

Trustees' Annual Report for the period



From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 01	Month September	Year 2022		Day 31	Month August	Year 2023

THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF HASTINGS

The Greek Orthodox Church of St Mary Magdalene

Charity No 285794

Church Road

St Leonards-on-Sea

East Sussex

Postcode TN37 6EE

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas	Patron	12/06/2019 to 31/08/2023	Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain
Mr Demetrios Demetriades	Trustee		Executive Committee
Mr John Neofitou	Vice Chair		Trustee
Miss Maria Kiniari	Vice Chair & Minute Secretary		Executive Committee
Mr Sotirios Joannou	Trustee		Executive Committee

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountants and Charity Advisors	Mr	
Financial Administrator	Mrs I Edwards	8 Baldslow Down, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN37 7NH

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Declaration of Trust 1982 and as amended on 17 Jul 2018
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by Executive Committee
Additional governance issues (Optional information)	
<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; • the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works; • relationship with any related parties; • trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them. 	<p>Newly appointed trustees are invited to induction meetings to familiarise themselves with the work of our Charity, they are introduced to the Church executive committee and we familiarise them with the Deed of Trust and the Constitution of the Greek Orthodox Communities. We offer guidance and provide them with a welcome pack including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal Opportunities Statement • The Essential Trustee – what you need to know'. • Our Safeguarding policy – we are registered with CCPAS to ensure full compliance with safeguarding including DBS checks where appropriate. • Health & Safety and Fire Risks • Good Governance – we strive to ensure we are fully in compliance in everything we do. • The Charity operates under the spiritual guidance of His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas and the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain <p>Our reporting and administrative procedures are in place to ensure we give due consideration to and endeavour to minimise all risks, our trustee's together with the executive committee regularly meet to discuss and oversee the work of the various sub-committees.</p>

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	<p>The objects of the Charity are by such means as are charitable to promote the Orthodox Faith to all Orthodox Christians and the Greek Orthodox charitable institutions for the old and sick people the students and the poor of the Orthodox Faith and all denominations living in Hastings and environs and the advancement of the education of the public.</p> <p>The Executive Committee in co-operation with our parish priest, Reverend Ierotheos Georghiou is fully committed to ensuring everyone is made welcome and invited to participate in worship, learning and social activities at our Church and are encouraged to become part of the lively parish community at St Mary Magdalene.</p>

<p>Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)</p>	<p>The principal charitable activities can be defined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer and Worship for the community at Holy Services. • Catechesis, or Christian religious teaching of children and adults to develop knowledge and faith including introduction to the Holy Sacraments. • Pastoral and Social Care and Advice for our parish community. • Providing space and facilities for activities including education and social development of children and adults within the local and wider Hastings community. • Greek Language School for Children and Adults. • Sunday Crèche for younger children to learn, discover and grow in the orthodox faith. • Provision of meeting and group activities space to the wider community and minority groups of many cultures and nationalities from a wide catchment area. • Community Social Events to promote social inclusion and friendship within the wider community. <p>The executive committee together with our priest consults with our parishioners when planning for community services, activities and events. We give due consideration to the Commissions guidelines in relation to public benefit and the specific guidance to charities for the advancement of religion.</p> <p>Repairs, Restoration and Maintenance of the fabric of the Church and Community Hall continues to present a formidable challenge as we are situate in a raised open position adjacent to the seafront in St Leonards-on-Sea. The fabric of the buildings suffer from the constant effects of erosion due to the marine environment and exposure to the elements.</p>
<p>Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)</p>	
<p>You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy on grant making; • policy programme related investment; • contribution made by volunteers. 	<p>We are constantly having to prioritise our limited resources and funds to manage the many smaller individual servicing, repair and upkeep needs of the Historic and Community Buildings whilst also continuing to develop strategies of the restoration Master Plan.</p> <p>The dedication of our volunteers and community members continues to be the solid foundation that ensures our Church and its facilities are open and available to all.</p>

Section D	Achievements and performance
<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year</p>	<p>We summarise our main achievements in the past year as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to reach out and offer support to all within the wider community and particularly Orthodox Christians who have arrived in the local area in recent years. • Our parish community and congregation continues to enjoy multicultural worship, prayer, friendship and social integration with Orthodox Christians from Romania, Russia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Georgia, Ukraine Greece, Cyprus, and indeed, many other nationalities within our wider local community. • To help promote community cohesion and greater participation we continue the saying of important parts of our liturgy services in 4 different languages to help integration into the Church community. • Future restoration plans include the provision of two new classrooms/meeting rooms, crèche and disabled facilities at the rear of our Church to facilitate expansion of the valued community needs and further expansion of the language schools. • The Community Hall continued to be a regular meeting place for different communities and local creative groups. • We have completed the following urgent maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Hall and church boilers have been replaced by new modern boilers which will give us possibility to save on gas charges. - Refurbishment has been completed to walls in church hall. - Plumbing has been changed in all washrooms in church and church hall. - Drainage of the Church cellar that flooded due to pump failure, servicing and cleaning of the pumps and re-siting of the warning system. - Carried out essential minor repairs and refurbishments to the Community Hall, to help maintain hire income. - Repair of stain glass window was carried.

