£108,443

3 Donations and legacies (continued)

The legacies below have been advised to the Charity as receivable after the period end:

Mr D Keeling: Balance of a residuary share in the estate, the final amount is unknown.

Mr A Baldwin: Legacy of £5,000.

Mr F Hayden: Legacy of £2,000.

For an explanation of when legacies are recognised as income see Note 1(c).

4 Income from charitable activities

	<i>(6 months)</i>	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Fees from residential care homes	1,206,407	644,756
Fees from flatlets	42,141	20,547
Staff board charges	11,469	5,661
Sundry receipts	6,929	3,150
	<u>£1,266,946</u>	<u>£674,114</u>

5 Investment income

	<i>(6 months)</i>			
	<i>Unrestricted funds</i>	<i>Restricted funds</i>	<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>Total 2022</i>
	£	£	£	£
Interest on short-term deposits	67,637	1,418	69,055	20,343
Use of bookroom	<u>2,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>1,250</u>
	<u>£70,137</u>	<u>£1,418</u>	<u>£71,555</u>	<u>£21,593</u>

The bookroom within the Bethesda General Office, Harpenden has been occupied by The Gospel Standard Trust as its publications centre. As the fair value of the investment property component cannot be measured reliably, the entire property is accounted for within tangible fixed assets and not under investments.

Related Party Transactions note: The Gospel Standard Trust was a Custodian Trustee of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund and held in trust all of the charity's freehold properties until, following the incorporation of the charity on 30 December 2022, these became held directly by the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund.

6 Transactions with The Piggott Charity

Grants of £9,507 (2022: £nil) were received from The Piggott Charity towards assisting short-stay residents. The Piggott Charity is a ‘connected charity.’ The trustees of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund are also trustees of The Piggott Charity. However, the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund does not exercise any dominant influence over The Piggott Charity. The Piggott Charity makes grants at its own discretion to the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund. Therefore, based on this, no consolidated accounts are prepared. For further information see notes on ‘Designated funds’ and ‘Restricted funds.’

7 Analysis of expenditure

	<i>Governance & support</i>		<i>(6 months)</i>	
	<i>Direct costs</i>	<i>costs</i>	<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>Total 2022</i>
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds	-	20,198	20,198	11,265
Charitable activities:				
Running costs of care homes	1,261,808	317,515	1,579,323	762,092
Running costs of flatlets	49,512	21,080	70,592	29,777
Future development fund	-	3,045	3,045	1,721
Short-stay residents' fund	17,492	607	18,099	4,484
	1,328,812	342,247	1,671,059	798,074
Total	£1,328,812	£362,445	£1,691,257	£809,339

'Raising funds' is the term required by accounting rules to be used for expenditure in relation to dealing with donations, grants, legacies, subscriptions and management of investments, hence a proportion of costs are allocated under this caption.

8 Allocation of Governance and support costs

Support costs comprise costs incurred in support of both income generation, charitable activities, and governance, as shown below. These costs comprise a proportion of central office staff, information systems and internal accounting costs, and costs relating to the premises. Also included is a proportion of the management and administration costs in the Bethesda Homes and Flatlets and the servicing of the buildings.

Governance costs are those for the governance arrangements of the charity. These include audit, legal advice for trustees and costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as trustee meetings and preparing statutory accounts. Governance costs are not shown separately in the Statement of Financial Activities but are instead included as a sub-category of support costs and allocated to activities along with the other support costs. Governance costs are shown in Note 9.

	(6 months)			
	Staff costs	Other costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds	10,826	9,373	20,199	11,266
Charitable activities:				
Care homes	238,753	78,762	317,515	167,698
Flatlets	10,033	11,047	21,080	11,802
Future development fund	1,795	1,250	3,045	1,721
Subsidies: short-stay residents	94	513	607	280
Total Governance & support costs	£261,501	£100,945	£362,446	£192,767

9 Governance costs

	(6 months)	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Audit fees incl disbursements	11,800	13,001
Advertising and Website costs	30	7
Bank charges	1,642	560
Committee members' expenses	1,152	321
Printing	200	36
Legal and professional costs	4,873	7,909
Management and finance staff costs	25,513	12,169
Administrative office, travel & other costs	10,328	4,629
	£55,538	£38,632

10 Subsidies paid for short-stay residents

During the period 17 residents coming into a Bethesda Home for a short stay obtained discounts from full fee rates funded by the Short-Stay Fund (2022: 11 residents). During the period the Short-Stay Fund was supported by 4 (2022: 2) chapel collections.

11 Assistance towards residents’ fees

Fee subsidies amounting to £11,685 (2022: £607) were given to residents supported by Local Authorities under the Community Care Act in cases where the maximum amount paid by the Local Authority was less than the Bethesda fee. These were funded from the General Fund. During the period 4 residents were assisted in this way: 1 resident at the Brighton Home and 3 at Harpenden Home (2022: 3 residents).

During the period contributions amounting to £217,641 (2022: £144,795) were received from Local Authorities towards residents’ fees.

12 Ex gratia payments

	<i>(6 months)</i>	
	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
Gift vouchers and calendars	£1,099	£-

£1,099 in total was spent in the period on gift vouchers and calendars for long service awards and leaving gifts to staff and for appreciation to people who assist the charity in various ways (2022: £nil). In some cases such payments, or part of the payments, have been used by the recipients to defray expenses incurred in rendering services to the charity.

13 Employee information

The average number of care home staff employed during the period, including part time workers, was 66 (2022: 63). The number of management and administration staff at the Bethesda General Office was 2 (2022: 2). Staff costs were as follows:

	<i>(6 months)</i>	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,006,396	457,190
Social security costs	72,408	36,727
Pension costs	26,916	11,558
Agency workers	32,941	56,703
	£1,138,661	£562,178
Cost of raising funds - support costs	10,826	5,164
Costs relating to charitable activities:		
Care homes - direct costs	877,160	434,017
Care homes - support costs	238,753	117,311
Flatlets - support costs	10,033	4,785
Future development fund - support costs	1,795	856
Short-stay Fund - support costs	94	45
	£1,138,661	£562,178

No employee earned at a rate of £60,000 per annum or more in either period. Premiums of £1,280 (6 months to 31.12.2022: £640) were paid into a private pension plan held by 1 officer (2022: 1 officer). Employers premiums of £25,636 (2022: £10,918) were payable into 'The People's Pension' scheme, an auto-enrolment scheme which commenced in October 2015.

Key management personnel are identified as the General Manager and 2 Home Managers. The compensation for the year of these staff members amounts to £136,264 (6 months to 31.12.2022: £63,746) including remuneration and all benefits paid.

14 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities by virtue of Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010.

15 Freehold land and buildings

(a) *Holding trustee*

The freeholds of the Bethesda Homes and Flatlets and the Bethesda General Office were previously held by the custodian trustee, The Gospel Standard Trust, but are now held directly by the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund.

(b) *Net book value*

The Trustees consider that the open market value of the freehold land and buildings is in excess of the net book value at which they are shown in the Balance Sheet.

(c) *Note concerning the Brighton and Hove Home*

The Gospel Standard Baptist Library is situated within the grounds of the Brighton & Hove Bethesda Home. The cost of the library building, which was erected in 1980 and extended in 2003, was met entirely from the funds of the library. There has previously been no formal agreement with the trustees of the library and no ground rent or similar payments have been received.

During the year, and after obtaining professional valuations to establish market value, it was agreed that should the Brighton Bethesda Home site ever be sold, a transfer of the land on which the library building stands would be made to the trustees of the Gospel Standard Library for £61,667. Further agreement was reached after the year end, that such transfer would include an enlarged area of land around the library for a revised total price of £105,619.

15 Freehold land and buildings (continued)

	Bethesda Homes £	Bethesda Flatlets £	Office Premises £	Total £
COST				
At start of period	1,300,371	987,157	125,019	2,412,547
Additions	-	92,032	-	92,032
Transfers to current assets	<u>(431,500)</u>	<u>(168,328)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(599,828)</u>
At end of period	<u>868,871</u>	<u>910,861</u>	<u>125,019</u>	<u>1,904,751</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At start of period	682,806	213,171	60,826	956,803
Charge for period	23,770	7,612	2,484	33,866
Transfers to current assets	<u>(252,699)</u>	<u>(113,065)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(365,764)</u>
At end of period	<u>453,877</u>	<u>107,718</u>	<u>63,310</u>	<u>624,905</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31.12.23	<u>£414,994</u>	<u>£803,143</u>	<u>£61,709</u>	<u>£1,279,846</u>
At 31.12.22	<u>£617,565</u>	<u>£773,986</u>	<u>£64,193</u>	<u>£1,455,744</u>

Included within the cost of freehold property is land of £93,050 (2022: £181,523) which is not depreciated. Additionally, the cost of Bethesda Flatlets includes £629,697 (2022: £537,665) for acquisition of a site at Swavesey plus expenses incurred subsequently, where it is intended to build apartments; no depreciation is charged until the apartments have been completed.

The amounts above for transfers to current assets are in respect of the net book values of the Studley Bethesda Home and the Redhill Flatlets, which are included in Property to be sold at 31 December 2023 (see Note 17). For further details refer to Note 28.

16 Equipment and motor vehicles

	Equipment in Homes £	Equipment in Flatlets £	Office Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
COST					
At start of period	245,497	14,914	6,082	49,987	316,480
Additions	5,179	-	-	-	5,179
Disposals	(3,309)	-	-	(27,287)	(30,596)
Transfers	(32,403)	-	-	-	(32,403)
At end of period	214,964	14,914	6,082	22,700	258,660
DEPRECIATION					
At start of period	224,977	13,909	5,867	28,076	272,829
Charge for period	12,361	1,005	215	5,478	19,059
Disposals	(3,309)	-	-	(27,169)	(30,478)
Transfers	(32,403)	-	-	-	(32,403)
At end of period	201,626	14,914	6,082	6,385	229,007
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31.12.23	£13,338	£-	£-	£16,315	£29,653
At 31.12.22	£20,520	£1,005	£215	£21,911	£43,651

The transfers above relate to equipment remaining at Studley Bethesda, which has a net book value of £nil and has been transferred to current assets as part of Property to be sold (see Notes 17 and 28).

