

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF READING

England & Wales · Charity number 299645

Details

Other names ST ELIAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF BERKSHIRE

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 1988-04-27

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

Contact

Address St. Marks Church Hall
94 Cranbury Road
Reading
RG30 2TA

Phone 07522406514

Email secretary@propheteliasreading.com

Website <https://propheteliasreading.org.uk/>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY ARE BY SUCH MEANS AS ARE CHARITABLE TO PROMOTE THE GREEK ORTHODOX FAITH AND GREEK ORTHODOX CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS IN READING AFORESAID AND ENVIRONS AND TO SUPPORT EXPAND AND DEVELOP A GREEK ORTHODOX SCHOOL.

Activities: To promote the Greek Orthodox faith and charitable institutions in Reading area, and to support and expand the Greek Orthodox school.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** READING AND ENVIRONS
- Oxfordshire
- Reading
- Surrey
- West Berkshire
- Wokingham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-31	£41,972	£38,931	-	-
2024-10-31	£89,232	£38,363	-	-
2023-10-31	£41,099	£32,593	-	-
2022-10-31	£35,498	£30,743	-	-
2021-10-31	£21,520	£23,165	-	-
2020-10-31	£29,828	£28,006	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PAUL ELDERFIELD	Chair	2024-12-01
His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas Of Thyateira and Great Britain		2019-11-21
John Irvine		2019-11-21
Margarita Reed		2024-12-01
Michalis Koufopoulos		2024-12-01

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF READING

England & Wales - Charity number 299645

Accounts

SAINT ELIAS
GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF READING
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

Annual Report

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31 October 2025.

Reference and administrative details

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Honorary President	His Eminence the Archbishop Nikitas
Chair of Trustees	Theodora Dimakopoulou
Trustee	John Irvine
Trustee	Paul Elderfield (appointed 1/12/24)
Trustee	Margarita Reed (appointed 1/12/24)
Trustee	Michalis Koufopoulos (appointed 1/12/24)
Trustee	Nikolaos Manousos (resigned 1/12/24)
Trustee	Elias Parikos (resigned 1/12/24)
Trustee	Nikolaos Marinis (resigned 1/12/24)

The Charity was established by a deed dated 20 April 1988 (as amended 29 July 1988) together with a deed of variation dated 27 April 1994. Its formal constitution is the Constitution of the Sacred Churches and Communities of the Greek Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, Exarchate of Western Europe, Ireland and Malta, as ratified by the Ecumenical Patriarchate on 5 April 1971. It is registered with the Charity Commission as number 299645.

The Community Administrative Council is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the church and consists of the the following:

Officers:

President	Theodora Dimakopoulou
Vice President	Anna Reed
Secretary	John Irvine
Treasurer	Margarita Reed
General members:	Stella Keramida
	Paul Elderfield
	Michalis Koufopoulos
	Irena Zafirova
	Georgios Sarafidis
	Ioannis Mathioudakis
	Gregory Alavidze
	Basem Huddad
	Panagiotis Stemitsiotis

Independent examiner John Jenkins FCA

Bankers Barclays Bank plc
 Metro Bank plc
 PayPal Holdings Inc

Objects and activities

The objects of the Charity are to promote the Greek Orthodox faith and Greek Orthodox charitable institutions in Reading and environs. The Charity achieves this through regular (normally weekly) acts of worship, supporting and expanding a Greek Orthodox school, and occasional social functions, thus bringing benefit to the Greek, Cypriot and the wider Orthodox community.

Review of achievements and performance

President's Report

We started 2025 with a New Years' service, a very well attended Blessing of the Waters, which took place in Sonning once again and the cutting of the Vasilopita, all vital events for our church and community. This was followed in February with yet again another successful Apokries / Carnival party for the community and our Greek schools' children. A big well done and thank you to the volunteers who organised this fundraising event.

Out of the ordinary, February also had a Pilgrimage trip to Egypt where many of our parishioners and community members participated to a once in a lifetime trip, thanks to Fr. Andreas Andreopoulos's initiative to organise from Greece. The opportunity to visit so many Holy grounds was a transformative and impactful experience for many of us, and it was very important that we all shared it and will always carry with us. The Holy Week and Easter went very well with an even higher attendance from our parishioners. Thank you to all volunteers who made Easter candles for sale, prepared red eggs, made Easter biscuits, helped with covering the floor of the church floor with plastic sheets, stayed late to decorate our beautiful Epitaphios and also helped cleaning the church after the Resurrection service in the early hours of the Easter Sunday morning.

June had a very pleasant surprise for all of us, when Fr. Constantinos was officially appointed our regular priest, after 2 years of having visiting priests, along with our beloved Fr. Ian Graham. We were all delighted to have a deeply pious and enlightened spiritual father amongst us, and we welcome the archdiocese's very wise decision for the wellbeing and unity of our community.

In July we celebrated our Patron Saint Elias' Feast Day and we were honoured to have with us once again, His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas, The V. Revd Archimandrite Chrysostomos Tympas, Revd. Protopresbyter Dr Andreas Andreopoulos, Revd. Archdeacon George Tsourous, the Mayor of Reading, Clr. Dr. Alice Bofu-Coles, and our Anglian brethren from St Mark's church. All were very impressed with how many people attended the event, as well as with the increase of the non-Greek Orthodox parishioners. His Eminence seemed very satisfied with the constant and stable progress of Prophet Elias' church, offered his paternal blessings and encouraged and re-affirmed his support for the community's vision for the future. Our honoured guests were very happy with our hospitality and everyone's gratitude once more, goes to all volunteers who helped with our Feast's preparation.

In September, when we opened our church again after the August closure, members of our community and committee along with Fr. Constantinos and his presvytera Eleni, we attended His Eminence's Nameday Gala dinner in London, where we offered our gift of a silver icon of St. George Karlidis, for which His Eminence was grateful. At the same time, thanks to our on our Trustee, Mr Koufopoulos, the revival of the Philoptochos association started again after many years, with activities such as the Food bank and more recently the Cowshed Tree of Hope Christmas tree, a project that supports 2,500 local children in very vulnerable circumstances. Additionally, our church will participate in the Christmas Tree competition this year too with the Cowshed Tree of Hope Christmas Tree, organised by our brethren in St.

Saint Elias
Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2025

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Mark's church. Thank you to our volunteers who organised our participation and the decoration of our tree this year.

Our Greek school continues to be doing very well thankfully, with modern and Ancient Greek lessons and the parents who are getting increasingly involved in the school and church activities as they are so closely inter-connected. The children attend the Service on most Sundays; they are getting communion if they wish and seem more familiar within the church than ever before. This is thanks to our very capable and hard-working Headteacher Mrs. Keramida and all the teachers, and I would like to thank them for keeping up the good work that they have been doing so far.

We also continue participating in Churches Together with our representative being our secretary Mr. John Irvine. Please talk to John if you would like to participate or find out more about this activity.

In the next two years we will continue raising funds for a possible building of our own, and I would like to encourage everyone to sign up to our database for regular updates and news of our church, as well as moving towards donations electronically via Standing order preferably. Please remember that if you are a permanent UK resident and paying tax you can help via Gift Aid too.

Last but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to all of our existing volunteers, all of our parishioners, the prosfora and coffee group, the Greek school teachers, parents, pupils, our very generous donors, our hosts at St Mark's church, our priests and the Archdiocese of course, as everyone regardless of having a small or a big role, help in maintaining the church, school and community of Prophet Elias, building a stronger network of people with similar interests and beliefs and a better future for our community overall.

