

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

Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

Trustees' annual report and accounts

*for the 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 Ilion 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:

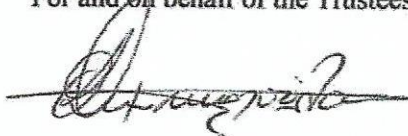
Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

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

- 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

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

Greek Orthodox Community of Reading

Trustees' annual report and accounts

*for the year ended 31 October 2022***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 Reading

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

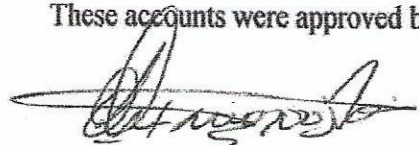
Balance Sheet at 31 October 2022

	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.