17 Tangible assets

	2023 £	2022 £
<i>Fixed assets:</i>		
Freehold land and buildings (Note 15)	1,279,846	1,455,744
Equipment and motor vehicles (Note 16)	29,653	43,651
	£1,309,499	£1,499,395
<i>Current assets: Property to be sold (Note 15):</i>		
Studley Bethesda Home net book value	178,801	-
Redhill Flatlets net book value	55,263	-
	£234,064	£-

18 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid	1,694	1,715
Income tax recoverable on legacy income	158	-
Interest accrued on short-term deposits	21,821	7,885
Gospel Standard Trust - use of bookroom	3,141	3,253
Moden Hill, Sedgley chapel gross sale proceeds (Note 27)	84,389	-
Prepayments and accrued income	35,351	28,407
Residents' fees receivable	30,714	78,013
	£177,268	£119,273

19 Investments: short-term deposits

	2023	2022
	£	£
<i>Current assets</i>		
Buckingham Building Society 120 day account	110,000	-
CAF Charity Deposit Platform (Flagstone: 8 accounts)	699,998	-
Cambridge & Counties Bank 95 day notice account	-	492,842
Cambridge & Counties Bank 1 year bond	110,000	-
Charity Bank easy access account	-	3,025
Charity Bank 1 year bond	110,000	-
Close Brothers 95 day notice account	-	529,152
Close Brothers 1 year bond	110,000	-
COIF Charities deposit fund	419,790	227,335
Hampshire Trust Bank 45 day notice account	-	351,714
Lloyds Bank 1 year bond	110,000	-
Redwood Bank 1 year bond	110,000	-
United Trust Bank 1 year bond	-	300,006
United Trust Bank 6 month bond	-	300,000
United Trust Bank 200 day account	-	300,000
Vernon Building Society 35 day account	110,000	-
Virgin Money 1 year bond	110,000	-
	£1,999,788	£2,504,074

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accrued expenses	21,846	24,922
Accrued expenses re Moden Hill, Sedgley chapel (Note 27)	7,719	-
Accrued holiday pay	10,499	11,452
Financial services fees	10,000	15,185
PAYE & NIC due to HMRC	19,929	16,759
Pension premiums due	4,989	4,245
Deferred government grant income	59,392	59,392
Residents' fees repayable or paid in advance	6,515	6,379
Trade creditors	21,768	5,836
	<u>£162,657</u>	<u>£144,170</u>

Government grant income shown above as deferred at the period end is for grants received but not yet confirmed whether the attached grant conditions will be satisfied. The accounting policy on government grants is detailed at Note 1(c). There was no movement on the deferred income account in the year or in the prior period.

21 Net asset analysis by fund

	---Unrestricted funds---		Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Designated	General		2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible	-	1,309,499	-	1,309,499	1,499,395
Current assets:					
Investments	1,087,984	855,436	56,368	1,999,788	2,504,074
Other	-	870,691	-	870,691	354,850
Current liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>(162,657)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(162,657)</u>	<u>(144,170)</u>
	<u>£1,087,984</u>	<u>£2,872,969</u>	<u>£56,368</u>	<u>£4,017,321</u>	<u>£4,214,149</u>

22 Restricted funds

	<i>Balance</i> <i>01.01.23</i> £	<i>Income</i> £	<i>Expenditure</i> £	<i>Transfer from</i> <i>General Fund</i> £	<i>Balance</i> <i>31.12.23</i> £
<i>Harpenden Home:</i>					
Mrs E Burgess	-	55	(55)	-	-
<i>Other funds:</i>					
Brighton Amenity	30,934	5,620	(1,160)	-	35,394
Harpenden Amenity	17,069	4,990	(1,539)	-	20,520
Short-stay Residents	3,671	12,382	(18,099)	2,500	454
	<u>£51,674</u>	<u>£23,047</u>	<u>(£20,853)</u>	<u>£2,500</u>	<u>£56,368</u>

Restricted funds are to be used only for the benefit of the Bethesda Home/Flatlets under which they are listed above, and the expenditure allocated to these funds is therefore for those specific Homes/Flatlets, as appropriate. The Short-stay Residents Fund is supported by chapel collections and is used to assist people coming into the Bethesda Homes for short stays. Income includes interest received on unexpended balances. See Note 1(k) for more information on Restricted funds.

23 Designated funds

	<i>Balance</i> <i>01.01.23</i> £	<i>Income</i> £	<i>Expenditure</i> £	<i>Net</i> <i>transfers</i> £	<i>Balance</i> <i>31.12.23</i> £
Future Development	1,035,927	27,515	(3,046)	-	1,060,396
Miss K E Aston dec'd	<u>26,873</u>	<u>715</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,588</u>
	<u>£1,062,800</u>	<u>£28,230</u>	<u>(£3,046)</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£1,087,984</u>

The Future Development Fund is designated for capital investment into new and existing buildings. Expenditure includes an allocation for support costs (see Note 8 for further details on support costs).

Part of a legacy received in 2009 from the estate of the late Miss Kathleen Eunice Aston was transferred into a Designated Fund to be used for the benefit of the Brighton Bethesda Home, where Miss Aston was a resident for over ten years.

Income includes interest received on unexpended balances. See Note 1(k) for more information on Designated funds.

24 Notes to Statement of Cash Flows

(a) Reconciliation of net (expenditure) to net cash (used in) operating activities

	<i>(6 months)</i>	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Net (expenditure) for the period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(196,828)	(5,189)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	52,925	24,407
Profit on disposal of motor vehicle	(5,132)	(2,150)
Interest and rents from investments	(71,555)	(21,593)
(Increase) in debtors	(57,995)	(21,607)
Increase in creditors	18,487	10,960
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(£260,098)	(£15,172)

(b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand	459,359	235,577
Cash on deposit (current asset investments)	1,999,788	2,504,074
	£2,459,147	£2,739,651

25 Commitments under operating leases

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
<i>Amounts due:</i>		
Within 1 year	8,087	3,664
Between 1 and 5 years	6,957	5,442
	£15,044	£9,106

26 Commitments for expenditure

There were no other material commitments for expenditure at the year end, but see Note 28 for subsequently.

27 Moden Hill, Sedgley Chapel sale proceeds

During the year the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund became entitled under the chapel trust deed to the proceeds of sale of this chapel, following its closure in 2022. Planning permission was obtained in 2023 to demolish the chapel and erect a house, and the sale of the property was completed in April 2024. The net value of the entitlement has been included in these accounts as shown below, amounts unpaid as at 31 December 2023 being shown in debtors (Note 18) and creditors (Note 20) respectively.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross sale proceeds of property & furniture items	84,389	-
Legal, planning, agents & other expenses	(15,540)	-
	<u>£68,849</u>	<u>£-</u>

28 Non-adjusting events after the period end

(a) *Studley Bethesda Home*

It was decided to sell the Studley Bethesda home, following its closure in 2021. The property was marketed at a guide price of £750,000, and a sale has been agreed (subject to contract) which is materially above the net book value of £178,801 at which this home is stated in the accounts at 31 December 2023.

(b) *Redhill Flatlets*

After the year end, the sale of the Redhill Flatlets was agreed, and the sale was completed on 29 May 2024. The gross sale proceeds were £950,000 and the net proceeds after deducting agents and legal expenses were £935,566. The sale price is materially above the net book value of £55,263 at which this home is stated in the accounts at 31 December 2023.

(c) *Swavesey Independent Living Apartments*

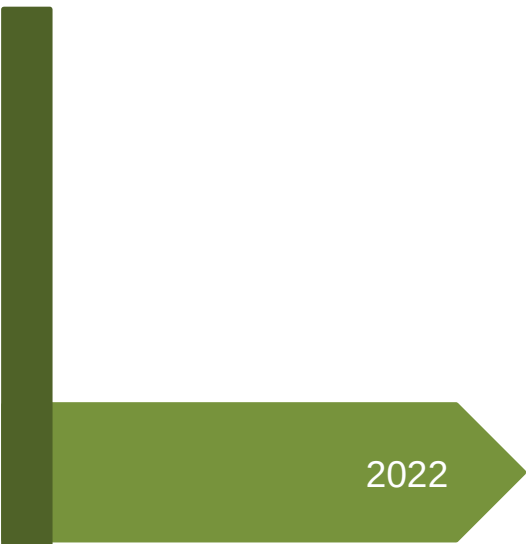
On 15 February 2024 a letter of intent was signed by the charity in respect of a proposed contract to construct the Swavesey Independent Living Apartments with Godfrey & Hicks Builders Ltd. The letter of intent confirmed the charity's intention to enter into a contract for a sum in the region of £1.4m excluding VAT, and instructed the builder to commence the works, and accepted a liability of up to £150,000 for costs reasonably incurred by the builder should the intended contract not be made.

END OF NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1199341

Accounts

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2022

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the period 29 September 2021 to 31 December 2022

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GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Registered Charity 1199341
Company Number 13651153

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Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

Trustees Annual Report to 31 December 2022

Introduction

The trustees (and directors) are pleased to present their report and financial statements for the period from incorporation of the charitable company on 29 September 2021 to 31 December 2022. The Trustees' report incorporates the Directors' report as required by company law.

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund, Company Number 13651153 (registered Charity 1199341), was formed as a private charitable company, limited by guarantee on 29 September 2021. The process of incorporation was completed on 30 December 2022 with all the assets and liabilities transferred as a going concern from the unincorporated Charitable Trust, also known as the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (registered charity 209376).

Under merger accounting rules, the attached financial statements report the underlying charitable activity for the 6 months to 31 December 2022, which follows on from the previous report and financial statements for the unincorporated charity, which were drawn up for the 18 month period to 30 June 2022. This is explained more fully at Notes 1(a) and 27 to the financial statements. This report therefore focuses on the activity in the 6 month period to 31 December 2022.

We would acknowledge the Lord's gracious help in leading and guiding us through this very complex area in changing the charitable status of the Bethesda organisation – although in the day-to-day routine in the Homes the changes has had very little noticeable effect.

Trustees/Directors and Officers of the Charity serving since 29 September 2021 and throughout 2022

Mr. M.D. Ridout (Chairman)
Mr. A.J. Collins (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. S.B. Cottingham
Mr. P.J. Pocock

Mr. J. B. Hart
Mr. R.A. Saunders
Mr. D.F. Stevens
Mr. R.W. Woodhams

Mr. A.J.H. Topping (General Manager/Company Secretary)
Miss S. Williamson (Registered Home Manager, Brighton)
Mrs. D. Scott (Registered Home Manager, Harpenden)

Objective of the Charity and how this is met

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (the Charity) provides accommodation, personal care and support to elderly persons who are members of Gospel Standard Strict and Particular Baptist churches, or who regularly attend Gospel Standard chapels and who have a wide range of personal care needs including, physical infirmity, loneliness and dementia. Current residents with increasing and progressive nursing requirements are provided with additional support in our homes by community/district nurses.

The Charity makes available four types of provision: permanent residency, short stays and day care together with independent living flatlets at Harpenden and Redhill.

The way Bethesda provides care and support for its residents is through understanding the background to their beliefs and lifestyle, which can be summarised in the following way:

In 1944 the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund was formed to provide a Christian Home for the elderly and infirm from the Gospel Standard group of Churches. The provision of this care and accommodation provided a spiritual and homely atmosphere for likeminded people.

The residents are Bible-believing Christians whose rule of life is the Gospel, and Bethesda strives to respect this in providing for their mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing.

The spiritual life of the Bethesda Homes centres around:

- Daily Bible reading and prayer.
- Chapel services which can be attended in person or listened to in the Homes.
- Prayer meetings and hymn singing organised in the Homes.

In addition, the Homes endeavour to match the previous lifestyle of the residents which would not have included, for example, television or visiting places such as theatres and cinemas.