This will be my last President's report as I step down shortly. I thank you all and each individually, and I wish you all the very best in the future.

Financial review

The principal sources of income for the Charity are donations and subscriptions from the church community, collections at church services and for the Greek school. Income is also derived from social functions and interest on bank deposits. Expenditure is largely in the provision of regular church services and the Greek school.

The financial performance was not as successful as the previous year which had been marked by the significant fundraising. There was a surplus for the year of £3,041 compared with a surplus of £50,869 in 2024. As a result of the high level of donations in the previous year gross income decreased to £41,972. Costs were £38,931 an increase of less than 2%.

The Charity had net assets and unrestricted reserves of £177,173 on 31 October 2025. The Trustees consider that a minimum of £38,000, being sufficient for one year's expenditure, should be kept on general fund; but the Trustees wish to continue building up these reserves to safeguard the future of the Charity and eventually be in a position to consider the purchase of a church. To that end a generous donor has advanced £51,654 in respect of this goal. In the event of a purchase of a suitable property within five years, this will be granted as a gift. Until that time, it is regarded as an interest free loan, repayable in November 2026.

Structure, governance and management.

The Trustees are responsible for managing the Charity and meet at least once a year but more often if required. New trustees are recruited from within the Community. The Constitution provides that the Administrative Council shall have day-to-day responsibility for running

Saint Elias
Greek Orthodox Community of Reading
Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2025

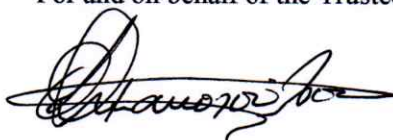
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church activities. The names of the Trustees and the members of the Administrative Council are set out on page 1.

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate these risks.

The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity's objectives and activities meet public benefit criteria by providing well-patronised opportunities for Orthodox communities in the Reading area to meet for organised worship and fellowship.

For and on behalf of the Trustees



Theodora Dimakopoulou

Chair

Dated: 25 May 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Saint Elias Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 October 2025, which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As described on page 4, the Trustees are responsible the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you of any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Jenkins FCA

Dated: 30 May 2026

Saint Elias
Greek Orthodox Community of Reading
Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2025

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Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 October 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Income			
Income and endowments from:			
Subscriptions, church collections, donations	2	36,556	84,859
Social functions and fundraising	3	3,486	3,000
Bank interest		1,930	1,373
Total		41,972	89,232
Expenditure			
Charitable activities			
Church services	4	26,200	24,571
Education services	5	9,393	8,080
Social functions	3	448	894
Donations and subscriptions to Archdiocese		1,390	1,168
Benevolent payments and charitable donations		1,500	3,650
Total		38,931	38,363
Net income/(loss)		3,041	50,869
Funds brought forward		174,132	123,263
Funds carried forward		177,173	174,132

The attached notes form part of these accounts.

Saint Elias
Greek Orthodox Community of Reading
Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2025

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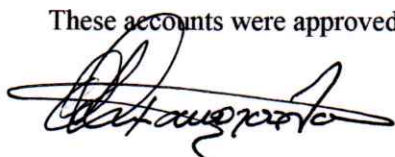
Balance Sheet at 31 October 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Ecclesiastical items	1	8,349	8,349
Current assets			
Stocks of candles and books		321	321
Debtors:			
Rent paid in advance		1,743	1,743
School fund		1,799	3,152
Cash at bank and in hand		216,815	212,421
		220,678	217,637
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Accrued expenses		(200)	(200)
Conditional donation	6	(51,654)	-
Net current assets		168,824	217,437
Total assets less current liabilities		177,173	225,786
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year			
Conditional donation	6	-	(51,654)
Net assets		177,173	174,132
Funds-			
Unrestricted funds		177,173	174,132

The Charities Act 2011 and the Charity's Constitution require the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and the income and expenditure for that period. The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with The Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions of The Charities Act 2011, which allow exemption from audit on charities under a certain income level.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 30 May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Theodora Dimakopoulou

Chair



Margarita Reed

Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these accounts.

Notes to the accounts

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE) entitled 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE), effective January 2015.'

The following policies have been applied consistently in the preparation of these accounts.

- Income and expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis.
- Donations, collections and similar income is recognised when cash is received, being when entitlement arises
- Fixed assets, being Ecclesiastical items, are included at Trustees valuation but no depreciation is charged.

2 Church collections, subscriptions, donations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Collections	9,546	12,286
Subscriptions and donations	12,764	53,932
School donations (see note 5)	8,040	9,600
Special services and sundry	2,084	1,649
Gift Aid	4,122	7,392
	36,556	84,859

3 Income and expenditure from social functions

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income from social functions	3,486	3,000
Related costs	(448)	(894)
	3,038	2,106

Notes to the accounts (continued)

4 Church services expense

	2025	2024
	£	£
Priests' expenses	11,209	11,590
Rent	6,090	5,905
Church supplies and candles	4,643	3,538
Insurance	457	634
Storage	2,748	2,452
Other expenses	1,053	452
	26,200	24,571

No Trustee received any remuneration.

5 Education services expense

	2025	2024
	£	£
Teachers' expenses	8,095	6,630
Supplies, stationery and premises	1,298	1,450
	9,393	8,080

6 Creditors due within one year

This represents a conditional gift made to the Church to assist with the purchase of a property. If it is not used for this purpose, it is repayable on 1 November 2026. It is interest free.

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF READING

England & Wales - Charity number 299645

Accounts

**SAINT ELIAS
GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF READING
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024**

Annual Report

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31 October 2024.

Reference and administrative details

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Honorary President	His Eminence the Archbishop Niketas
Chair of Trustees	Theodora Dimakopoulou
Trustee	Nikolaos Manousos (resigned 1/12/24)
Trustee	Elias Parikos (resigned 1/12/24)
Trustee	John Irvine
Trustee	Nikolaos Marinis (resigned 1/12/24)

Margarita Reed and Michalis Koufopoulos were appointed trustees on 1 December 2024.

The Charity is governed by a deed dated 20 April 1988 (as amended 29 July 1988) together with a deed of variation dated 27 April 1994. It is registered with the Charity Commission as number 299645.

The Ecclesiastical Committee is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the church and consists of the Trustees listed above as well as the following:

Officers:

President	Theodora Dimakopoulou
Vice President	Paul Elderfield
Secretary	Georgios Karabatakis
Treasurer	Margarita Reed
General members:	Stella Keramida
	Irena Zafirova
	Aikaterini Skoulatou
	John Irvine
	Michal Korcz
	Fotini Vergottis
	Panagiotis Stemitsiotis

Independent examiner John Jenkins FCA

Bankers Barclays Bank plc
Metro Bank plc

Objects and activities

The objects of the Charity are to promote the Greek Orthodox faith and Greek Orthodox charitable institutions in Reading and environs. The Charity achieves this through regular (normally weekly) acts of worship, supporting and expanding a Greek Orthodox school, and occasional social functions, thus bringing benefit to the Greek, Cypriot and the wider Orthodox community.

Review of achievements and performance

President's Report

We have just completed our first year with the new Committee and we should all congratulate each other, after some very challenging few months. We started 2024 with a new year's service, the cutting of the Vasilopita and a very important event, such as the Blessing of the Waters, which took place outside our church for the first time ever, thanks to Fr. Andreas' initiative and everyone's support.

