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**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

### **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

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

**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 October 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Income</b>			
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
<b>Expenditure</b>			
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
<b>Net income</b>		1,822	9,044
Funds brought forward		109,825	100,781
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		111,647	109,825

The attached notes form part of these accounts.

**Balance Sheet at 31 October 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Ecclesiastical items	1	7,949	7,385
<b>Current assets</b>			
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
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>			
Accrued expenses		(400)	(200)
<b>Net current assets</b>		103,698	102,440
<b>Net assets</b>		111,647	109,825
<b>Funds-</b>			
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.

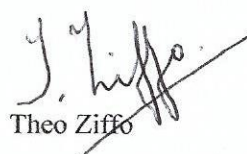
The Trustees have taken advantage of the provisions of The Charities Act 2011, which allow exemption from audit on charities under a certain income level.

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**

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

### **3 Income and expenditure from social functions**

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

## **Notes to the accounts (continued)**

### **4 Church services expense**

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

No Trustee received any remuneration or re-imbursements for expenses

### **5 Education services expense**

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

### **6 Amount due from Archdiocese**

On 6<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010. The Trustees have agreed to waive interest charges thereafter.

### **7 Reserves**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Earmarked reserve</b>	<b>General fund</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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
<b>Balances carried forward</b>	<b>111,647</b>	<b>41,564</b>	<b>70,083</b>

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