The Bethesda Homes are rooted and grounded in the churches with which the residents were formerly associated. This means that residents in our Homes will often be living with lifelong friends and, in many cases, relatives as well. The management and staff of the Homes (some of whom are also from the same background) are supported by volunteers drawn from local Gospel Standard chapels which means residents living in the Homes can stay in contact with the people they knew prior to moving.

The Charity achieves its purpose through providing high quality care that meets the individual physical, mental and spiritual well-being of the residents which is delivered with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect. This is underpinned by ensuring that the Homes are well governed, led and managed to provide a framework for delivering high quality care centred on meeting the individual needs of the residents which includes;

- The residents are safe and free from harm,
- The residents, their families, staff and external agencies are confident that the Homes provide a secure and caring environment.
- The individual care needs of the residents are assessed, reviewed and monitored from pre-admission to end of life.
- Any concerns regarding the appropriateness of care provided are identified, listened to and acted upon.
- The care, treatment and support provided to the residents is delivered in a transparent and appropriate way by staff competent and confident to do so in facilities that are adapted, as appropriate, to meet individual needs so the health and well-being of residents is maintained and improved.
- Opportunities are available for residents, and others associated with the Homes, to provide feedback on the quality of care provided, as part of Bethesda's commitment to service improvement.

Governing Document

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund is a private charitable company, limited by guarantee registered with Companies House on 29 September 2021 and with the Charity Commission on 16 June 2022. It operates under its Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 29 September 2021.

Constitution and Organisational Structure

The Trustees of the Charity (also called Directors) have general control and management of the administration of the Charity and its property and funds, of which there must be a minimum of six and a maximum of twelve. The Trustees are responsible for the appointment of Trustees who become Members by virtue of their appointment as Trustees. No person other than a Trustee may be admitted as a Member. A Trustee serves for a period of three years after which they retire. A retiring Trustee may be re-appointed for a maximum of three consecutive terms of office including their initial term. At the end of 2022 there were eight Trustees.

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund has a Supporters Group who are invited to attend an Annual General Meeting. At the AGM the supporters will be invited to express their opinion on the following matters by means of a show of hands:

- a) The appointment of new trustees
- b) The reappointment of trustees standing for re-election
- c) The annual report and financial statements.

The Company Secretary supports the Trustees in the practical administration and governance of the Charity.

The General Manager has the responsibility for ensuring that the Bethesda Homes are managed effectively and in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements and is assisted in this by the management team of each Home.

Public Benefit

As a charitable organisation, Bethesda is required to demonstrate that there is an identifiable benefit to a section of the general public as a direct result of its activities in pursuit of its charitable aims. To this end the Charity's Trustees have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 having due regard to Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Bethesda's charitable objects are the relief of persons in need and, in particular, of elderly persons in need who are; a) sick or infirm; and b) either members of, or regularly attend, a Gospel Standard church/chapel, by alleviating their suffering or assisting with their recovery.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity and Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity at the year end and of its income and expenditure during that year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 required to keep proper accounting records which 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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Charity's governing documents. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Achievements and Outcome of activities

Charity overview

The trustees have in recent years identified the challenges facing Bethesda as:

- Maintaining the distinct identity and Christian ethos of Bethesda in an age of compromise and an increasing secular society,
- Maintaining the financial viability of Bethesda to ensure levels of care and support are sufficient to meet the individual needs of residents together with ensuring Bethesda's physical resources are fit for purpose,
- Responding to the changing needs of those in later life and seeking to provide accommodation and/or services that meet these needs, respect their independence and, where possible, allowing them to live near their place of worship,
- Recruiting staff (at all levels) who are in sympathy with the Christian ethos of Bethesda and lifestyle needs of our residents,
- Ongoing recovery from the impact of COVID-19.

Maintaining the viability of Bethesda - the trustees took the decision, in the fear of the Lord, in 2020 to increase the residents' fees to a more sustainable level, which involved a significant one-off adjustment and now fees are adjusted annually in line with inflation. At the same time, the trustees were helped to successfully negotiate with each local authority for full funding, for those residents supported by them, and this has continued through 2021 and into 2022. These negotiations were difficult and we desire to acknowledge the Lord's help and answers to many prayers.

The improved income was complemented by rigorous cost control measures to include budgeting, financial accountability and monthly reporting on performance. Essential improvements have been made in the Homes to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents, such as the complete replacement of the fire alarm system in the Harpenden Home, along with extensive rewiring works. Yet, the trustees are also conscious of the age of both of the Homes and the physical restrictions in providing the wide range of care needs for our residents. Thankfully, through the dedication of the staff, Bethesda continues to provide the personalised care needed for each of the residents.

The increasing cost and funding of adult social care, and in particular the future care provided in residential homes, has been acknowledged over the recent years by successive governments. Although attempts/proposals are being made to address the situation, there will still be sizeable costs associated with residential care. These will need to be met either through drawing on the assets of the residents and/or public funding.

A key component in maintaining the viability of Bethesda is occupancy. The decline in the number of chapels, and consequently potential residents for Bethesda, over the last 20 years has impacted on the number of residents living in the Homes. As mentioned in the 2019 AGM, in June 1998 there were, in England, 135 chapels listed in the Gospel Standard magazine; in June 2023, 25 years later, there were 79 chapels. On April 1, 2019, 37 of the 60 total places across the homes were occupied. This represented an occupancy of 62% (compared with 80% on April 1, 2018). By December 2022 Bethesda's occupancy was 10 out of 25 places at Harpenden and 12 out of 22 places at Brighton, the overall occupancy across the two homes being 49% (not including short stay residents).

The Trustees have also reviewed the 'exceptional entry criteria', to provide a way for applications from those who may have been previously associated with Gospel Standard churches to be considered. As part of this, nominated trustees meet with such applicants' and to discuss with them their desire to come into a Bethesda Home and also to confirm their agreement to the Gospel Standard Articles of Faith.

Providing appropriate accommodation and services for current and future beneficiaries -

After appropriate research and consultation with our supporters, the Trustees have shared their views on the future care provision by the Charity, if the Lord will.

At Open Meetings held in November 2019, the Trustees shared the concept of independent living accommodation (ILA). This would provide an environment to support those occupants with an independent residential facility through to the end of life thereby avoiding the need to move to a residential care home. Additionally, we seek to provide this accommodation near an existing place of worship. ILA is an approach being favoured by individuals in general and strongly encouraged by the government as the model for older person care combined with, as needed, a residential nursing/high dependency provision. Local Authorities have and are building ILA provisions and we have seen how they are now promoting these as an alternative to Residential Care (Care Homes) except in cases of extremity.

In the Lord's purposes, the trustees were led to purchase a plot at Swavesey to build the first independent living accommodation facility: an update report on this can be found below.

The future of the care home provision remains under careful and prayerful review.

Maintaining staffing levels in the Homes - If the challenges facing Bethesda had to be 'ranked' then (i) sustaining appropriate levels of management and staff to care for the residents and (ii) respecting the Christian ethos of the Homes would be uppermost. In the wider context, staffing is probably the biggest challenge for the care home sector, and a number of care providers (Local Authorities included) have recently been forced to close homes due to their inability to safely staff them, due to the lack of available staff.

Sadly, as mentioned previously, the decline in the numbers within the Gospel Standard congregations, together with career choices available, have impacted on staffing levels within Bethesda. Although working in healthcare settings may be attractive, the skills, compassion and dedication needed in a care environment should not be underestimated. We are thankful for the dedication of our existing staff within the Homes. We would encourage those from Gospel Standard congregations and likeminded individuals, who respect Bethesda's ethos and have a desire to serve the Lord's elderly people to prayerfully consider serving the residents in Bethesda. (Acts 16:9¹). We seek to provide flexible employment terms to facilitate those only able to offer, for example, one or two days per week.

Reviewing the Quality of our Service - We reported in December 2021 that Bethesda was looking to engage an external organisation to undertake unannounced 'mock inspections' of the two Homes. The aim would be to provide a 'snapshot' of the current state of readiness for any future CQC inspections, using their Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) framework. This exercise was to be an opportunity to use a 'second pair of eyes' as an 'outside view' to help Bethesda improve/build on its current working practices and systems to ensure focused high-quality care centred on the individual needs of the residents.

The 'mock inspections' took place in March 2022 for the Brighton Home and in April 2022 for the Harpenden Home. These activities identified that, although care remained 'good' in both Homes, there was a need for improvements across a range of administrative and governance areas including auditing and record keeping.

Detailed action plans were developed, and the Homes have been working through these with further external reviews taking place to monitor progress.

¹ "Come over into Macedonia, and help us".

Brighton Home

Building on the previous report issued in July 2022, we report on the Brighton Home as follows:

Since the beginning of 2022 we have had four new permanent residents - Miss. Eunice Risbridger, Mr. David Hickman, Mr. Alistair House and Mrs. Brenda Woodhams. There were six short stay residents during the year all benefiting from the rest and change.

Very sadly, five residents passed away during the year, Mr. Reginald Bradstock, Miss Beatrice Wickens, Mr. David Hickman, Mrs. Barbara Mercer and Mrs. Brenda Woodhams. Also, since January 2023, we have lost Mrs. Kathleen Bradstock. They are all lovingly missed, and our sincere condolences are offered to their families and friends. We do not forget that the staff who provided such loving care, often over many years, greatly feel the loss of those that have become their friends and we would remember them also in these bereavements.

During 2021 and 2022 we have been privileged to have six residents in the Brighton Home aged 100 years or over, Mrs. Ruby Poole, Mrs. Evelyn Snell, Miss Beatrice Wickens, Miss Mercie Haddow, Mr. Philip Drury and, more recently, Mrs. Kathleen Bradstock. This is a unique occurrence and a testament, under the good hand of the Lord, to the care given to each by the staff.

In December the Eastbourne Sunday School children were able to come and sing Christmas carols with the residents. In addition, we are thankful that local ministers have been able to make regular visits to the residents, and that the daily readings have been maintained throughout the period.

We wish to express our thanks to so many who have continued to support the Home in various ways, including at a coffee morning held at Wivelsfield Chapel Hall in November 2022 (which raised £1,799.75), the work done by volunteers with the hymn singing on a Saturday afternoon once a month, and the regular provision of home-made cakes for the residents.

During the year, the double bedroom, which was unoccupied, has been utilised as a 'quiet lounge' to support those living with dementia and as a visiting venue for larger family groups coming to see their loved ones.



Visit by Mill Cottage Farm



Mrs. Betty Burgess



Tea in the garden

Harpenden Home

Also building on the previous report issued in July 2022, we report on the Harpenden Home as follows:

Since the beginning of 2022 we have been pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. George and Jane Butcher, Mrs. Christine Lawson and Mrs. Mary Dawson. Since the beginning of 2023 we have been pleased to welcome Mrs. Frances Woodhams and Mrs. Rachel Hopwood.