Due to the publicity of this event on the local media, we were approached for a potential building in Calcott. We asked His Eminence's help and guidance, and we were pleasantly surprised when He immediately showed His interest and visited the property with us in a very short time. He gave us His blessing for the property, donated to our church \$10,000 and promised us a loan of £50,000 once a sale is agreed. We are very grateful and very lucky to have all possible support from His Eminence and it is something we treasure and aim to maintain. A fund-raising page was set-up and the community came together like never before to raise as much as we could. Unfortunately, the amount of money we had to offer was not satisfactory for the sellers and we could not go ahead with that building, but we already had made some progress in both experience and funds. March was followed with yet again another successful Apokries/ Carnival party for the community and our Greek school's children. A big well done and thank you to the volunteers who organised this fundraising event! The Holy Week and Easter went very well with an even higher attendance from the parishioners. Thank you to all volunteers who made Easter candles for sale, prepared red eggs, made Easter biscuits, helped with covering the floor of the church floor with plastic sheets, stayed late to decorate our beautiful Epitaphios and also helped cleaning the church after the Resurrection service in the early hours of the Easter Sunday morning. We should also thank Fr. Andreas, after he travelled to the UK just for our church and in order to raise even more funds for us, he did not accept any payment at all for all the services he did during the Easter period, for which we can only be grateful.

On top of this, Fr. Andreas decided to travel once again for our church in July and to do a Fundraising Walk. He walked approx. 10.5 miles in the rain and he raised for our church another £1,985, for which we can only express our gratitude once again and maybe take an example too from it.

We also celebrated our Patron Saint Elias' Feast Day in July and we were honoured to have with us once again, His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas, the Mayor of Reading, Cllr Glenn Dennis, Archdeacon Liz Jackson from the Diocese of Oxford, Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Harrison from the Gerald Palmer Eling Trust and our Anglican brethren from St. Mark's church. All were very impressed with how many people attended the event once again, even though it takes place in the middle of the summer when a lot of people were already on holidays, as well as with the increase of the non-Greek Orthodox parishioners. His Eminence seemed very satisfied with the constant and stable progress of Prophet Elias' church and advised us to continue pursuing obtaining our own church building, as long as it is not a listed building due to the high maintenance costs of such properties. Our honoured guests were very happy with our hospitality and a big well done and thank you once again to all volunteers who helped

Saint Elias
Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2024

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with our Feast's preparations, cooking, serving, setting and cleaning the church hall afterwards.

In September, when we opened our church again after August's closure, we were faced with another building opportunity and challenge, as this was a building sold on auction. After some extensive talks between the Committee and the Trustees, it was decided solely by the majority of the Trustees that we should sadly not pursue this building. Not all is lost however, as this led to gaining more experience in an area we didn't know anything about before (i.e. Auction sales) and made the Committee even more determined for our next attempt to buy a building of our own.

A big thank you to the church-hunting team who are not giving up and are making very big efforts in order to find a suitable and permanent building/space for us to house our church.

It is also very nice to see that our Greek school is doing very well, having added for the first year Ancient Greek lessons and that the parents are getting more and more involved in the school and church activities as they are so closely inter-connected. The children are attending on most Sundays the Service, they are getting communion if they wish and seem more familiar within the church than ever before. This is owed to our very capable and hard-working Headteacher Mrs. Keramida and all of the teachers and I would like to thank them for keeping up the good work they have been doing so far.

The last fundraising event of the year, will be the Christmas bazaar on 8th December, which has become a tradition now, as it is its 4th year running. Once again this is getting organised by the Greek school and Mrs. Theochari, with all profits going to our church, for which we are all very thankful. Additionally, our church and school will participate in the Christmas Tree competition this year too, organised by our brethren in St. Mark's church. Thank you to our volunteers who organised our participation and the decoration of our tree this year once again.

We also continue participating in Churches Together with our representative being Mr. John Irvine. Please talk to John if you would like to participate or find out more.

At this point, I would like to express my gratitude to all of our existing volunteers, all of our parishioners, the Prosfora and coffee group, the Greek school teachers, parents, pupils, our very generous donors, our hosts at St. Mark's church, our priests and the Archdiocese of course, as everyone regardless of having a small or a big role, help in maintaining the church, school and community of Prophet Elias, building a stronger network of people with similar interests and beliefs and a better future for our community overall.

Financial review

The principal sources of income for the Charity are donations and subscriptions from the church community, collections at church services and for the Greek school. Income is also derived from social functions and interest on bank deposits. Expenditure is largely in the provision of regular church services and the Greek school.

The financial performance showed a significant improvement from the previous year as a result of fundraising for the new church. There was a surplus for the year of £50,869 compared with a surplus of £8,506 in 2023. Gross income increased by 117% over the previous year and costs by 18%.

The Charity had net assets and unrestricted reserves of £174,132 on 31 October 2024. The Trustees consider that a minimum of £38,000, being sufficient for one year's expenditure, should be kept on general fund; but the Trustees wish to continue building up these reserves to safeguard the future of the Charity and eventually be in a position to consider the purchase of a church. To that end a generous donor has advanced £51,654 in respect of this goal. In the

Saint Elias
Greek Orthodox Community of Reading
Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2024

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event of a purchase of a suitable property within five years, this will be granted as a gift. Until that time, it is regarded as an interest free loan, repayable in February 2026.

Structure, governance and management.

The Trustees (see Page 1) are responsible for managing the Charity and meet at least once a year but more often if required. New trustees are recruited from within the Community. The Trustees have delegated day-to-day responsibility for running church activities to the Ecclesiastical Committee (see Page 1 also).

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate these risks.

The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity's objectives and activities meet public benefit criteria by providing well-patronised opportunities for Orthodox communities in the Reading area to meet for organised worship and fellowship.

For and on behalf of the Trustees

Theodora Dimakopoulou

Chair



Dated:

12/03/2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Saint Elias Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 October 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As described on page 4, the Trustees are responsible the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you of any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Jenkins FCA

Dated: 20 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 October 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Income			
Income and endowments from:			
Subscriptions, church collections, donations	2	84,859	35,653
Social functions and fundraising	3	3,000	4,872
Bank interest		1,373	574
Total		89,232	41,099
Expenditure			
Charitable activities			
Church services	4	24,571	23,833
Education services	5	8,080	7,200
Social functions	3	894	-
Donations and subscriptions to Archdiocese		1,168	1,500
Benevolent payments and charitable donations		3,650	60
Total		38,363	32,593
Net income/(loss)		50,869	8,506
Funds brought forward		123,263	114,757
Funds carried forward		174,132	123,263

The attached notes form part of these accounts.

Saint Elias
Greek Orthodox Community of Reading
Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2024

Balance Sheet at 31 October 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Ecclesiastical items	1	8,349	8,349
Current assets			
Stocks of candles and books		321	321
Debtors:			
Rent paid in advance		1,743	1,743
School fund		3,152	1,632
Cash at bank and in hand		212,421	165,563
		217,637	169,259
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Accrued expenses		(200)	(2,691)
Net current assets		217,437	166,568
Total assets less current liabilities			
		225,786	174,917
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year			
Conditional donation	6	(51,654)	(51,654)
Net assets		174,132	123,263
Funds-			
Unrestricted funds		174,132	123,263

The Charities Act 2011 and the Charity's Constitution require the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and the income and expenditure for that period. The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with The Charities Act 2011.


The Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions of The Charities Act 2011, which allow exemption from audit on charities under a certain income level.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 18/3/25 and signed on their behalf by:



Theodora Dimakopoulou

Chair



Margarita Reed

Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these accounts.

Notes to the accounts

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE) entitled 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE), effective January 2015.'

The following policies have been applied consistently in the preparation of these accounts.