Section E	Financial review
<p>Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves</p>	<p>Our policy is to continue where feasible, to maintain a restricted reserve of £15,000 for unforeseen emergencies.</p>
<p>Details of any funds materially in deficit</p>	<p>None at present</p>
<p>Further financial review details (Optional information)</p>	

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising); how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity; investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted. 	<p>The financial results for this year clearly reflects the continuous joint efforts and dedication of our volunteers, the entire community and our administrators in their support of the Church to ensure the income streams.</p> <p>Community Hall incomes have increased due contract with Hasting and Bexhill Mencap and other private users.</p> <p>Maintaining all these income streams is crucial to allow the Church to continue to manage our buildings and provide much needed affordable space, services and facilities to the wider local community.</p> <p>Despite our continued efforts the overall financial resources available to the trustee's means we are continuously juggling to allocate adequate funds required to keep pace with ongoing maintenance and repair costs.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Principal sources of funds are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donations from the Collection Plate Standing Orders and other General Donations Gift Aid – continuing to promote greater community awareness Fundraising events House rental income. Community Hall – general community hire <p>The Church owns a freehold house which is currently let and provides much needed additional income.</p> <p>Increasing further income from hire of the Community Hall is badly hampered by the lack of disabled access, this work must be prioritised and completed at the earliest opportunity, due to urgent repairs works it has been necessary to postpone this work temporarily this financial year. We plan to make further grant funding applications to help us to complete this as soon as possible.</p> <p>In the meantime, we continue to receive regular payments for hire funds from community group activities in the hall.</p> <p>Church shop has been updated and stock purchased for providing extra income stream for church.</p>
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Section F	Other optional information
	<p>Further advancement of a sustainable community focused restoration and development 'Master Plan' that maximises existing Church resources, enables a major financial contribution towards the massive repair costs of restoration of the Historic Church is slowly progressing and we hope that the coming year will see this advance to Stage 1 that will enable a full planning application and a submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund for an initial grant assessment.</p> <p>We has appointed Conservation Architect and professional team to manage the project and have set up a Steering Group to oversee the advancement and fulfilment of the master plan.</p> <p>Our Church community will continue to maximise our combined efforts to ensure adequate income to maintain our buildings and provide space, resources and support to the local community groups during the coming 2023/2024 financial year.</p> <p>The outcome of the planning application process and future grant applications will determine the way forward for the preservation of the Historic Church for future generations and will we pray, guide us towards a more secure and viable future.</p>

Section G			Declaration		
<p>The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.</p> <p>Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees</p>					
Signature(s)					
Full name(s)	Maria Kiniari				
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair of Trustees		Administrator		
Date					

**THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF HASTINGS
(GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE)**

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF HASTINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF HASTINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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Church address

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church
Church Road
St Leonards-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN37 6EE

Charity number

285794

Charity trustees

His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas Lulias
Mr Demetrios Demetriades
Mr Sotirios Joannou
Miss Maria Kiniari
Mr John Neofitou

Financial administrator

Mrs I Edwards
8 Baldslow Down
St Leonards on Sea
East Sussex
TN37 7NH

Independent examiner

J R Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 1BF

Trustees' Report

The trustees present their Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the church for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Structure, governance and management

The Greek Orthodox Community of Hastings (the "charity"), which is also known as the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Mary Magdalene, was registered with the Charity Commission on February 1983 and is governed by a Declaration of Trust as amended on 17 July 2018.

Trustees are appointed by the church Executive Committee. Newly appointed trustees are invited to induction meetings to familiarise themselves with the work of our Charity, they are introduced to the Church executive committee and we familiarise them with the Deed of Trust and the Constitution of the Greek Orthodox Communities. We offer guidance and provide them with a welcome pack including:

- Equal Opportunities Statement
- The Essential Trustee – what you need to know'.
- Our Safeguarding policy – we are registered with CCPAS to ensure full compliance with safeguarding including DBS checks where appropriate.
- Health & Safety and Fire Risks
- Good Governance – we strive to ensure we are fully in compliance in everything we do.

The Charity operates under the spiritual guidance of His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas and the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain

Our reporting and administrative procedures are in place to ensure we give due consideration to and endeavour to minimise all risks, our trustee's together with the executive committee regularly meet to discuss and oversee the work of the various sub-committees.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Charity are by such means as are charitable to promote the Orthodox Faith to all Orthodox Christians and the Greek Orthodox charitable institutions for the old and sick people the students and the poor of the Orthodox Faith and all denominations living in Hastings and environs and the advancement of the education of the public.