During 2022 and since January 2023 we have sadly seen our friends Mrs. Pauline Watts, Mrs. Jane Butcher, Mrs. Joyce Baker, Mr. David Goodge, Mrs. Mary Brooks, Mrs. Beryl Kingham and Mrs. Frances Woodhams pass away, all of whom are greatly missed. Our sincere condolences are expressed to their families and friends. As with the Brighton Home, we would also wish to remember the staff in these losses.



There have been a number of friends who have made use of the Short Stay service for periods of rest and change.

In the last year or so in this Home we have noticed a sharp increase in those coming for support with dementia and end-of-life care and we felt it an honour to be able help in this way.

Mrs. Marion Haddow retired as Assistant Manager of the Home after many years of service in various capacities. We acknowledge with thankfulness her work on behalf of the residents over this time and desire that she may know the Lord's blessing in the coming years as spared.

We have been pleased to welcome Mr. Wayne Blinko who took up his duties as Assistant Manager in January 2022.

Since the beginning of 2022 we have been very pleased to welcome an increased number of visitors, which allowed activities to resume after the restrictions around COVID-19 were lifted, including the knitting group, slide presentations in the lounge and group outings.



Knitting group



Trip out to local friends



Mrs. Mary Brooks

Vacant Studley Property

After the period end, it was decided to sell the Studley Bethesda home, following its closure in 2021. The property was marketed at an initial guide price of £750,000 and a sale has been agreed (subject to contract). The agreed sale price is materially above the net book value at which this home was stated in the accounts at 31 December 2022.

Redhill Flatlets

A number of the Redhill flatlets have been occupied for much of the period, providing a useful additional income for the Charity. However, since the year end and at the time of writing (August 2023) only two of the flats are occupied, with no Bethesda residents. Very sadly, Mrs. Dorothy Sayers passed away unexpectedly during December 2021 and since year end our last Bethesda resident in the Redhill Flatlet's, Mrs. Rosie Mercer passed away. Our thoughts remain with both families.

We acknowledge with thankfulness the ongoing help of the warden and many others who contribute towards the maintenance and repairs of the building and who have supported the elderly friends living in the flatlets during times of need.

Harpenden Flatlets

During 2021, two of the three flatlets were occupied for at least part of the year. Miss Pat Lawrence who had lived in flatlet 1 for many years, passed away 31 January 2021 and although missed, she is now with her Lord, "which is far better."

During 2022 Mrs. Olive Goodge took up residence in Flat 2, and since the year end, Mr. George Butcher moved from the Home, taking up residence in Flatlet 1, meaning that all the Flatlets at Harpenden are currently occupied.

The ongoing assistance of the volunteers who support those living in the flatlets and contribute towards the maintenance and repairs of the flats are acknowledged with appreciation.

Swavesey Project

Following the purchase of 63 Middle Watch, Swavesey from the Parish family, in June 2021 the Trustees have sought, in the fear of the Lord, to take forward proposals to build Independent Living Apartments for beneficiaries of the Charity. We believe we saw the Lord's hand in guiding us to Saunders Boston, Architects of Cambridge, who have been most helpful and understanding of our needs. Working with them, plans were prepared and refined, taking into account all the various statutory and other requirements, a planning application was submitted and subsequently approved. We are now hoping, if the Lord will, that progress will be made so that work will commence on the site in the next few months.

Matters have not always been straightforward and we would acknowledge with thankfulness the Lord's guiding hand and appearing for us on many occasions in making a way where we could see none at the time.

Financial Review

As set out in the introduction to this report, the financial information in this document covers **six month** period from 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022. As with previous years, the full financial statements for the period have been published in a separate booklet.

The statement of financial activities shows that total income for the 6 month period was £804,150.

Three legacies were received during the 6 month period, including those from the estates of Mr. David Keeling and Miss B. Wickens to the total amount of £95,367. We would record our gratitude to the Lord for these provisions.

The investment income for the 6 month period was £21,593 compared with £22,557 for the whole of the previous 18 month period. This reflects the much improved interest rates now available to financial investments.

Income from Home residents' fees for the 6 month period was £644,756. During 2020, extensive negotiations were held with local authorities funding residents who agreed, without exception, to pay the full rates of our fees. This has continued in subsequent years, and as a consequence there have been reduced shortfalls for local authority funding and this has largely continued.

Expenditure on charitable activities for the 6 month period, which includes employment costs, was £798,074.

The cost of repairs and renewals during the same period, remains a significant investment at £40,436. The expenditure on building maintenance is in line with the Charity's policy on maintaining its properties in good condition and meeting all safety and registration requirements. Occasionally, heavy and unexpected repairs can suddenly become a necessity.

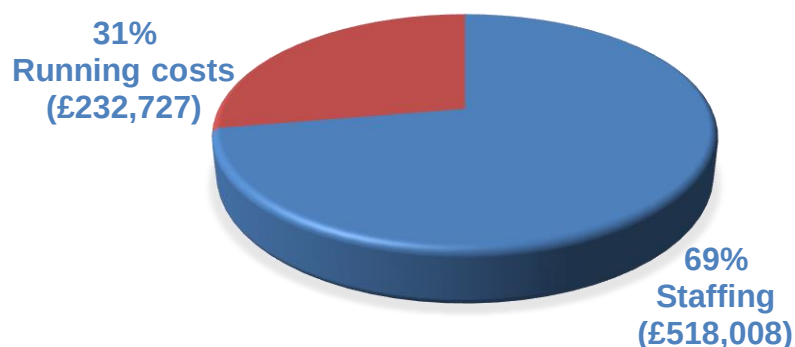
Summary of Financial Results for each Home for the 6 months to 31 December 2022

	Brighton	Harpenden	Studley	Total
	£	£	£	£
Residents' fees	360,158	284,598	-	644,756
Other income	5,715	5,477	-	11,192
Total income	365,873	290,075	-	655,948
Employment and agency costs	250,147	267,861	-	518,008
Depreciation	4,985	6,813	4,800	16,598
Hardware, cleaning and laundry	3,033	5,430	-	8,463
Insurance	5,752	6,366	2,995	15,113
Motor and travel	1,345	287	-	1,632
Power and heating	14,013	9,748	(437)	23,324
Provisions	12,432	12,871	-	25,303
Registration fees	4,085	4,085	-	8,170
Repairs and renewals	14,046	24,912	1,478	40,436
Staff training	662	285	-	947
Telephone, relay and internet	1,228	1,082	-	2,310
Water services	1,728	2,122	149	3,999
Council tax	765	1,401	1,827	3,993
Garden expenses	81	4,054	64	4,199
Medical supplies	2,669	377	-	3,046
Personal protective equipment	918	-	-	918
Postage & stationery	429	895	-	1,324
Waste collection	2,121	1,817	-	3,938
Sundry expenses	1,698	2,327	300	4,325
Central office support costs	31,867	36,213	4,346	72,426
Other costs	4,638	3,147	39	7,824
Total expenditure	358,642	392,093	15,561	766,296
Surplus (deficit) for year	£7,231	(£102,018)	(£15,561)	(£110,348)

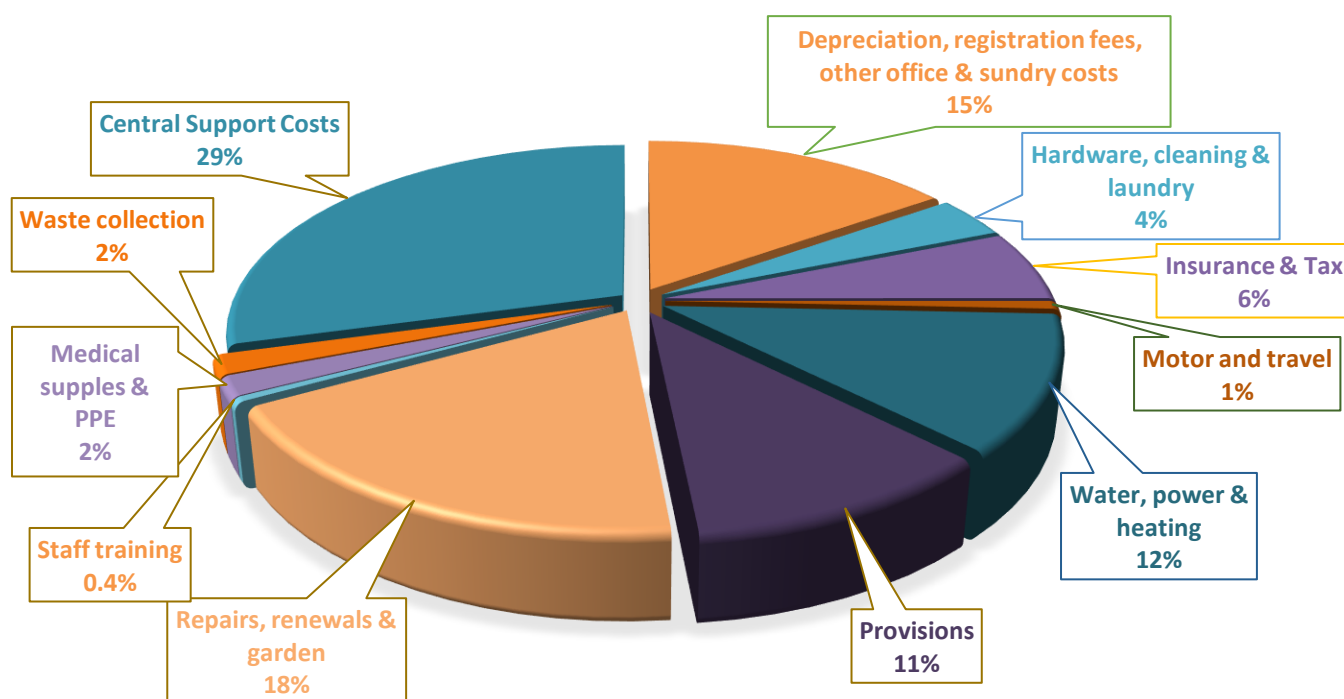
The overall deficit of running the three Homes for the 6 month period was £110,348.

As usual, the biggest single cost of running the Homes is that of staffing, representing 69% of the total operating expenditure, equating to 79% of our income being spent on staffing the Homes to ensure a safe, caring, effective and responsive service.