- Income and expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis.
- Donations, collections and similar income is recognised when cash is received, being when entitlement arises
- Fixed assets, being Ecclesiastical items, are included at Trustees valuation but no depreciation is charged.

2 Church collections, subscriptions, donations

	2024	2023
	£	£
Collections	12,286	10,342
Subscriptions and donations	53,932	14,936
School donations (see note 5)	9,600	7,560
Special services and sundry	1,649	2,815
Gift Aid	7,392	-
	84,859	35,653

3 Income and expenditure from social functions

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income from social functions	3,000	4,872
Related costs	(894)	-
	2,106	4,872

Notes to the accounts (continued)

4 Church services expense

	2024	2023
	£	£
Priests' expenses	11,590	11,385
Rent	5,905	5,500
Church supplies and candles	3,538	3,926
Insurance	634	-
Storage	2,452	2,192
Other expenses	452	830
	24,571	23,833

No Trustee received any remuneration. The Treasurer was reimbursed £2,900 for expenses necessarily incurred when the bank account was restricted on a mandate change.

5 Education services expense

	2024	2023
	£	£
Teachers' expenses	6,630	5,435
Supplies, stationery and premises	1,450	1,765
	8,080	7,200

6 Creditors due after one year

This represents a conditional gift made to the Church to assist with the purchase of a property. If it is not used for this purpose, it is repayable on 1 February 2026. It is interest free.

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF READING

England & Wales - Charity number 299645

Accounts

SAINT ELIAS
GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF READING
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

Annual Report

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31 October 2023.

Reference and administrative details

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Honorary President	His Eminence the Archbishop Niketas
Chair of Trustees	Theodora Dimakopoulou
Trustee	Nikolaos Manousos
Trustee	Elias Parikos
Trustee	John Irvine
Trustee	Nikolaos Marinis

The Charity is governed by a deed dated 20 April 1988 (as amended 29 July 1988) together with a deed of variation dated 27 April 1994. It is registered with the Charity Commission as number 299645.

The Ecclesiastical Committee is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the church and consists of the Trustees listed above as well as the following:

Officers:

President	Theodora Dimakopoulou
Vice President	Paul Elderfield
Secretary	Georgios Karabatakis
Treasurer (until 3 12 2023)	Panagiotis Stemitsiotis
Treasurer (from 3 12 2023)	Margarita Reed
General members: (from 3 12 2023)	Stella Keramida
	Irena Zafirova
	Aikaterini Skoulatou
	John Irvine
	Michal Korcz
	Fotini Vergottis
	Nikolaos Manousos
	Panagiotis Stemitsiotis

Independent examiner John Jenkins FCA

Bankers Barclays Bank plc

Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2023

Objects and activities

The objects of the Charity are to promote the Greek Orthodox faith and Greek Orthodox charitable institutions in Reading and environs. The Charity achieves this through regular (normally weekly) acts of worship, supporting and expanding a Greek Orthodox school, and occasional social functions, thus bringing benefit to the Greek, Cypriot and the wider Orthodox community.

Review of achievements and performance*President's Report*

I have just completed my second year as President, and I am grateful for the committee's help and support in this challenging but very rewarding year. We started 2023 with the cutting of our Vasilopita in the church, then in February it was followed with yet again another successful Apokries party for the community and our Greek school's children. Holy Week and Easter went very smoothly and the attendance at our services was very good.

We celebrated our Patron Saint Elias' Feast Day in July, and we were honoured to have with us His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas, Archdeacon George Tsourous and the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Tony Page. All were very impressed with how many people attended the event, even though it was in the middle of the summer, when a lot of people were already on holidays, as well as with the increase in the number of the non-Greek speaking parishioners. His Eminence seemed very satisfied with the constant and stable progress of Prophet Elias' church and advised us to continue to pursue the goal of obtaining our own church building. He reassured us that, if we could do this, the Archdiocese would help us financially too. I am hoping that the already good communication and relationship we have established with the Archdiocese will continue for years to come. At the same time, we suddenly, and very sadly, had to say farewell to Fr. Andreas as he had to move abroad for personal reasons. It was very touching that all of us without any exception made a very big effort to try and keep him with us since he helped our parish grow both in number and spiritually. It still remains very touching the fact that Fr. Andreas is making a lot of effort to be with us in every big event or celebration when we need him, and I am sure we are all very grateful for this.

Extra services are still being organised and are well attended and there has been an increase in baptisms, chrismations and confessions. In June we also had our first wedding during this committee's service, which was wonderful. In September, when we opened our church again after August's closure, we were faced with the lack of a permanent priest. Thankfully the Archdiocese arranged for our beloved Fr. Ian to return every 2nd Sunday, as at the beginning of the year and with St. Andrew's church in Egham obtaining a permanent priest of their own, we had discussed and agreed with the Archdiocese that Fr. Andreas would become our own permanent priest. This arrangement of course came to an abrupt and sudden end as due to unforeseen circumstances Fr. Andreas had to move abroad as aforementioned.

We are still looking for a building of our own and I am hopeful that God will grace us eventually with one. A big thank you to the church-hunting team and especially to Mrs. Skoulatou, who are making very big efforts in order to find a suitable and permanent building/space for us to house our church.

It is also very nice to see that our Greek school is doing very well. The number of pupils is constantly increasing, and the parents are getting more and more involved in the school and church activities since they are so closely inter-connected. The children attend the service on

Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

Trustees' annual report and accounts

for the year ended 31 October 2023

most Sundays and are getting communion if they wish. This has already helped the community to get even closer. Much is owed to our very capable and hard-working Headteacher and all of the teachers and I would like to thank them all for keeping up the good work they have been doing so far.

Before Easter we introduced a wonderful new webpage for our church, thanks to Mr. Michalis Koufopoulos and we have a very well built and up to date Facebook page thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Theocharis. As we need to move with the times, we also started accepting card payments in our Sunday services, which many people found very helpful.

The last fundraising event of the year was the Christmas bazaar, which is becoming a tradition now as it is its 3rd year running. This time it was organised by the Greek school and Mrs. Theochari, with all profits going to our church, for which we are all very grateful. We finished the year with our Christmas Service and the Christmas buffet just afterwards for everyone who could join us for a bite and a drink, to enable people who were alone for Christmas to come together. Additionally, our church and school participated in the Christmas Tree competition organised by our brethren in St. Mark's church, where our school children made all the Christmas tree ornaments. Thank you to our School teachers, Mrs. Skoulatou and Mrs. Khuri who organised our participation and the decoration of our tree this year.

We also continue participating in Churches Together and this is owed greatly to Mrs. Sonia Khuri, who sadly will be stepping down this year as our representative, but Mr. John Irvine will be taking over. Thank you to both.

Meanwhile, I would like to express my gratitude to all of our existing volunteers, all of our parishioners, the Prosfora and coffee group, the Greek school teachers, parents and pupils, our generous donors, our hosts from St. Mark's church, our priests and the Archdiocese, as everyone regardless of having a small or a big role, help in maintaining the church, school and community of Prophet Elias, building a stronger network of people with similar interests and beliefs and a better future for our community overall. Thank you all and each one individually.

Financial review

The principal sources of income for the Charity are donations and subscriptions from the church community, collections at church services and for the Greek school. Income is also derived from social functions and interest on bank deposits. Expenditure is largely in the provision of regular church services and the Greek school.

The financial performance showed a steady improvement from the previous year. There was a surplus for the year of £8,506, compared with a surplus of £4,755 in 2022. Gross income increased by 15% over the previous year and costs by 6%.