The Executive Committee in co-operation with our parish priest, Reverend Ierotheos Georghiou is fully committed to ensuring everyone is made welcome and invited to participate in worship, learning and social activities at our Church and are encouraged to become part of the lively parish community at St Mary Magdalene.

The principal charitable activities can be defined as follows:

- Prayer and Worship for the community at Holy Services.
- Catechesis, or Christian religious teaching of children and adults to develop knowledge and faith including introduction to the Holy Sacraments.
- Pastoral and Social Care and Advice for our parish community.
- Providing space and facilities for activities including education and social development of children and adults within the local and wider Hastings community.
- Greek Language School for Children and Adults.
- Sunday Crèche for younger children to learn, discover and grow in the orthodox faith.
- Provision of meeting and group activities space to the wider community and minority groups of many cultures and nationalities from a wide catchment area.
- Community Social Events to promote social inclusion and friendship within the wider community.

The executive committee together with our priest consults with our parishioners when planning for community services, activities and events.

We give due consideration to the Commissions guidelines in relation to public benefit and the specific guidance to charities for the advancement of religion.

Repairs, Restoration and Maintenance of the fabric of the Church and Community Hall continues to present a formidable challenge as we are situate in a raised open position adjacent to the seafront in St Leonards-on-Sea. The fabric of the buildings suffer from the constant effects of erosion due to the marine environment and exposure to the elements.

Trustees' Report

Objectives and activities (continued)

We are constantly having to prioritise our limited resources and funds to manage the many smaller individual servicing, repair and upkeep needs of the Historic and Community Buildings whilst also continuing to develop strategies of the restoration Master Plan.

The dedication of our volunteers and community members continues to be the solid foundation that ensures our Church and its facilities are open and available to all.

Achievements and performance

We summarise our main achievements in the past year as follows:

- We continue to reach out and offer support to all within the wider community and particularly Orthodox Christians who have arrived in the local area in recent years.
- Our parish community and congregation continues to enjoy multicultural worship, prayer, friendship and social integration with Orthodox Christians from Romania, Russia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Georgia, Ukraine Greece, Cyprus, and indeed, many other nationalities within our wider local community.
- To help promote community cohesion and greater participation we continue the saying of important parts of our liturgy services in 4 different languages to help integration into the Church community.
- Future restoration plans include the provision of two new classrooms/meeting rooms, crèche and disabled facilities at the rear of our Church to facilitate expansion of the valued community needs and further expansion of the language schools.
- The Community Hall continued to be a regular meeting place for different communities and local creative groups.

We have completed the following urgent maintenance:

- Community Hall and church boilers have been replaced by new modern boilers which will give us possibility to save on gas charges.
- Refurbishment has been completed to walls in church hall.
- Plumbing has been changed in all washrooms in church and church hall.
- Drainage of the Church cellar that flooded due to pump failure, servicing and cleaning of the pumps and re-siting of the warning system.
- Carried out essential minor repairs and refurbishments to the Community Hall, to help maintain hire income.
- Repair of stain glass window was carried out.

Financial review

The financial results for this year clearly reflects the continuous joint efforts and dedication of our volunteers, the entire community and our administrators in their support of the Church to ensure the income streams.

Despite our continued efforts the overall financial resources available to the trustee's means we are continuously juggling to allocate adequate funds required to keep pace with ongoing maintenance and repair costs.

Principal sources of funds are as follows:

- Donations from the Collection Plate
- Standing Orders and other General Donations
- Gift Aid – continuing to promote greater community awareness
- Fundraising events
- House rental income.
- Community Hall – general community hire

Maintaining all these income streams is crucial to allow the Church to continue to manage our buildings and provide much needed affordable space, services and facilities to the wider local community.

Community Hall incomes have increased due contract with Hasting and Bexhill Mencap and other private users. Increasing further income from hire of the Community Hall is badly hampered by the lack of disabled access, this work must be prioritised and completed at the earliest opportunity, due to urgent repairs works it has been necessary to postpone this work temporarily this financial year. We plan to make further grant funding applications to help us to complete this as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we continue to receive regular payments for hire funds from community group activities in the hall. Church shop has been updated and stock purchased for providing extra income stream for church.

Reserves

The church endeavours to maintain cash reserve of at least £15,000 for unforeseen emergencies and has set up a designated fund for this purpose.

Future plans

Further advancement of a sustainable community focused restoration and development `Master Plan` that maximises existing Church resources, enables a major financial contribution towards the massive repair costs of restoration of the Historic Church is slowly progressing and we hope that the coming year will see this advance to Stage 1 that will enable a full planning application and a submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund for an initial grant assessment.