Home Running Costs (6 months - £750,735 excluding Studley)

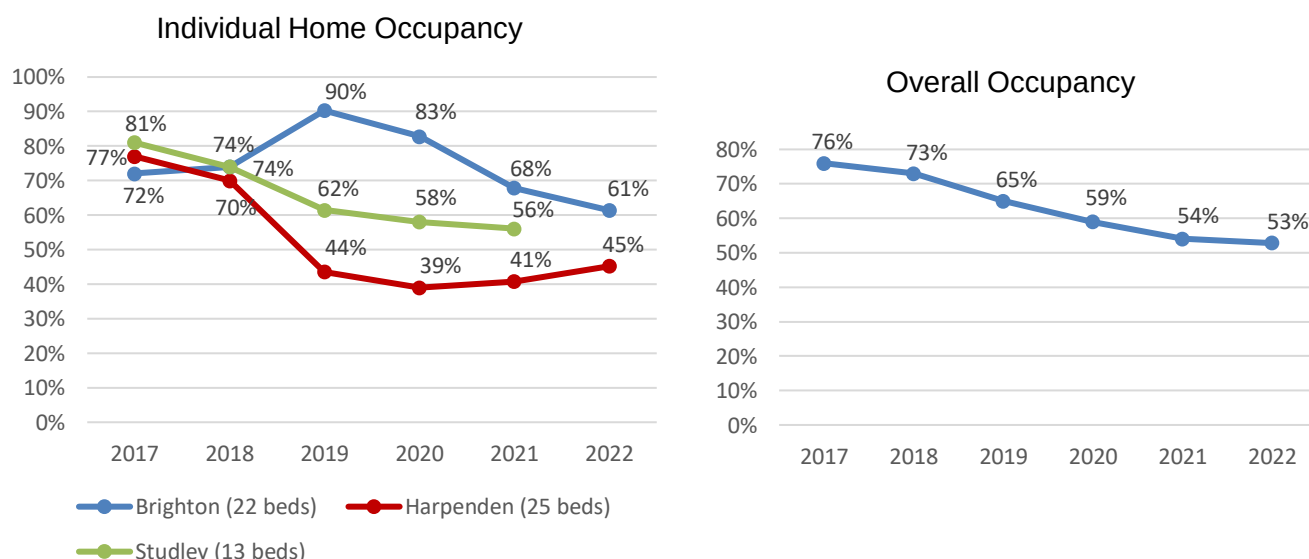


Of the 31% of running costs not associated with the Home's staffing costs, the remainder can be summarised as follows;



Occupancy

As has been commented many times in the past, occupancy is key to the financial viability of the Charity, and as the following graphs demonstrate, residency in the Homes has continued to drop overall, year on year, as demand for the Charity's service falls. Overall occupancy for the twelve months of 2022 stood at 52.8% (rounded up in the graph). Overall occupancy since 31 December 2022 (to July 2023) in the two homes was 47.4%.



By way of additional information the overall Homes results for the 12 months to 31 December 2022 are shown below:

	Brighton	Harpenden	Studley	Total
	£	£	£	£
Total income	718,376	596,771	2,017	1,317,164
Total expenditure	723,748	799,902	30,785	1,554,435
(Deficit) for year	(£5,372)	(£203,131)	(£28,768)	(£237,271)

Summary of Financial Results for the Flatlets for the 6 months to 31 December 2022

	Harpenden	Redhill	Swavesey	Total
	£	£	£	£
Residents fees	7,848	12,699	-	20,547
Total income	7,848	12,699	-	20,547
Cleaning, windows and waste	90	720	-	810
Council tax on unoccupied properties	672	1,658	2,044	4,374
Depreciation	2,647	1,663	-	4,310
Garden maintenance	721	692	-	1,413
Insurance	461	922	806	2,189
Power and heating	1,239	1,699	55	2,993
Repairs and renewals	391	686	-	1,077
Central office support costs	2,360	4,721	4,721	11,802
Other costs	408	401	-	809
Total expenditure	8,989	13,162	7,626	29,777
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(£1,141)	(£463)	(£7,626)	(£9,230)

At Harpenden, two of the flatlets were occupied for at least part of the 6 month period. The Harpenden flatlets show a deficit for the 6 month period of £1,141, which includes the £2,647 allocation for depreciation. This is mainly depreciation on buildings by accounting rules, but does not represent money spent annually out of the bank. Without the depreciation taken into account, income exceeded expenditure.

At Redhill, two of the flatlets are occupied by Bethesda residents (which has changed since yearend). However, several of the flats have been occupied by other people, thus producing an additional income. Overall, the Redhill flatlets are showing a deficit of £463, which includes £1,663 for the depreciation charge. Again, as with the Harpenden Flatlets, without depreciation being taken into account income exceeds expenditure.

Plans for the Future subject to the Lord's will

Independent living

The independent living project at Swavesey will continue to be developed as we work with our professional advisers and the local planning authorities.

Future structure of the Charity

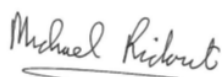
The future structure of the Charity, in terms of its service provision and accommodation, remains under continued prayerful consideration and we look to the Lord for guidance on the way forward in this.

Conclusion

As with the previous year 2022 was a period when the truth and significance of the words 'if the Lord will' continued to be proved in all the uncertainties of the way. We are thankful to the Lord that it has continued to be possible to maintain a provision for Lord's elderly people throughout this year.

The Lord knows what is before us and the pathway that He would have Bethesda to walk, and we pray that He will go before us, and that submission and wisdom might be given to know and do His will for the Charity. The prayers of all those with an interest in Bethesda for the Lord to appear and to guide the Trustees, support the managers, staff and residents, are felt more than ever to be needed at this time.

On behalf of the trustees



M. Ridout, Chairman

18/09/2023



Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

Appendix 1: Reference and Administrative Information

Name of Charity: Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Charity Number: 1199341

Company Number: 13651153

Trustees serving during the financial year and since the year end:

(Also known as the Bethesda Fund Committee)

Mr. M.D. Ridout (Chairman)

Mr. A.J. Collins (Vice-Chairman)

Mr. S.B. Cottingham

Mr. P.J. Pocock

Mr. J. B. Hart

Mr. R.A. Saunders

Mr. D.F. Stevens

Mr. R.W. Woodhams

Company Secretary: Mr. A.J.H. Topping

General Manager: Mr. A.J.H. Topping

Address of the Principal Office of the Charity:

Bethesda General Office

12(b) Roundwood Lane

Harpenden, Herts.

AL5 3BZ

Telephone: 01582 460522

Email: adriantopping@gsbf.uk

Connected Charity

The Piggott Charity is a "connected Charity" under the control of the Trustees of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund. It exists to help Residents of the Bethesda Homes who are in financial need to pay the cost of their care. Further information can be obtained from the General Manager.

Auditors: Begbies Chartered Accountants, 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4DJ

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc, 60 George Street, Luton, LU1 2BB

Solicitors: Ellis-Fermor & Negus, 2 Devonshire Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1BS

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

Appendix 3: Reserves Policy

Reserves Policy

As required by the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Paragraph 31 (e). This policy statement is the February 2022 review.

Definition

Reserves are that part of our general-purpose funds which do not need to be spent immediately and which are not committed or designated. They are the resources we have or can make available to spend on any our objectives once we have met our known commitments and covered any other planned expenditure. The reserves at any year end are represented by the net current assets shown in the Statement of Financial Activities less any expenditure contracted for or planned.

Reasons why the charity needs reserves

The charity has a commitment, not only to the present generation of Gospel Standard Strict Baptists, but also to a generation to come. The fees charged to our residents in the Bethesda Homes is the main income of the charity. However, past experience has shown that occupancy levels can fluctuate. A drop in occupancy levels results in a serious drain on our reserves. Legacy income is our second most important source of income but varies greatly year by year and can never be predicted. Legacy income is sometimes restricted for the benefit of one particular Home, and not therefore available for general purposes. The charity has no endowment funding and is therefore entirely dependent (apart from residents' fees) upon donor funding from year to year. Apart from the usual insurances, the charity has no protection against catastrophic or lesser but damaging events.

The level of reserves needed

The Committee considers that the charity should endeavour to hold, **as a minimum, free reserves amounting to "six months expenditure" in one year as stated in the last published Statement of Financial Activities**. However, from the past history of the charity, it is recognised that to state an absolute figure is not entirely appropriate, as from time to time, in the providence of God, major legacies and other resources have been received in times of need. The trustees are firmly convinced that the charity should be run on Scriptural lines, whereby they look to the Lord to provide for what they believe is His work, remembering that "the silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, saith the Lord of hosts" (Haggai 2.8); "He is their strength in the time of trouble" (Psalm 37.39). The trustees recognise that they have a responsibility for the continuing care of vulnerable residents in the Bethesda Homes.

How these reserves are to be maintained

Major property maintenance and improvement work will be planned and undertaken only as the objectives of this policy statement allow. All operational costs will be carefully monitored, in the case of the Homes, by the General Manager and Home Managers, and in the case of the Bethesda Flatlets and of support costs and management and administration costs, by the General Manager.

This policy will be reviewed by the trustees at least annually, usually in January as part of the Business planning process.

Free reserves at Year-end

The free reserves at the year-end amount to £1,600,280. Therefore, free reserves excess over required expenditure is 97.7% which is satisfactory.

There is no contractual commitment to expenditure for planned works in 2023.

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

Appendix 4: Risks Management Policy

Risks Management Policy

This policy constitutes the 'Risks Management Policy' as required by the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Paragraph 31 (g).

General policy statement

It is the policy of the Bethesda Fund Committee that all risks associated with the Charity's activities be minimised by the implementation of risk management and prevention systems or procedures. The Committee will ensure that all significant risks are identified, assessed and monitored.

Major risks identified

The Committee has identified the most serious risks to the charity and recorded these in the Risks Register.

How the policy is to be maintained

Each component part of this policy is clearly delegated to either the Committee as trustees, other officers of the charity or members of staff. The Committee adopts the principle that effective risk management is the responsibility of all levels of management and staff.

Arrangements for monitoring and reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed by the trustees at least annually, usually in January, with any changes to the Risk Register notified to them quarterly.

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

Appendix 5: Investment Policy

Investment Policy

As required by the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Paragraph 31 (e). This policy statement is the February 2022 review.

Objectives in investing the charity's funds

The objectives of the trustees are:

- i) to ensure that the funds are properly protected: that is, that the capital is not put at risk and will be protected against inflation as far as is reasonably practical.
- ii) to obtain the best income from those funds (consistently with the above) with which to carry out the charity's purposes.

Powers of investment

The Charity Commission Scheme under which the charity operates contains no specific powers of investment. The charity's investments will, therefore, be governed by the Trustee Investments Act 1961.

Risk profile

The trustees are willing only to accept investments classified as low risk.

Policy statement

The trustees invest the charity's funds in two principal ways. First, freehold property is held to provide homes for the elderly and infirm in accordance with the objectives of the charity. Over the years freehold property has been shown to hold its value against inflation. Such property is maintained in a good state of repair. Second, surplus funds are maintained in deposit accounts with reputable banks, building societies, and common deposit funds, which may, or may not, include money-market deposits, normally in at least three different entities. From time to time the trustees may consider investing in government stocks. The trustees do not invest in ordinary shares of quoted companies owing to the difficulty in finding companies which maintain ethical and moral standards which are consistent with the Scriptures.

Investment advice

The Charity is currently going through a transitional period where its capital will be needed for development, and as such it is currently held in short term investments. Once decisions have been made in respect of new properties the need for financial advice in investing any residual funds will then be reviewed.

Arrangements for monitoring and reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed by the trustees at least annually, usually in January as part of the Business planning process. Maturing bonds will be reinvested promptly.

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 1199341

Appendix 6: Policy Statement on paying staff

Policy Statement on Paying Staff

How we decide how much to pay our staff

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund ('The Bethesda Fund') is committed to ensuring that we pay and reward our staff fairly and in a way which ensures we attract and retain the right skills to have the greatest impact in delivering our charitable objectives.