The Charity had net assets and unrestricted reserves of £123,263 on 31 October 2023. The Trustees consider that a minimum of £33,000, being sufficient for one year's expenditure, should be kept on general fund; but the Trustees wish to continue building up these reserves to safeguard the future of the Charity and eventually be in a position to consider the purchase of a church. To that end a generous donor has advanced £51,654 in respect of this goal. In the event of a purchase of a suitable property within five years, this will be granted as a gift. Until that time, it is regarded as an interest free loan, repayable in February 2026.

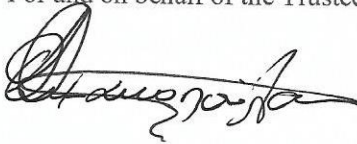
Structure, governance and management.

The Trustees (see Page 1) are responsible for managing the Charity and meet at least once a year but more often if required. New trustees are recruited from within the Community. The Trustees have delegated day-to-day responsibility for running church activities to the Ecclesiastical Committee (see Page 1 also).

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate these risks.

The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity's objectives and activities meet public benefit criteria by providing well-patronised opportunities for Orthodox communities in the Reading area to meet for organised worship and fellowship.

For and on behalf of the Trustees



Theodora Dimakopoulou

Chair

Dated:

1/5/24.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Saint Elias Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 October 2023, which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As described on page 4, the Trustees are responsible the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you of any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Jenkins FCA

Dated: 6/5/24

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 October 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Income			
Income and endowments from:			
Subscriptions, church collections, donations	2	35,653	32,360
Social functions and fundraising	3	4,872	3,129
Bank interest		574	9
Total		41,099	35,498
Expenditure			
Charitable activities			
Church services	4	23,833	20,768
Education services	5	7,200	7,229
Social functions	3	-	581
Donations and subscriptions to Diocese		1,500	1,230
Benevolent payments and charitable donations		60	935
Total		32,593	30,743
Net income/(loss)		8,506	4,755
Funds brought forward		114,757	110,002
Funds carried forward		123,263	114,757

The attached notes form part of these accounts.

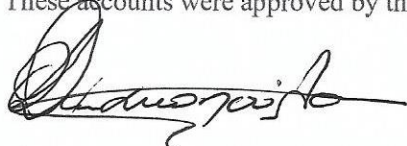
Balance Sheet at 31 October 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Ecclesiastical items	1	8,349	8,349
Current assets			
Stocks of candles and books		321	321
Debtors:			
Rent paid in advance		1,743	1,743
School fund		1,632	1,272
Cash at bank and in hand		165,563	154,926
		169,259	158,262
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Accrued expenses		(2,691)	(200)
Net current assets		166,568	158,062
Total assets less current liabilities		174,917	166,411
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year			
Conditional donation	6	(51,654)	(51,654)
Net assets		123,263	114,757
Funds-			
Unrestricted funds		123,263	114,757

The Charities Act 2011 and the Charity's Constitution require the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and the income and expenditure for that period. The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with The Charities Act 2011.

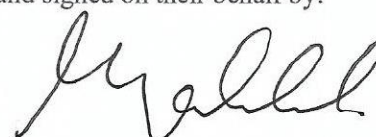
The Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions of The Charities Act 2011, which allow exemption from audit on charities under a certain income level.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 11/5/24 and signed on their behalf by:



Theodora Dimakopoulou

Chair



Margarita Reed

Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these accounts.

Notes to the accounts

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE) entitled 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE), effective January 2015.'

The following policies have been applied consistently in the preparation of these accounts.

- Income and expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis.
- Donations, collections and similar income is recognised when cash is received, being when entitlement arises
- Fixed assets, being Ecclesiastical items, are included at Trustees valuation but no depreciation is charged.

2 Church collections, subscriptions, donations

	2023	2022
	£	£
Collections	10,342	8,706
Subscriptions and donations	14,936	14,245
School donations (see note 5)	7,560	7,149
Special services and sundry	2,815	2,260
Gift Aid	-	-
	35,653	32,360

3 Income and expenditure from social functions

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from social functions	4,872	3,129
Related costs	-	(581)
	4,872	2,548

Notes to the accounts (continued)

4 Church services expense

	2023	2022
	£	£
Priests' expenses	11,385	10,900
Rent	5,500	5,500
Church supplies and candles	3,926	168
Insurance	-	-
Storage	2,192	1,732
Other expenses	830	2,468
	23,833	20,768

No Trustee received any remuneration. The Treasurer was reimbursed £1,995 for expenses necessarily incurred when the bank account was restricted on a mandate change.

5 Education services expense

	2023	2022
	£	£
Teachers' expenses	5,435	5,085
Supplies, stationery and premises	1,765	2,144
	7,200	7,229

6 Creditors due after one year

This represents a conditional gift made to the Church to assist with the purchase of a property. If it is not used for this purpose, it is repayable on 1 February 2026. It is interest free.

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF READING

England & Wales - Charity number 299645

Accounts

SAINT ELIAS
GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF READING
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

Annual Report

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31 October 2022.

Reference and administrative details

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Honorary President	His Eminence the Archbishop Niketas
Chair of Trustees	Theodora Dimakopoulou
Trustee	Nikolaos Manousos
Trustee	Elias Parikos
Trustee	Yiannis Irvine
Trustee	Nikolaos Marinis

The Charity is governed by a deed dated 20 April 1988 (as amended 29 July 1988) together with a deed of variation dated 27 April 1994. It is registered with the Charity Commission as number 299645.

The Ecclesiastical Committee is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the church and consists of the Trustees listed above as well as the following:

Officers:

President	Theodora Dimakopoulou
Vice President	Paul Elderfield
Secretary	Georgios Karabatakis
Treasurer	Panagiotis Stemitsiotis
General members:	Stella Keramida
	Sonia Khuri
	Aikaterini Skoulatou
	Georgios Karabatakis
	Chrysoula Theochari
	Magdalene Papaevgeniadou
	Fotini Vergottis
	Nikolaos Manousos

Independent examiner John Jenkins FCA

Bankers Barclays Bank plc

Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2022

Objects and activities

The objects of the Charity are to promote the Greek Orthodox faith and Greek Orthodox charitable institutions in Reading and environs. The Charity achieves this through regular (normally weekly) acts of worship, supporting and expanding a Greek Orthodox school, and occasional social functions, thus bringing benefit to the Greek, Cypriot and the wider Orthodox community.

Review of achievements and performance***President's Report***

I would like to thank you all for honouring me and trusting me with the responsibility of being the President. I would also like to thank my predecessor, Mrs. Hewson, for all her great work, for a thorough handover, her guidance and my introduction to this church committee. Although my term started with some turbulence between ourselves and the Archdiocese, we managed to remain united and focused as we recognised each other's roles, responsibilities, value and duties, which set an excellent precedent for the year that followed. Despite all this, we were also lucky and grateful to undertake our role just after our church had received back the loan from the Archdiocese, which helped greatly into setting a future strategy and what now seemed a realistic vision regarding finding a new building for our church and school.

A "church-hunting" team was quickly formed with dedicated committee members who would keep looking for suitable buildings for our church and school, as well as people to communicate and help us with this task. Thank you to everyone in the Church hunting team but special thanks to Mrs. Skoulatou for going above and beyond into contacting so many people to help us finding a permanent church.

Within the first two months of our term, we put into place several systems and tools in a Cloud software, providing everyone access to the same live documents. The committee meetings became monthly and due to their frequency, as well as for practicality reasons, a live Action log was introduced in place of the Minutes. There was also an annual Rota implemented for everyone to add their name next to tasks they could undertake, including non-committee members. I would like to thank Mrs. Khuri for continuing organising the Prosfora and Coffees Rota, as well as all the people who make the Prosfora and offer the coffee and biscuits every Sunday.

Our church participated on January 23, 2022 in the week of prayer organised by Churches Together in Reading at St Matthews in Southcote in which Fr Andreas delivered the message of the day. With his help, Yannis, Sonia and her daughter Sawsan they sang Orthodox hymns in English, Arabic and Greek. The evening was broadcasted live on YouTube and pictures were taken for the local papers. A big review and update of our then outdated webpage also took place so my thanks go to Mr. Irvine, Mr. Karabatakis, Mrs. Vergotis and Mrs. Skoulatou for their time and effort on this very big task. Mrs. Theochari remains our Facebook page administrator and I thank her for her continuous commitment.

In December 2021 we organised our first fundraising event in our church hall, a Christmas Bazaar. As expected from an inexperienced mostly at the time committee, it took a lot of effort, patience and time to organise such an event. However, this resulted into forming a Social Events team (including non-committee members too), a stronger presence within the community and maybe a tradition as we just recently repeated this event in November 2022. Both Christmas Bazaars were great successes not only financially, but as community building

Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

Trustees' annual report and accounts

for the year ended 31 October 2022

events too. Last year's Christmas bazaar coincided with the last day of our Greek school, so it was wonderful having our school's children singing to us Christmas carols on the same day. As an act of gratitude and recognition we offered to all our school's children some goody bags, kindly prepared by Mrs. Papaevgeniadou, whom I thank with all my heart. I would also like to thank the whole Social Events team, our Greek school's teachers and pupils who made many Christmas decorations to sell on both year's Bazaars but especially Mrs. Theochari for her excellent event organising skills, creating posters, advertising our events in social media and her very hard work overall throughout the year's events.

Having recognised quite early, how important is for the community to get together, especially after the Covid era, and as it was Christmas time soon, we took the initiative to also organise a buffet meal just after our Christmas service in our church on 24th December 2021. This was a non-profit event, organised by committee members and volunteers for the whole parish, and it proved to be a great community building event. I am grateful to everyone who contributed and participated.

In January 2022 we had our traditional Vasilopita cutting in our church, which was very special as the lucky coin was the silver coin marking the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain's centenary anniversary as a special blessing. I would like to thank once again Mrs. Vergottis for her donation of the silver coin for this purpose. In March we organised our first fundraising Apokries party in Peppard War Memorial Hall. All food was prepared by the Social Events team, to which I am once again thankful. Mrs. Vasilikou, did an outstanding job in obtaining great raffle prizes and I am most grateful for all her hard work on this. Once again, it was wonderful to see the community coming together and enjoying this event so much, so hopefully next year God willing, we will be able to organise another and possibly bigger Apokries event. Thank you to the Social Events team and especially Mrs. Theochari for leading the organisation of this event with such great success, along with Mr. Kalogiannis and Mr. Stemitsiotis who set up an online ticket system for our church for the first time, facilitating the organisation of such events for the future too.

Father Andreas supported and guided us all along very patiently, as he still does, and with great kindness so I would like to thank him and express my gratitude once again, as he has a very difficult task as our spiritual leader on top of his very busy work schedule. I believe we all feel very lucky for having him as our main Priest, as he is always with us every step of the way, with his knowledge, experience and paternal love that always describes him.

During the Lenten period and with Fr. Andreas' good will and initiative we managed to add in our Services program a couple Salutations services and a Pre-Sanctified Gifts service before the Holy week, which was a blessing. Thankfully our brothers and sisters in St. Marks allowed us the use of the church outside our contract, for which we are grateful. As the Holy Week was the first one without any restrictions after the previous two Covid years, we knew it would be very challenging, but thanks to Mr. Manousos' very valuable experience, Mr. and Mrs. Stemitsiotis immense support and help with too many tasks to even mention, our Vice-President Mr. Elderfield's continuous assistance, our chanter Mr. Irvine, and every volunteer who helped, we managed to re-live and experience a pre-Covid Easter period, which led to one of the most joyous Easter celebrations of the past three years. A very big and special thanks goes to Mrs. Anna Reed, who organised the task of dyeing of the eggs amongst several people, the purchase of Easter breads (Τσουρέκια), she made hundreds of Diples (Δίπλες) and baked with Mrs Papaevgeniadou hundreds of Easter biscuits (Πασχαλινά κουλούρια), in order to distribute them to the parishioners after the Resurrection service.

Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2022

In July, we celebrated our Patron Saint, and we were honoured by the presence of His Grace, Bishop Raphael of Ilioupoli and the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Rachel Eden. The Feast of Prophet Elias was a very joyous event as we organised a celebratory buffet in our church Hall. I am once again grateful to everyone who prepared food and especially to Mrs. Reed and Mr. Manousos who orchestrated the preparations of the whole feast. In September and after our August break, we had the honour to visit His Eminence, Archbishop Nikitas on His name day on the 15th September, when we presented him with a handmade icon of Prophet Elias and on the 20th for a late Committee visit in order to get His blessing. Thank you to Mrs. Vergottis for getting the icon of Prophet Elias, as well as accompanying me along with Mrs. Khuri, Mr. Stemitsiotis, Mrs. Skoulatou and Fr. Andreas in both visits, which helped establishing a good relationship with His Eminence and the Archdiocese. In October, ten people from our committee and parish including Fr. Andreas, attended the Grand Banquet for the Celebration of the Centennial of our Archdiocese at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London, where we had the honour to see His All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew and meet members from other parishes around the UK. Thank you to everyone who attended.

As aforementioned, we just had this November another successful Christmas Bazaar and I am looking forward to our after Christmas buffet meal and our End of Year fundraising dinner on the 30th December 2022.

Financial review

The principal sources of income for the Charity are donations and subscriptions from the church community, collections at church services and for the Greek school. Income is also derived from social functions and interest on bank deposits. Expenditure is largely in the provision of regular church services and the Greek school.

The financial performance was significantly improved from the previous year which was affected by the restrictions imposed by the pandemic which reduced donations and prevented the normal fund-raising social activities in the year. There was a surplus for the year of £4,754, compared with a deficit of £1,644 in 2021. Gross income increased by 65% over the previous year and costs by 33%.

The Charity had net assets and unrestricted reserves of £114,757 on 31 October 2022. The Trustees consider that a minimum of £31,000, being sufficient for one year's expenditure, should be kept on general fund; but the Trustees wish to continue building up these reserves to safeguard the future of the Charity and eventually be in a position to consider the purchase of a church. To that end a generous donor has advanced £51,654 in respect of this goal. In the event of a purchase of a suitable property within five years, this will be granted as a gift. Until that time it is regarded as an interest free loan, repayable in February 2026.

Structure, governance and management

The Trustees (see Page 1) are responsible for managing the Charity and meet at least once a year but more often if required. New trustees are recruited from within the Community. The Trustees have delegated day-to-day responsibility for running church activities to the Ecclesiastical Committee (see Page 1 also).

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate these risks. Many of these risks are appropriately covered by the Charity's insurance policies in respect of:

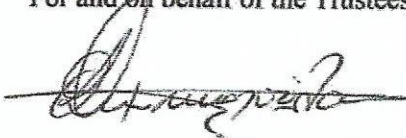
Saint Elias
Greek Orthodox Community of Reading
Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2022

5

- Fire, theft and other damage
- Employer liabilities
- Public liabilities
- Trustees' indemnity

The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity's objectives and activities meet public benefit criteria by providing well-patronised opportunities for Orthodox communities in the Reading area to meet for organised worship and fellowship.

For and on behalf of the Trustees



Theodora Dimakopoulou

Chair

Dated: 30/10/2023

Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Saint Elias Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 October 2022, which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As described on page 7, the Trustees are responsible the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you of any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Jenkins FCA

Dated: 31/10/23

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 October 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Income			
Income and endowments from:			
Subscriptions, church collections, donations	2	32,360	21,496
Social functions and fundraising	3	3,129	-
Bank interest		9	24
Total		35,498	21,520
Expenditure			
Charitable activities			
Church services	4	20,768	17,251
Education services	5	7,229	4,744
Social functions	3	581	-
Donations and subscriptions to Diocese		1,230	970
Independent examiner's fee		-	200
Benevolent payments and charitable donations		935	-
Total		30,743	23,165
Net income/(loss)		4,755	(1,645)
Funds brought forward		110,002	111,647
Funds carried forward		114,757	110,002

The attached notes form part of these accounts.

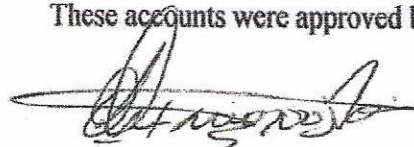
Greek Orthodox Community of ReadingTrustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2022**Balance Sheet at 31 October 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Ecclesiastical items	1	8,349	8,349
Current assets			
Stocks of candles and books		321	321
Debtors:			
Rent paid in advance		1,743	1,743
School fund		1,272	543
Loan to the Trustees of the Ecclesiastical & Theological Seminary of the Archdiocese	6	-	41,564
Cash at bank and in hand		154,926	67,682
		158,262	111,853
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Accrued expenses		(200)	(200)
Net current assets		158,062	111,653
Total assets less current liabilities			
		166,411	120,002
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year			
Conditional donation	7	(51,654)	(10,000)
Net assets		114,757	110,002
Funds-			
Unrestricted funds	8	114,757	110,002

The Charities Act 2011 and the Charity's Constitution require the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and the income and expenditure for that period. The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with The Charities Act 2011.


The Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions of The Charities Act 2011, which allow exemption from audit on charities under a certain income level.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 30/10/23 and signed on their behalf by:



Theodora Dimakopoulou

Chair



Panagiotis Stemitsiotis

Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these accounts.

Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2022

Notes to the accounts**1 Accounting policies**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE) entitled 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE), effective January 2015.'

The following policies have been applied consistently in the preparation of these accounts.

- Income and expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis.
- Donations, collections and similar income is recognised when cash is received, being when entitlement arises
- Fixed assets, being Ecclesiastical items, are included at Trustees valuation but no depreciation is charged.

2 Church collections, subscriptions, donations

	2022	2021
	£	£
Collections	8,706	5,636
Subscriptions and donations	14,245	8,393
School donations (see note 5)	7,149	3,180
Special services and sundry	2,260	1,721
Gift Aid	-	2,566
	32,360	21,496

3 Income and expenditure from social functions

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income from social functions	3,129	-
Related costs	(581)	-
	2,548	-

Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

Trustees' annual report and accounts

for the year ended 31 October 2022

Notes to the accounts (continued)**4 Church services expense**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Priests' expenses	10,900	8,760
Rent	5,500	4,433
Candles	168	1,151
Insurance	-	442
Storage	1,732	1,568
Other expenses	2,468	897
	20,768	17,251

No Trustee received any remuneration. The Treasurer was reimbursed £1,995 for expenses necessarily incurred when the bank account was restricted on a mandate change.

5 Education services expense

	2022	2021
	£	£
Teachers' expenses	5,085	4,725
Supplies, stationery and premises	2,144	19
	7,229	4,744

6 Amount due from Archdiocese

On 6th October 2002 the sum of £40,000 was advanced to the Trustees of the Ecclesiastical & Theological Seminary of the Archdiocese of Thyathera and Great Britain in respect of the establishment of the Seminary. Interest was payable on this until 31st October 2010, when the Trustees agreed to waive future charges. Accumulated interest was £11,564. £10,000 was repaid during the year ended 31st October 2020. On 31st October 2021 the balance of the loan and interest was therefore £41,564 and this was repaid on 22nd November 2021.

7 Creditors due after one year

This represents a conditional gift made to the Church to assist with the purchase of a property. If it is not used for this purpose, it is repayable on 1 February 2026. It is interest free.

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF READING

England & Wales - Charity number 299645

Accounts

SIGNED COPY

**SAINT ELIAS
GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF BERKSHIRE
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020**

Annual Report

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31 October 2020.

Reference and administrative details

The Trustees who served during the year were as follows:

Honorary President	His Eminence the Archbishop Nikitas
Chair of Trustees	Anastasia Hewson
Trustee	Nikolaos Manousos
Trustee	Elias Parikos
Trustee	Yiannis Irvine
Trustee	Nikolaos Marinis

The Charity is governed by a deed dated 20 April 1988 (as amended 29 July 1988) together with a deed of variation dated 27 April 1994. It is registered with the Charity Commission as number 299645.

The Ecclesiastical Committee is responsible for the day to day operations of the church and consists of the Trustees listed above as well as the following:

Officers:

President	Anastasia Hewson
Vice President	Yannis Irvine
Secretary	Fotini Vergottis
Treasurer	Theo Ziffo
General members:	Stella Keramida
	Sonia Khuri
	Elizabeth Bolter
	Dania Kamini
	Chrysoula Theochari
	Panagiotis Stemitsiotis
	Calliope Jenkins
	Aikaterini Skoulatou

Independent examiner John Jenkins FCA

Bankers Barclays Bank plc

Saint Elias
Greek Orthodox Community of Berkshire

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Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2020

Objects and activities

The objects of the Charity are to promote the Greek Orthodox faith and Greek Orthodox charitable institutions in Reading and environs. The Charity achieves this through regular (normally weekly) acts of worship, supporting and expanding a Greek Orthodox school, and occasional social functions, thus bringing benefit to the Greek, Cypriot and the wider Orthodox community.

Review of achievements and performance

We are in the last two months of a challenging year. There has been immeasurable suffering and loss around the world. Our lives have changed dramatically during the Covid-19 pandemic; they are disrupted, and a lot of things we used to take for granted, are no longer there. One of them is our lives as practising Orthodox Christians. For what seemed an eternity, we could not have any access to our churches, and then, we had to worship in a different, socially distanced manner. While writing this report, we are entering yet another lockdown.

It has been a challenging year for our church, too, but with our Lord's help, we have survived. We have become closer and more supportive of each other. As you will see in our Treasurer's report, thanks to your generosity, we even managed to thrive financially during such a time of uncertainty.

During 2020, we were saddened by the departure to Greece of our beloved resident Priest, Father Asterios Karampatakis, who spent three years in the church of Prophet Elias as our spiritual father. But then, we were also blessed with the arrival of Reverend Dr Andreas Andreopoulos. We are grateful to him, too, because he immediately embraced our community with paternal love, and has been supporting us tirelessly ever since.

Throughout these challenging months, we needed to work together to be able to follow the new government rules regarding places of worship, during the months of easing the pandemic restrictions. I want to thank every one of you, who has helped with the new duties. I am grateful to all our dedicated parishioners, who joined us every Sunday. Sometimes, they even had to queue outside the church. I would also like to thank our shielding parishioners, who despite their absence on Sunday Services, they continued to work for our church and to support it in every possible manner.

The year began with our fundraising event at the very popular Greek restaurant 'Lemoni'. Father Asterios Karampatakis cut the Vasilopita, and we celebrated the New Year with the exquisite menu of 'Lemoni'. Thanks to the generosity of our guests and Odysseas, the owner of 'Lemoni', our community raised £310 for our church.

In March, the country went into a lengthy national lockdown. We were not able to worship, and especially, to celebrate Easter. When the restrictions eased, and before we were able to return to our church, we were very fortunate to be allowed to worship in Watlington Hall, which is located within the beautiful Garden of the historic Watlington House.

There, we were also truly fortunate to celebrate our Patron Saint and to be blessed by the presence of His Eminence, Archbishop Nikitas. The joyful celebration was followed by a luncheon at the 'Lemoni' restaurant.

During the summer months, our committees worked hard to draft a Risk Assessment, which in turn allowed us to return to our church in September. The happy event was also marked by the arrival of our new Priest, Father Dr Andreas Andreopoulos, who has since embraced our community. We are truly grateful to him.

As always, our brothers and sisters at Saint Mark's have been very accommodating and pleasant with us, and we have maintained our good relations. I am thankful because we can worship next to such a wonderful church community. At the beginning of November, our hosts began construction work in both the church and the church hall. On our return, we will be fortunate to enjoy fixed roofs on both buildings.

As we enter a second lockdown, I want to take the opportunity to thank you again, and to ask that you continue supporting our church during the uncertain months of this pandemic. There are many ways to support our community and to ensure its survival. We welcome them all. We hope that you will continue to pray for our church, and we are grateful for your donations and the payment of your annual subscriptions. Your support will not only help the community of Prophet Elias to survive but also, the eventual acquisition of our own church.

I wish you all a blessed and joyful Christmas, and a happy and prosperous 2021.

Financial review

The principal sources of income for the Charity are donations and subscriptions from the church community, collections at church services and for the Greek school. Income is also derived from social functions and interest on bank deposits. Expenditure is largely in the provision of regular church services and the Greek school.

The financial performance was significantly affected by the suspension of church services due to the Covid pandemic and their subsequent restriction. There was, nevertheless, a surplus for the year of £1,822 in the year, compared with a surplus of £9,044 in 2019. Gross income dropped by 25% over the previous year and costs by 19%.

The Charity had net assets and unrestricted reserves of £111,647 on 31 October 2020. These reserves include an earmarked sum of £41,564 in respect of the loan to the Archdiocese of Thyathera and Great Britain, and the balance of £70,083 is held for general purposes. The Trustees consider that a minimum of £25,000, being sufficient for one year's expenditure, should be kept on general fund; but the Trustees wish to continue building up these reserves to safeguard the future of the Charity and eventually be in a position to consider the purchase of a church.

Structure, governance and management

The Trustees (see Page 1) are responsible for managing the Charity and meet at least once a year but more often if required. New trustees are recruited from within the Community. The

Saint Elias
Greek Orthodox Community of Berkshire
Trustees' annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 October 2020

4

Trustees have delegated day-to-day responsibility for running church activities to the Ecclesiastical Committee (see Page 1 also).

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate these risks. Many of these risks are appropriately covered by the Charity's insurance policies in respect of:

- Fire, theft and other damage
- Employer liabilities
- Public liabilities
- Trustees' indemnity

The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity's objectives and activities meet public benefit criteria by providing well-patronised opportunities for Orthodox communities in the Reading area to meet for organised worship and fellowship.

For and on behalf of the Trustees



Anastasia Hewson

Chair

07.12.20

Dated:

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Saint Elias Greek Orthodox Community of Berkshire

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 October 2020, which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As described on page 7, the Trustees are responsible the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you of any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Jenkins FCA

Dated:

7/12/20

Saint Elias
Greek Orthodox Community of Berkshire
 Trustees' annual report and accounts
 for the year ended 31 October 2020

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 October 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Income			
Income and endowments from:			
Subscriptions, church collections, donations	2	28,240	37,819
Social functions and fundraising	3	1,520	2,234
Bank interest		68	89
Total		29,828	40,142
Expenditure			
Charitable activities			
Church services	4	18,666	22,719
Education services	5	4,755	7,332
Social functions	3	1,210	477
Donations and subscriptions to Diocese		3,175	370
Independent examiner's fee		200	200
Total		28,006	31,098
Net income		1,822	9,044
Funds brought forward		109,825	100,781
Funds carried forward		111,647	109,825

The attached notes form part of these accounts.


Balance Sheet at 31 October 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Ecclesiastical items	1	7,949	7,385
Current assets			
Stocks of candles and books		1,152	287
Debtors			
Rent paid in advance		1,743	1,743
Loan to the Trustees of the Ecclesiastical & Theological Seminary of the Archdiocese	6	41,564	51,564
Cash at bank and in hand		58,732	49,046
		104,098	102,640
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Accrued expenses		(400)	(200)
Net current assets		103,698	102,440
Net assets		111,647	109,825
Funds-			
Unrestricted funds	7	111,647	109,825

The Charities Act 2011 and the Charity's Constitution require the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and the income and expenditure for that period. The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with The Charities Act 2011.

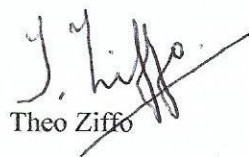
The Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions of The Charities Act 2011, which allow exemption from audit on charities under a certain income level.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 7/12/20 and signed on their behalf by:



Anastasia Hewson

Chair



Theo Ziffo

Treasurer

The attached notes form part of these accounts.

Notes to the accounts

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRSSE) entitled 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE), effective January 2015.'

The following policies have been applied consistently in the preparation of these accounts.

- Income and expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis.
- Donations, collections and similar income is recognised when cash is received, being when entitlement arises
- Fixed assets, being Ecclesiastical items, are included at Trustees valuation but no depreciation is charged.

2 Church collections, subscriptions, donations

	2020	2019
	£	£
Collections	5,442	9,733
Subscriptions and donations	13,866	14,887
School donations (see note 5)	4,560	8,351
Special services	485	865
Gift Aid	3,887	3,983
	28,240	37,819

3 Income and expenditure from social functions

	2020	2019
	£	£
Income from social functions	1,520	2,234
Related costs	(1,210)	(477)
	310	1,757

Notes to the accounts (continued)

4 Church services expense

	2020	2019
	£	£
Priests' expenses	12,495	14,190
Rent	3,206	4,555
Candles	310	1,831
Insurance	442	439
Storage	1,107	838
Other expenses	1,106	866
	18,666	22,719

No Trustee received any remuneration or re-imbursments for expenses

5 Education services expense

	2020	2019
	£	£
Teachers' expenses	4,025	5,845
Supplies, stationery and premises	730	1,487
	4,755	7,332

6 Amount due from Archdiocese

On 6th October 2002 the sum of £40,000 was advanced to the Trustees of the Ecclesiastical & Theological Seminary of the Archdiocese of Thyathera and Great Britain in respect of the establishment of the Seminary. £10,000 was repaid during the year ended 31 October 2020.

The balance is repayable on demand and included accrued interest payable quarterly in arrears at Barclays Bank Plc base rate until 31st October 2010. The Trustees have agreed to waive interest charges thereafter.

7 Reserves

	Total	Earmarked reserve	General fund
	£	£	£
Balances brought forward	109,825	51,564	58,261
Net income for the year	1,822	-	1,822
Transfer between funds	-	(10,000)	10,000
Balances carried forward	111,647	41,564	70,083

The earmarked reserve represents the amount due from the Archdiocese (see Note 6 above).