We has appointed Conservation Architect and professional team to manage the project and have set up a Steering Group to oversee the advancement and fulfilment of the master plan.

Our Church community will continue to maximise our combined efforts to ensure adequate income to maintain our buildings and provide space, resources and support to the local community groups during the coming 2023/2024 financial year.

The outcome of the planning application process and future grant applications will determine the way forward for the preservation of the Historic Church for future generations and will we pray, guide us towards a more secure and viable future.

Independent examination

J R Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE was appointed during the year to undertake the Independent Examination.

The trustees report was approved by the board of trustees



.....
Maria Kiniari
Trustee

Date: 12th February 2024

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees of the Greek Orthodox Community of Hastings (the "charity") for the year ended 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Caladine FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountant
Caladine Limited
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 1BF

Date: 12th February 2024

Receipts and Payments Account


	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Receipts						
Donations - Plate Gift Aided	5,914	-	5,914	7,973	-	7,973
Donations - Plate Cash	7,777	-	7,777	9,779	-	9,779
Donations - General	16,583	-	16,583	17,263	-	17,263
Community Hall Hire - Various	25,388	-	25,388	14,031	-	14,031
House - Rent Received	11,700	-	11,700	8,812	-	8,812
Church Shop	3,299	-	3,299	3,945	-	3,945
Church Tea & Coffee Sales	404	-	404	21	-	21
School fees	84	-	84	167	-	167
Memorials & Feasts	1,188	-	1,188	1,227	-	1,227
Baptism & Christenings	1,255	-	1,255	1,405	-	1,405
Funeral	-	-	-	482	-	482
HMRC Gift Aid Received	5,330	-	5,330	486	-	486
Weddings	240	-	240	115	-	115
Events & Fundraising	464	-	464	-	-	-
Interest Received	179	-	179	11	-	11
Total receipts	79,805	-	79,805	65,717	-	65,717
Payments						
Salaries	12,157	-	12,157	11,903	-	11,903
Church General Expenses	6,937	-	6,937	5,978	-	5,978
Church Insurance	5,863	-	5,863	5,600	-	5,600
Church General Repairs and maintenance	7,582	-	7,582	9,235	1,108	10,343
Church Shop - Stock	1,659	-	1,659	3,843	-	3,843
Church Administration	2,050	-	2,050	2,200	-	2,200
Church & Hall Utilities	6,109	-	6,109	5,465	-	5,465
Hall Repairs	12,707	-	12,707	400	-	400
House Repairs	416	-	416	410	-	410
Garden & Grounds	275	-	275	757	-	757
Charitable Family Donations	731	-	731	55	-	55
Accountancy	1,310	-	1,310	1,407	-	1,407
Visiting Priest	3,100	-	3,100	-	-	-
School Expenses	180	-	180	360	-	360
Cleaning	371	-	371	616	-	616
Office Costs	25	-	25	361	-	361
Website Expenses	206	-	206	215	-	215
Insurance	227	-	227	598	-	598
Bank charges	140	-	140	145	-	145
Miscellaneous expenses	-	-	-	20	-	20
Total payments	62,045	-	62,045	49,568	1,108	50,676
Net movement in funds	17,760	-	17,760	16,149	(1,108)	15,041
Cash funds b/f at 1st September 2022	41,585	-	41,585	25,436	1,108	26,544
Cash funds c/f at 31 August 2023	59,345	-	59,345	41,585	-	41,585

The notes on page 8 form part of these Financial Statements.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<u>ASSETS</u>				
<u>Monetary Assets</u>				
Cash at Bank and in hand				
Lloyds Bank	40,256		11,021	
CAF Cash	1,898		13,754	
CAF Gold	16,279		16,119	
Paypal	5		294	
Petty Cash	907		399	
	<u>59,345</u>		<u>41,585</u>	
Cash funds made up of				
Restricted funds	-		-	
Unrestricted funds:				
Reserve (designated)	15,000		15,000	
General Funds	<u>44,345</u>		<u>26,585</u>	
	59,345		41,585	
	<u>59,345</u>		<u>41,585</u>	
<u>LIABILITIES</u>				
<u>Creditors</u>				
Accountancy Fee/Independent Examination		<u>1,080</u>		<u>960</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 12th February 2024



Maria Kiniari
 Trustee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared as a Receipts and Payments in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

Restricted funds

The funds of the charity include funds comprising the following restricted funds:

	Movements in funds						
	Balance at 1 Sept 2021	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Balance at 1 Sept 2022	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Balance at 31 August 2023
	£	£	£		£	£	£
Building funds	1,108	-	(1,108)	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,108</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,108)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Building funds

These represents funds given and used to restore and improve the church building.

Designated funds

Reserves - The church endeavours to maintain cash reserve of at least £15,000 for unforeseen emergencies and has set up a designated fund for this purpose.

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Date: 12th February 2024