In accordance with the SORP:-

- Disclose the number of staff in receipt of more than £60,000 and above (in bands of £10,000)
- Disclose pensions and other benefits

The Bethesda Fund Committee ('The Committee') meets annually to set the pay for all staff. The General Manager is in attendance for the meeting (leaving for the discussion regarding the General Manager's remuneration).

The main responsibilities of the Committee in respect of setting pay are to:-

- review the level of the Bethesda Fund salaries and wages against an agreed independent market benchmarking tool and make sure amendments are appropriate to ensure that salaries and wages remain competitive
- determine the remuneration package of the General Manager, Home Managers and Deputy Managers
- approve the annual percentage increase in the payroll for all staff (which can be zero) taking into account CPIH as at 31 October for the previous year.
- approve any consolidated pay awards and staff salary increases outside of the annual review process as recommended from time to time by the General Manager.
- determine pension arrangements and
- ensure that contractual terms on termination are fair to the individual and the charity, that poor performance is not rewarded and a duty to mitigate loss is recognised.

In determining the Bethesda Fund's remuneration policy the Committee takes into account all factors which are deemed necessary. The appropriateness and relevance of the remuneration policy is reviewed annually ensuring the Bethesda Fund remains sensitive to the broader issues e.g. pay and employment conditions elsewhere.

We aim to recruit, subject to experience, at the lower – medium point within a band, providing scope to reward excellence. We pay at or above the national living wage for all our staff.

Delivery of the Bethesda Fund's charitable vision and purpose is primarily dependent on our staff which is the largest single element of charitable expenditure. In 2022 the Bethesda Fund made adjustments to wages to reflect inflationary increases and the national living wage requirements.

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Financial Statements

**for the period from
incorporation of the charitable company
on 29 September 2021
to 31 December 2022**

*(showing the charity operating results for the
6 months to 31 December 2022 under merger accounting rules)*

Charity number 1199341

Company number 13651153 registered in England and Wales

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Company registered office address:

Bethesda General Office

12(b) Roundwood Lane

Harpenden

Herts

AL5 3BZ

Financial Statements for the period from

29 September 2021 to 31 December 2022

(showing the charity operating results for the

6 months to 31 December 2022 under merger accounting rules)

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Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for prior period	7
Balance Sheet	8
Statement of Cash Flows	9
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***The Annual Report for 2022, along with these financial statements, are
available together from the address above.***

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (the 'charitable company') for the period ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and its industry, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: employment regulation, health and safety regulation, anti-money laundering regulation, and non-compliance with implementation of government support schemes relating to Covid-19.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- Enquiries and confirmation of management and those charged with governance as to their identification of any non-compliance with laws or regulations, or any actual or potential claims;
- Inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations to the engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and

- Considering the risk of acts by the charitable company which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In addition, we evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements, including the risk of management override of controls, and determined that the principal risks related to income recognition and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Review of minutes of Board meetings throughout the period;
- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- In relation to the risk of management override of internal controls, by undertaking procedures to review journal entries and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.


Begbies

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Unit 14, Park Barn, Evegate Business Park, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SX

21/9/2023

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Statement of Financial Activities from 29 September 2021 to 31 December 2022 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

showing the charity operating results for the 6 month period to 31 December 2022
under merger accounting rules (see Notes 1(a) and 27)

	Note	----Unrestricted funds----		Restricted funds	Total funds
		General	Designated		2022
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	102,229	-	6,214	108,443
Charitable activities	4	671,635	-	2,479	674,114
Investments	5	13,403	7,813	377	21,593
Total		787,267	7,813	9,070	804,150
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7-8	11,265	-	-	11,265
Charitable activities	7-13	788,497	1,721	7,856	798,074
Total		799,762	1,721	7,856	809,339
Net income/(expenditure)		(12,495)	6,092	1,214	(5,189)
Transfers between funds	14,23	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(12,495)	6,092	1,214	(5,189)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		3,112,170	1,056,708	50,460	4,219,338
Total funds carried forward		£3,099,675	£1,062,800	£51,674	£4,214,149

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Comparative figures for the prior period

Statement of Financial Activities for the 18 months ended 30 June 2022

(including Income and Expenditure Account)

(see Notes 1(a) and 27 regarding merger accounting)

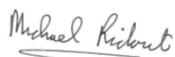
	Note	----Unrestricted funds----		Restricted funds	Total funds
		General	Designated		2022
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	498,139	-	82,859	580,998
Charitable activities	4	2,340,050	-	-	2,340,050
Investments	5	17,419	2,292	2,846	22,557
Total		2,855,608	2,292	85,705	2,943,605
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7-8	27,004	-	-	27,004
Charitable activities	7-13	1,752,390	1,516	940,536	2,694,442
Total		1,779,394	1,516	940,536	2,721,446
Net (expenditure)/income		1,076,214	776	(854,831)	222,159
Transfers between funds	14	(1,029,428)	1,029,428	-	-
Net movement in funds		46,786	1,030,204	(854,831)	222,159
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		3,065,384	26,504	905,291	3,997,179
Total funds carried forward		£3,112,170	£1,056,708	£50,460	£4,219,338

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND
(Charity number 1199341 - Company number 13651153)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	31 December 2022 £	30 June 2022 (see Note 27) £
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	15-17	<u>1,499,395</u>	<u>1,483,504</u>
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		<u>1,499,395</u>	<u>1,483,504</u>
Current assets:			
Debtors	18	119,273	97,666
Investments	19	2,504,074	2,520,970
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>235,577</u>	<u>250,408</u>
<i>Total current assets</i>		2,858,924	2,869,044
Liabilities:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	20	<u>(144,170)</u>	<u>(133,210)</u>
<i>Net current assets</i>		<u>2,714,754</u>	<u>2,735,834</u>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		<u>4,214,149</u>	<u>4,219,338</u>
Total net assets		<u>£4,214,149</u>	<u>£4,219,338</u>
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted -			
General	21	3,099,675	3,112,170
Designated	21,23	1,062,800	1,056,708
Restricted income funds	21,22	<u>51,674</u>	<u>50,460</u>
Total charity funds		<u>£4,214,149</u>	<u>£4,219,338</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 18 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



M. RIDOUT, Chairman

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND
Statement of Cash Flows for the 6 month period ended 31 December 2022
(see Notes 1(a) and 27 regarding merger accounting)

		<i>6 months to 31 December 2022 £</i>	<i>18 months to 30 June 2022 £</i>
Cash flows from operating activities:			
<i>Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities</i>	24(a)	<u>(15,172)</u>	<u>342,610</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest and rents from investments		21,593	22,557
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		4,700	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		<u>(42,848)</u>	<u>(531,244)</u>
<i>Net cash (used in) investing activities</i>		<u>(16,555)</u>	<u>(508,687)</u>
<i>Change in cash & cash equivalents in reporting period</i>		(31,727)	(166,077)
Cash & cash equivalents at start of reporting period		<u>2,771,378</u>	<u>2,937,455</u>
Cash & cash equivalents at end of reporting period	24(b)	<u>£2,739,651</u>	<u>£2,771,378</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE 6 MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting Policies

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund is a private company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 29th September 2021. It is also registered with the Charity Commission as a charity and is a public benefit entity. It was set up to take forward in a corporate structure the work of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund, which was an unincorporated charity established in 1944.

(a) Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Articles of Association, and applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, FRS 102 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice SORP (FRS 102) (2nd edition) published by the Charity Commission in 2019.

Merger accounting: As mentioned above, the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund was previously an unincorporated charity but changed its legal form by a transfer of all its assets, liabilities and undertaking to a charitable company of the same name on 30 December 2022. The purposes and beneficiary class of the charity remain unchanged, hence accounting rules require that this reconstruction of the charity be treated as a merger for accounting purposes.

Merger accounting involves aggregating the assets, liabilities and funds of the old unincorporated charity and the new charitable company, and presenting them as though they had always been part of the same reporting charity. Although the actual transfer into the charitable company took place on 30 December 2022, the accounts must be drawn up to include the results of both entities for the whole of the reporting period in which the merger occurred.

Since the transfer occurred on the last weekday of the accounting period, virtually all amounts of income and expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities relate to the period pre-merger. No operating activity was conducted in the charitable company until after the transfer on 30 December 2022, so all income and expenditure prior to this date related only to the unincorporated charity, and all amounts after that date relate to the charitable company.

The charitable company had no net assets and no funds pre-merger, all assets and funds are from the unincorporated charity. No adjustment or changes to accounting policies have been made as a result of the merger; the carrying amount of assets and liabilities have not been restated to market value but remain at their original cost (subject to depreciation where applicable); restricted and unrestricted funds have not been adjusted but continue on the same basis as pre-merger.

(b) **Going concern**

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate and have identified no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of 12 months from the date of approval of the Financial Statements.

(c) **Income**

Voluntary income, including donations, Gift Aid, and chapel collections, is recognised in the period in which the income is received.

Investment income and rent is recognised on a receivable basis.

Legacies are accounted for as income either upon receipt or where the receipt of the legacy is probable. Receipt is normally probable when:

- there has been a grant of probate
- the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate, after settling any liabilities, to pay the legacy; and
- any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.

Legacies which have been notified, but are not recognised as income in the Statement of Financial Activities, are disclosed within the note 'Donations and legacies' with an estimate (if possible) of the amount receivable.

Fees from residents in the care homes and flatlets are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided.

Government grants are not recognised in income until there is reasonable assurance that (a) any attached conditions will be satisfied, and (b) the grants will be received. Grants are recognised using the performance model such that a grant without future performance-related conditions is recognised in income when it is receivable, and other grants are recognised when the future performance-related conditions are met. Grants received before the revenue recognition criteria are satisfied are shown as a liability.

(d) **Income tax recoverable**

Any income tax due to be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue on donations made under Gift Aid or income tax deducted from interest received net of basic rate tax, has been brought into these financial statements as a debtor.

(e) **Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, that is, when a liability is incurred. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

Support costs are costs incurred in support of both income generation, charitable activities, and governance, as shown in the note 'Allocation of support costs.' These costs comprise a proportion of central office staff, information systems and internal accounting costs, and costs relating to the premises. Also included is a proportion of the management and administration costs in the Bethesda Homes and servicing of the Homes' premises.

Governance costs are costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity which relate to the general running of the charity as distinct from those costs associated with its charitable activities. They include the cost of meeting constitutional and statutory requirements, audit fees, legal fees, and a proportion of central office costs.

(f) **Pension scheme contributions**

Contributions payable to the Charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. For further information see the note 'Employee information.'

(g) **Capitalisation and depreciation of tangible fixed assets**

Freehold properties

Freehold properties are carried in the accounts at their original cost. Depreciation is provided to write down the original cost of the buildings, and the cost of later permanent additions and improvements, on a straight-line basis over a period of fifty years. No depreciation is charged on freehold land.

Equipment

Due to the large number of fixed assets owned and used by the charity, our policy is to recognise within the assets register only those assets that cost more than £1,000. Numerous items purchased at the same time costing in total more than £1,000 but each item individually costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised. This policy of depreciation applies only to assets acquired after January 1990; all equipment acquired before that date has been written off completely in previous accounting periods.

Equipment in the Homes and Flatlets costing more than £1,000 is capitalised and written off on a straight-line basis over a period of five years, and is shown in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation, the annual depreciation being charged as a running cost of the Homes and Flatlets. Equipment in the Homes and Flatlets costing less than £1,000 is not capitalised but is written off in the year of acquisition as an expense, being charged directly to the running costs of the Homes and Flatlets under 'Repairs and renewals.'

Equipment in the Bethesda General Office at Harpenden costing more than £1,000 is capitalised and written off on a straight-line basis over a period of five years, and is shown in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation, the annual depreciation being charged as a running cost under 'Central office costs.'

Equipment in the Bethesda General Office costing less than £1,000 is written off as an expense in the year of acquisition, being charged to 'Central office costs' under 'Repairs and maintenance.'

Motor vehicles

Motor vehicles are written off at 25% per annum on a reducing balance.

(h) **Transactions with trustees and related parties**

No trustees received any remuneration for their services as a trustee. Three trustees (30.6.2022: 3 trustees) were reimbursed travel expenses totalling £321 (30.6.2022: £1,045 which also included subsistence and copier costs). Expense reimbursements were waived by some trustees; the amounts were not material. Purchases were made from Staverton Nursery Ltd, a company in which Sam Cottingham, a trustee, has an interest, totalling £57 for groceries (30.6.2022: £940 for garden furniture and £230 for groceries) these amounts being at cost without markup. Besides the disclosures in these financial statements, no trustee or connected persons had any beneficial interest in any material contract, transaction or arrangement with the Charity during the period.

(i) **Indemnity insurance**

The charity carries a comprehensive insurance package provided by Travelers Insurance. Engineering Insurance and Inspection is provided by Allianz Insurance, Trustees Liability by Catlin Insurance via Angel Risk Management Ltd., Group Personal Accident by Chubb Insurance, Cyber & Data Risks by Lloyd's via CFC Underwriting Ltd., and Motor Vehicle Insurance by QBE Insurance.

(j) **Stocks of foods and other supplies**

Stocks held at the period end have not been brought into these Financial Statements, as the amounts held are relatively insignificant.

(k) **Funds**

Unrestricted funds - these comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds that are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds - these are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees at their discretion from the general funds for specific purposes.

Restricted funds - these comprise funds subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors and funders.

Further details of the nature and purpose of each fund are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Surplus cash is held on fixed term deposits. Deposits maturing in less than one year are recognised as current investments and those that mature in more than one year from the period end are recognised as fixed investments.

2 Statement of Financial Activities

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all income, gains, expenditure and losses recognised for the reporting period. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

3 Donations and legacies

	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Total (6 months) 31.12.22</i>	<i>Total (18 months) 30.6.22</i>
	£	£	£	£
Collections & donations from chapels:				
For general purposes	5,443	-	5,443	10,374
For specific Homes	-	-	-	1,297
For assisting short-stay residents	-	1,465	1,465	3,060
Personal donations & subscriptions:				
For general purposes	1,311	-	1,311	29,769
For general purposes - Gift Aid	2,475	-	2,475	18,881
For specific Homes	-	2,310	2,310	5,738
For specific Homes - Gift Aid	-	-	-	8
Home collecting boxes	-	72	72	125
Total	9,229	3,847	13,076	69,252
Legacies received:				
Mrs B Chilton	-	-	-	500
Mrs I S Ford	-	-	-	1,250
Mr S E George	-	-	-	113,356
Miss D Gibb	-	-	-	931
Miss M Haddow	-	-	-	621
Mrs J Harrison	-	-	-	1,573
Miss P Hunt	-	-	-	3,840
Mr D Keeling	33,000	-	33,000	184,000
Miss P Lawrance	-	-	-	65,000
Mrs J Painter	-	-	-	135,988
Mrs R Poole	-	-	-	4,187
Mrs M Woodhams	-	-	-	500
Miss B Wickens	60,000	-	60,000	-
Other	-	2,367	2,367	-
Total	93,000	2,367	95,367	511,746
Total	£102,229	£6,214	£108,443	£580,998

3 Donations and legacies (continued)

The legacies below have been advised to the Charity as receivable after the period end:

Mr D Keeling: Balance of a residuary share in the estate, the final amount is unknown.

Mrs B Mercer: Legacy of £5,000.

Miss B Wickens: Balance of a residuary share in the estate amounting to £45,953.

For an explanation of when legacies are recognised as income see Note 1(c).

4 Income from charitable activities

	<i>Total</i> <i>(6 months)</i> 31.12.22	<i>Total</i> <i>(18 months)</i> 30.6.22
	£	£
Fees from residential care homes	644,756	2,177,973
Fees from flatlets	20,547	54,721
Staff board charges	5,661	17,749
Covid-19 government grants	-	87,564
Sundry receipts	3,150	2,043
	<u>£674,114</u>	<u>£2,340,050</u>

5 Investment income

	<i>Unrestricted</i> <i>funds</i>	<i>Restricted</i> <i>funds</i>	<i>Total</i> <i>(6 months)</i> 31.12.22	<i>Total</i> <i>(18 months)</i> 30.6.22
	£	£	£	£
Interest on short-term deposits	19,966	377	20,343	18,807
Use of bookroom	<u>1,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>3,750</u>
	<u>£21,216</u>	<u>£377</u>	<u>£21,593</u>	<u>£22,557</u>

The bookroom within the Bethesda General Office, Harpenden is occupied by The Gospel Standard Trust as its publications centre. As the fair value of the investment property component cannot be measured reliably, the entire property is accounted for within tangible fixed assets and not under investments.

Related Party Transactions note: The Gospel Standard Trust was a Custodian Trustee of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund and held in trust all of the charity's freehold properties until, following the incorporation of the charity, these became held directly by the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund.

6 Transactions with The Piggott Charity

No grants were received in either the current or prior period from The Piggott Charity towards assisting underfunded residents. The Piggott Charity is a 'connected charity.' The trustees of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund are also trustees of The Piggott Charity. However, the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund does not exercise any dominant influence over The Piggott Charity. The Piggott Charity makes grants at its own discretion to the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund. Therefore, based on this, no consolidated accounts are prepared. For further information see notes on 'Designated funds' and 'Restricted funds.'

7 Analysis of expenditure

	<i>Direct costs</i>	<i>Governance & support costs</i>	<i>Total (6 months) 31.12.22</i>	<i>Total (18 months) 30.6.22</i>
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds	-	11,265	11,265	27,004
Charitable activities:				
Running costs of care homes	594,394	167,698	762,092	2,603,180
Running costs of flatlets	17,975	11,802	29,777	87,060
Future development fund	-	1,721	1,721	1,516
Short-stay residents' fund	4,204	280	4,484	2,686
	616,573	181,501	798,074	2,694,442
Total	£616,573	£192,766	£809,339	£2,721,446

'Raising funds' is the term required by accounting rules to be used for expenditure in relation to dealing with donations, grants, legacies, subscriptions and management of investments, hence a proportion of costs are allocated under this caption.

8 Allocation of Governance and support costs

Support costs comprise costs incurred in support of both income generation, charitable activities, and governance, as shown below. These costs comprise a proportion of central office staff, information systems and internal accounting costs, and costs relating to the premises. Also included is a proportion of the management and administration costs in the Bethesda Homes and Flatlets and the servicing of the buildings.

Governance costs are those for the governance arrangements of the charity. These include audit, legal advice for trustees and costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as trustee meetings and preparing statutory accounts. Governance costs are not shown separately in the Statement of Financial Activities but are instead included as a sub-category of support costs and allocated to activities along with the other support costs. Governance costs are shown in Note 9.

	<i>Staff costs</i>	<i>Other costs</i>	<i>Total (6 months) 31.12.22</i>	<i>Total (18 months) 30.6.22</i>
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds	5,164	6,102	11,266	27,004
Charitable activities:				
Care homes	117,311	50,387	167,698	510,640
Flatlets	4,785	7,017	11,802	25,719
Future development fund	856	865	1,721	1,516
Subsidies: short-stay residents	45	235	280	379
Total Governance & support costs	£128,161	£64,606	£192,767	£565,258

9 Governance costs

	<i>Total (6 months) 31.12.22</i>	<i>Total (18 months) 30.6.22</i>
	£	£
Audit fees incl disbursements	13,001	9,568
Advertising and Website costs	7	65
Bank charges	560	1,988
Committee members' expenses	321	1,046
Printing	36	1,087
Legal and professional costs	7,909	28,955
Management and finance staff costs	12,169	36,014
Administrative office, travel & other costs	4,629	14,233
	£38,632	£92,956

10 Subsidies paid for short-stay residents

During the period 11 residents coming into a Bethesda Home for a short stay obtained discounts from full fee rates funded by the Short-Stay Fund (30.6.2022: 4 residents). During the period the Short-Stay Fund was supported by two (30.6.2022: 6) chapel collections.

11 Assistance towards residents' fees

Fee subsidies amounting to £607 (30.6.2022: £9,892) were given to residents supported by Local Authorities under the Community Care Act in cases where the maximum amount paid by the Local Authority was less than the Bethesda fee. These were funded from the General Fund. During the period three residents were assisted in this way: one resident at the Brighton Home and two at Harpenden Home (30.6.2022: 7 residents).

During the period contributions amounting to £144,795 (30.6.2022: £353,006) were received from Local Authorities towards residents' fees.

12 Ex gratia payments

	(6 months) 31.12.22 £	(18 months) 30.6.22 £
Honoraria payments	-	2,500
Gift vouchers to volunteers and leavers	-	210
	£-	£2,710

No honoraria payments in the period were made to people who assist the charity in various ways (30.6.2022: 4 payments in the range of £500 to £800). No payments for gift vouchers were made for volunteers and leavers in the period (30.6.2022: 6 amounts totalling £210). In some cases such payments, or part of the payments, have been used by the recipients to defray expenses incurred in rendering services to the charity.

13 Employee information

The average number of care home staff employed during the period, including part time workers, was 63 (30.6.2022: 69). The number of management and administration staff at the Bethesda General Office was 2 (30.6.2022: 2). Staff costs were as follows:

	(6 months) 31.12.22	(18 months) 30.6.22
	£	£
Wages and salaries	457,190	1,586,778
Social security costs	36,727	112,322
Pension costs	11,558	35,783
Agency workers	56,703	141,081
Statutory redundancy payments	-	59,661
	£562,178	£1,935,625
Cost of raising funds - support costs	5,164	14,321
Costs relating to charitable activities:		
Care homes - direct costs	434,017	1,518,138
Care homes - support costs	117,311	390,117
Flatlets - support costs	4,785	12,072
Future development fund - support costs	856	844
Short-stay Fund - support costs	45	133
	£562,178	£1,935,625

Redundancy payments are accounted for in the period in which the redundancies take effect and no unpaid amounts were outstanding at 31 December 2022.

No employee earned at a rate of £60,000 per annum or more in either period. Premiums of £640 for the 6 months (18 months to 30.6.2022: £1,920) were paid into a private pension plan held by 1 officer (30.6.2022: 1 officer). Employers premiums of £10,918 (30.6.2022: £34,420) were payable into 'The People's Pension' scheme administered by B&CE Insurance Ltd. which is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. This is an auto-enrolment scheme which commenced in October 2015.

Key management personnel are identified as the General Manager and 2 Home Managers (before the Studley Home closure in 2021 there were 3 Home Managers). The compensation for the 6 month period of these staff members amounts to £63,746 (18 months to 30.6.2022: £236,954) including remuneration, termination payments and all benefits paid. The Home Manager of the Harpenden Home, Debbie Scott, is daughter in law to Trevor Scott, who was a trustee until his resignation in 2021. Regulations require that each of the care Homes has a registered Manager. Each Home Manager's remuneration is decided with due reference to current market rates and the prevailing economic climate.

14 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities by virtue of Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010.

15 Freehold land and buildings

(a) *Holding trustee*

The freeholds of the Bethesda Homes and Flatlets and the Bethesda General Office were previously held by the custodian trustee, The Gospel Standard Trust, but are now held directly by the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund.

(b) *Net book value*

The Trustees consider that the open market value of the freehold land and buildings is in excess of the net book value at which they are shown in the Balance Sheet.

(c) *Note concerning the Brighton and Hove Home*

The Gospel Standard Baptist Library is situated within the grounds of the Brighton & Hove Bethesda Home. The cost of the library building, which was erected in 1980 and extended in 2003, was met entirely from the funds of the library. There has been no formal agreement with the trustees of the library and no ground rent or similar payments have been received.

15 Freehold land and buildings (continued)

	Bethesda Homes £	Bethesda Flatlets £	Office Premises £	Total £
COST				
At start of period	1,300,371	970,316	125,019	2,395,706
Additions	-	16,841	-	16,841
At end of period	1,300,371	987,157	125,019	2,412,547
DEPRECIATION				
At start of period	670,921	209,365	59,584	939,870
Charge for period	11,885	3,806	1,242	16,933
At end of period	682,806	213,171	60,826	956,803
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31.12.22	£617,565	£773,986	£64,193	£1,455,744
At 30.06.22	£629,450	£760,951	£65,435	£1,455,836

Included within the cost of freehold property is land of £181,523 (30.6.2022: £181,523) which is not depreciated. The cost of Bethesda Flatlets includes £537,665 (30.6.2022: £520,824) for acquisition of a site at Swavesey plus professional fees incurred subsequently, where it is intended to build apartments; no depreciation is charged until the apartments have been completed.

16 Equipment and motor vehicles

	Equipment in Homes £	Equipment in Flatlets £	Office Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
COST					
At start of period	242,190	14,914	6,082	60,811	323,997
Additions	3,307	-	-	22,700	26,007
Disposals	-	-	-	(33,524)	(33,524)
At end of period	245,497	14,914	6,082	49,987	316,480
DEPRECIATION					
At start of period	219,314	13,406	5,759	57,850	296,329
Charge for period	5,663	503	108	1,200	7,474
Less: Disposals	-	-	-	(30,974)	(30,974)
At end of period	224,977	13,909	5,867	28,076	272,829
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31.12.22	£20,520	£1,005	£215	£21,911	£43,651
At 30.06.22	£22,876	£1,508	£323	£2,961	£27,668

17 Tangible assets

	31.12.22 £	30.6.22 £
Freehold land and buildings	1,455,744	1,455,836
Equipment and motor vehicles	43,651	27,668
	<u>£1,499,395</u>	<u>£1,483,504</u>

18 Debtors

	31.12.22	30.6.22
	£	£
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid	1,715	1,602
Interest accrued on short-term deposits	7,885	2,818
Gospel Standard Trust - use of bookroom	3,253	1,446
Prepayments and accrued income	28,407	40,268
Residents' fees receivable	78,013	51,532
	£119,273	£97,666

19 Investments: short-term deposits

	31.12.22	30.6.22
	£	£
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cambridge & Counties Bank 95 day notice account	492,842	487,541
Charity Bank easy access account	3,025	202,009
Close Brothers 95 day notice account	529,152	527,478
COIF Charities deposit fund	227,335	423,956
Hampshire Trust Bank 45 day notice account	351,714	351,714
United Trust Bank one year bond	300,006	-
United Trust Bank six month bond	300,000	528,272
United Trust Bank 200 day account	300,000	-
	£2,504,074	£2,520,970

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31.12.22	30.6.22
	£	£
Accrued expenses	24,922	8,241
Accrued holiday pay	11,452	22,734
Financial services fees	15,185	9,384
PAYE & NIC due to HMRC	16,759	14,590
Pension premiums due	4,245	3,742
Deferred government grant income	59,392	59,392
Residents' fees repayable or paid in advance	6,379	1,583
Trade creditors	5,836	13,544
	<u>£144,170</u>	<u>£133,210</u>

Government grant income shown above as deferred at the period end is for grants received but not yet confirmed whether the attached grant conditions will be satisfied. The accounting policy on government grants is detailed at Note 1(c). The movement on the deferred income account is as follows:

	31.12.22	30.6.22
	£	£
Deferred income at start of period	59,392	27,619
Of which: Released to income in current period	-	(23,856)
Repaid to grantor in current period	-	(3,763)
Income deferred in current period	<u>-</u>	<u>59,392</u>
Deferred income at end of period	<u>£59,392</u>	<u>£59,392</u>

21 Net asset analysis by fund

	----Unrestricted funds----		Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Designated	General		31.12.22	30.6.22
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible	-	1,499,395	-	1,499,395	1,483,504
Current assets:					
Investments	1,062,800	1,389,600	51,674	2,504,074	2,520,970
Other	-	354,850	-	354,850	348,074
Current liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>(144,170)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(144,170)</u>	<u>(133,210)</u>
	<u>£1,062,800</u>	<u>£3,099,675</u>	<u>£51,674</u>	<u>£4,214,149</u>	<u>£4,219,338</u>

22 Restricted funds

	<i>Balance 01.07.22</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers to capital</i>	<i>Balance 31.12.22</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Brighton Home:					
Other	-	2,367	(2,367)	-	-
Other funds:					
Brighton Amenity	27,615	3,380	(61)	-	30,934
Harpenden Amenity	16,193	1,820	(944)	-	17,069
Short-stay Residents	6,652	1,503	(4,484)	-	3,671
	<u>£50,460</u>	<u>£9,070</u>	<u>(£7,856)</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£51,674</u>

Restricted funds are to be used only for the benefit of the Bethesda Home/Flatlets under which they are listed above, and the expenditure allocated to these funds is therefore for those specific Homes/Flatlets, as appropriate. The Short-stay Residents Fund is supported by chapel collections and is used to assist people coming into the Bethesda Homes for short stays. Income includes interest received on unexpended balances. See Note 1(k) for more information on Restricted funds.

23 Designated funds

	<i>Balance</i> <i>01.07.22</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Net</i> <i>transfers</i>	<i>Balance</i> <i>31.12.22</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Future Development	1,030,032	7,616	(1,721)	-	1,035,927
Miss K E Aston dec'd	26,676	197	-	-	26,873
	<u>£1,056,708</u>	<u>£7,813</u>	<u>(£1,721)</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>£1,062,800</u>

The Future Development Fund is designated for capital investment into new and existing buildings. Expenditure includes an allocation for support costs (see Note 8 for further details on support costs).

Part of a legacy received in 2009 from the estate of the late Miss Kathleen Eunice Aston was transferred into a Designated Fund to be used for the benefit of the Brighton Bethesda Home, where Miss Aston was a resident for over ten years.

Income includes interest received on unexpended balances. See Note 1(k) for more information on Designated funds.

24 Notes to Statement of Cash Flows

(a) Reconciliation of net (expenditure) income to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities

	(6 months) 31.12.22 £	(18 months) 30.6.22 £
Net (expenditure) income for the period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(5,189)	222,159
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	24,407	70,182
Profit on disposal of motor vehicle	(2,150)	-
Interest and rents from investments	(21,593)	(22,557)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(21,607)	41,188
Increase in creditors	10,960	31,638
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	(£15,172)	£342,610

(b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand	235,577	250,408
Cash on deposit (current asset investments)	2,504,074	2,520,970
	£2,739,651	£2,771,378

25 Commitments under operating leases

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	31.12.22 £	30.6.22 £
<i>Amounts due:</i>		
Within 1 year	3,664	4,591
Between 1 and 5 years	5,442	6,826
	£9,106	£11,417

26 Commitments for expenditure

There were no other material commitments for expenditure at the period end.

27 Reporting period length to 31 December 2022

As explained at Note 1(a) above, a new company was incorporated on 29 September 2021, to which the assets, liabilities and undertaking of the unincorporated charity were transferred on 30 December 2022.

The last financial results of the unincorporated charity were reported in the 18 month period of account to 30 June 2022 (that date resulting from timing issues connected with the incorporation process). As the reporting date for the charity has normally been annually on 31 December, these accounts are drawn up to 31 December 2022 in order to return to the usual period end.

The new charitable company's first set of accounts, as agreed by the Registrar of Companies, are for the approximately 15 month period from its incorporation on 29 September 2021 to 31 December 2022. There was no operating activity within the charitable company until it received the assets, liabilities and undertaking on 30 December 2022.

Merger accounting rules, as detailed at Note 1(a) above, require the results of the unincorporated and incorporated charity to be reported as one entity, hence these accounts show all transactions from both old and new entities for the 6 months from 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022. This follows on from the previously reported results for the 18 months to 30 June 2022 and has been confirmed by the Charity Commission. Comparative amounts presented in these accounts are for the unincorporated charity's period of 18 months to 30 June 2022, which means they are not entirely comparable to this 6 month period's figures.

28 Non-adjusting events after the period end

(a) ***Brighton Bethesda Home - Gospel Standard Library***

After the period end, and after obtaining professional valuations to establish market value, it was agreed that should the Brighton Bethesda Home site ever be sold, a transfer of the land on which the library building stands would be made to the trustees of the Gospel Standard Library for £61,667. The history of the library is explained further at Note 15(c) above.

(b) ***Moden Hill, Sedgley chapel***

After the period end, the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund became entitled under the chapel trust deed to the proceeds of sale of this chapel, following its closure. It is intended to demolish the existing building, obtain planning permission to enhance the value and then sell the site. Reliable estimates of the likely net proceeds are not yet available.

(c) ***Studley Bethesda Home***

After the period end, it was decided to sell the Studley Bethesda home, following its closure in 2021. The property was marketed at an initial guide price of £750,000 and a sale has been agreed (subject to contract). The agreed sale price is materially above the net book value at which this home was stated in the accounts at 31 December 2022.

END OF NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS