



Grove Free Evangelical Church

'Building a community of people who live out God's purposes'

Annual Reports

2012-2013

www.gfec.org.uk

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Elders

'Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails'

Proverbs 19:21

As usual, it's been a busy year in church life with different people coming and going, changes in leadership, new ministries started and others developed. It's so easy to forget all that's happened and I'm grateful for this opportunity to remind us of our journey together last year.

As Elders, we have once again sought to provide a balanced diet of practical and relevant teaching for everyone. In our Sunday morning services we have covered several series including 'Spiritual Disciplines', 'Freedom rules OK?' – a series from Galatians and 'Life on a roller coaster with Joseph'. The Olympics in July & August provided the opportunity for us to run a series entitled 'Aiming for Gold – the Christian athlete'. In December we held an end of year all-age celebration followed by lunch and an 'awards ceremony'. I'm grateful to Andy Hooker & Ian Reynolds who have shared the teaching with me and others who have stepped in at other times. I'd also like to express my gratitude to all those involved in leading, playing, singing, power pointing and 'pa-ing' at these services.

In April we held a 'Building Vision Sunday' followed by lunch, a Q & A session and prayer as we focused our attention on our vision for a 'Christian Centre' on the airfield.

In June we met on the recreation ground for a Thanksgiving Service to open the Grove celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee. We're grateful to Barbie and her team for all their efforts in making the event such a huge success. At the end of June we held our annual camping weekend at Lechlade which again proved to be a great time of relaxed fellowship together.

In September we were delighted to witness Alex being baptised in the playground as we 'christened' our new baptistry built by Ray Massie.

In November, Glyn Oliver spoke at our away day at Clanfield and in the evening we moved on to 'The Granary' where Ray & Fiona kindly hosted a time of fun, food and fireworks.

At Christmas, we sought to engage with the community as we sang carols in the area and the Bay Tree pub with the help of some locals.

Good Friday saw us join with other churches on the Green for a united service of witness and in the evening the 'Cross in the Square' event drew huge numbers to witness to the power of the cross and listen to the excellent Croydon SDA Gospel Community Choir.

After discussion at a Member's meeting we decided to end the Evening Services as numbers attending were falling. Our thanks go to Gerald who took responsibility for arranging these services which have provided opportunities for us to hear Missionary reports, watch DVDs and hear individuals share their personal stories of faith in the ever popular 'Why I believe' series. We will use opportunities in the morning service to focus on Mission activities and people we support. Although evening services have been discontinued, there will still be opportunities to meet together at Challow and for 'Open House' evenings.

In the early part of this year the Deacons spent a huge amount of time and effort in making arrangements for us to move to Old Mill Hall in April. The facilities at OMH are much more suitable for our needs and also present us with fresh opportunities to hold events that will attract local families. We are planning a 'Breakfast Church for all the family' and other family-friendly activities in the near future.

As Elders, we have met several times with the Deacons to pray over and discuss several issues in church life including our current link with the FIEC.

As we look forward to the coming year, we will again face many challenges. On the leadership front, Chris Margetts continued his sabbatical from the Eldership Team. Ian Reynolds has been identified as a future Elder and we have asked you to pray with him as he considers this opportunity.

As a church we continue to partner with other churches, exemplified by our involvement in many local ministries including Cornerstone, Street Pastors, W & G Foodbank etc. I continue to meet with other local Ministers in Grove and also the W & G Partnership for times of fellowship.

Pastoral care of the church family presents many challenges. Each of us has a privilege and a responsibility to take this ministry seriously – *‘as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers’*. (Gal 6:10). The Pastoral Awareness Team (PAT) set up last year aims to respond more effectively to the needs of people in the fellowship, whether practical, financial or in prayer. I am grateful to Gerald & Erika, Ray & Fiona, Margaret Barber and Ken Hayward who have devoted their time and energy in providing appropriate support with the help of others to those in need.

Prayer continues to be a key feature of life at GFEC. This past year we continued to meet monthly at Cornerstone in place of Housegroups that week. In giving the opportunity for different people to lead, we have experienced imaginative and innovative times of praise and prayer. The ‘Building Vision’ Prayer Breakfasts have also been a source of real encouragement as we continue to seek God’s will for a building on the new development.

None of the varied ministries at GFEC would exist if it weren’t for the selfless dedication of people giving their time and energy to serve God. We thank God for each of you and trust that you will be fulfilled and also fruitful in your particular sphere of service. Some ministries are more public, others take place in the background. All are important as we seek to *‘build a community of people who live out God’s purposes’*. We all need the empowering of the Holy Spirit as we seek to listen to, learn from and live for Christ.

As I draw to a close, I want to especially thank you for your expressions of love, loyalty and support to Julie and myself during the past year. I’d also like to thank the Deacons for all their sterling efforts. In addition, Debbie has continued to make a valuable contribution to the church and personally to me in her role as GFEC’s Administrator.

We look forward with faith and hope in our hearts that God will continue to guide and direct us as we move ahead. As we continue to make plans for the future, please continue to stand with us in prayer that *‘the Lord’s purposes will prevail’*.

Paul John

(on behalf of Andy Hooker & Chris Margetts)

Deacons

The Deacons continue to support the work, vision and leadership of the Elders, and remain responsible for oversight of the finances, administration, accommodation, equipment, health and safety, all practical aspects required for Sunday and other services and events, and being aware of the needs of folk within the fellowship.

In June we saw the departure of Barbie from the Deaconate, and Ken joined in May. His primary responsibility is that of a Support Facilitator. A number of people have received both practical and financial assistance during the year, and we continue to remember them in our prayers.

We rejoice in the baptism of one of our fellowship. Although there was a lot of work done in the background, this event was well worth all the effort and the number of people attending confirmed this view.

A number of working policies have been reviewed and put into practice. There is still some work to do to complete these, although periodical reviews will continue. The Elders and Deacons have agreed a Visiting Speaker Policy, new this year. To support key holding responsibilities at Cornerstones, each of the Deacons has received training from Cornerstone in regard to Fire Safety and key handling procedures. After reviewing the number of calls received on the Confidential Helpline, it was decided to close down this service due to the apparent lack of need for it.

Arguably the largest project undergone this year was the relocation from Grove C/E School to Old Mill Hall. This has been successful and the extra space and facilities have verified that this decision was the right one at this time. We are grateful to the School for allowing us to reside there for so long, and now we look forward to a long stay at our new home.

Another big, and on-going, project has been the migration and revamping of the Church website. The paradigm of this project is to make it easier to maintain and cater for turnover of staff (if necessary).

As Deacons we aim to serve the Lord and His church, particularly the group of people that come together as GFEC. Please continue to pray that the Lord will give us the necessary wisdom, insight and skills to perform our duties well for His glory.

Adrian Kerr

(on behalf of Russell Dyer, Ken Hayward and Debbie Hooker)

The Mission at East Challow

The Mission in East Challow was founded in 1904 to be a Christian witness, to the communities in East and West Challow and to the surrounding area. In 2012, GFEC extended its outreach beyond Grove to strengthen, support and encourage the struggling church at The Mission. The building had not been used for public worship for over a year, but after some plumbing and electrical checks, the building reopened for a Sunday family church service in March 2012. Since that time there has been much progress and encouragement.

Monthly family services have now been held at The Mission for over a year, being generally held on the second Sunday afternoon of the month at 4pm. There has been a teaching programme entitled "*A new way to live*", as we've looked at the thought-provoking teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. The Sunday services have been encouraging as we've enjoyed warm Christian fellowship with each other and with God. A highlight of the family services has been the children participating with puppet shows and sketches that communicate the Christian theme of each service.

There has been an average attendance of about 25 people, from both GFEC and Challow residents, with services being advertised in "Challow News" and by word of mouth. Christian posters have also been posted on the Challow Mission notice board. More recently we have produced an A5 Invitation Programme that has been professionally printed and delivered to houses in East and West Challow. A web-site is currently being constructed to further promote and inform about The Mission and its activities.

During the summer of 2012, we enjoyed times of fellowship as we held a cream tea, a church walk and a BBQ, activities we hope to repeat during the summer of 2013. A further highlight of the summer of 2012 was completing a painting facelift for the exterior of the Challow Mission building over a number of successive Saturdays. The painting teams enjoyed good weather, fellowship and fun, and a big thank you to all who worked so hard to get this done, whether it was painting, provision of food and drink or the transport and provision of ladders, paint and brushes.

We want to thank the many members of GFEC who have enthusiastically and diligently supported the work at East Challow, through encouragement and active participation. The strengthening and development of the church in East Challow is still very much in its infancy and GFEC continues to step out in faith as we seek God's blessing and direction. Please pray for The Mission and that it will be "salt and light" to the people of East and West Challow and the surrounding area.

Andy & Debbie Hooker

Sunday Club

Although we are few in number, Sunday Club continues to be a challenge and an encouragement. We started the year with 4-5 regular attendees, but as some moved on to secondary school and up to the youth group in September, unfortunately we now regularly have only two children, with another two attending occasionally.

We continue with a varied programme on Sunday mornings that includes Bible stories, games, quizzes, craft, drama, videos, singing and food often features! We have learnt about 'Victorious love' at Easter (Luke 19 – 24), Daring Daniel, Queen Esther, 'Travelling in faith' (Acts 2, 6, 7 & 9), 'Jesus in command' (Matthew 8 & 15), 'God sets the standard' (Genesis 2, 4, 6-9), 'God comes to his people' (Christmas – Luke 1&2, Matthew 2), 'How should we pray?' (Luke 11, 18), 'God's call and promise' (Genesis 12, 13, 16, 17), and 'Jesus heals'. At Christmas we enjoyed a fun and food filled party at which we were joined by two families from Funday Club. The families stayed on and joined the Carol Service.

My thanks go to those who have given of their time and their talents in service to God and to the children of Sunday Club, and who faithfully prepare and teach each week. After many years of service, Terry stepped back from teaching at the end of the academic year in July 2012. Helen joined the teaching team in September 2012. Denise and Lynn continue very faithfully.

In Sunday Club we have had good times of fun, sharing, bible teaching and learning about Jesus. My prayer is that each of the children will be helped along their journey of knowing Jesus as their personal saviour and living a life that is pleasing to Him. Please continue to pray for the children and the teachers of Sunday Club, and that God will bring more along to join us.

Debbie Hooker

Youth Group

Sunday mornings – CREW

Noel & Elaine, Alex and Julie have led this this past year. During the year Abi Kerr was also trained up as a leader. Gerald & Erika, Charlotte and Mike continued to be our helpers. In September it was all change as the older YP graduated to the main service whilst Hannah Hooker, Christopher Walsh and Gemma Baker became the new CREW. We had further changes in April as Noel & Elaine stepped down as Youth Leaders and are currently taking a break from GFEC. Alex is now working in Bristol and unable to be with us as often as he would like. As a result Julie and Abi are now responsible for teaching CREW and count it a privilege to teach these young people the Word of God in a relevant and hopefully enjoyable, way. Many thanks to all who have helped in any way.

Soul Survivor

Last summer for a week in August, a group of 10 youngsters and youth leaders went to Soul Survivor in Shepton Mallet. The group of 10 from GFEC was led by Katrina Kerr and Alex Guest and was a real success. All 10 had an enjoyable time and most importantly were able to develop their relationship with the Lord, in an environment which was new to most. As a result of the trip Abi Kerr has applied, and been successful, in gaining a place on the leadership course run by Soul Survivor. This is a real encouragement and we wish her all the best. In 2013 there is a group returning to Soul Survivor and also Momentum (the event for 18-30 year olds). All the youth would appreciate prayers for these events, that they would go well and that many people would come to know God / have their relationships with him strengthened.

IG-Nite

I am pleased to report that IG-Nite continues to be popular, with a regular attendance of 15 or so young people. Most are from GFEC, some are from Wantage Baptist Church and some do not currently attend any church.

The format remains unchanged with various board games, Wii and table tennis available when you arrive, plus snacks and drinks to help yourself to. After about an hour there is a short talk given by a variety of guest speakers. The talk is followed by a group game. The evening finishes at 9:30pm and by about 10pm when the last piece of popcorn has finally been vacuumed up, the weary hosts head for home.

Apart from the monthly Friday gathering, some members of IG-Nite also made the film 'Loony Balloony' (shown 17th February 2013). Hopefully in the future, we can do another film involving more of the group.

Noel and Elaine have been doing a great job running IG-Nite but after July 2013 they will be stepping down. What happens in September remains to be seen. I very much hope that IG-Nite will continue, simply because for some of the young people the short talk is perhaps the only Gospel message they will hear.

Youth services

During the year the Young People have been responsible for taking the whole of the evening service on a number of occasions – providing worship leaders, speakers, musicians, singers, testimonies and appropriate video clips. After Soul Survivor we were treated to an evening where they showed us in song and film all they had enjoyed there!

Chill Out

Julie & Paul, with the help of Abi, host a monthly Chill Out for all the young people in their home, which is very well attended. We are pleased to see more 'unchurched' young people coming regularly to this. It is very informal with the emphasis on fun – it gets quite noisy at times so we are glad our neighbours are not too close!

We have a great group of young people and should thank the Lord for them. Several of them help during the main service playing, singing, operating Easyworship and with the sound. Please continue to pray for them and in particular that our numbers in the CREW will increase.

Julie John

with contributions from Russell Dyer (IG-Nite) and Alex Guest (Soul Survivor)

Youth Housegroup

This is our second year, since starting as a House Group in September 2011. We used to meet every Monday but have reverted to meeting on the second and fourth Mondays during term times, as Katrina was struggling with her workload. Since Alex moved for work, there are normally eight youth and two leaders.

Our study programme was based on the book of Revelation. Three couples were invited to share their testimony and "how they met;" Paul and Julie, Ray and Fiona, and Ian and Janet. These sessions were appreciated by us all, and we are looking forward to our next guests (whoever they may be). Another Christmas Banquet was enjoyed by a crowd of youth.

The anticipated trip to Soul Survivor went fantastically well and another attendance is in the offing. As some of them will be older than 18, this will be a youth only activity this time.

There are likely to be quite big changes as some of the youngsters go off to further education after the summer break. Please pray each of us grows in the knowledge of the LORD JESUS CHRIST and that we continue to walk in HIS ways.

Adrian and Katrina Kerr

Gerald and Erika's Housegroup

This year we have enjoyed another varied, interesting and challenging programme. We started with Bible Studies in James and finished with a study of Samuel. Leading the Bible Studies was again shared by members of our group. Communion and praise evenings were included in our programme again and they proved to be times of focusing on God as we shared communion together.

Other activities included a visit to Badbury (between Faringdon and Coleshill) to view the bluebells, other guests were invited and we all ended up at Clanfield being entertained by Ray and Fiona. Another enjoyable outdoor event was a prayer walk near Crab Hill lead by Anita.

At the end of September 2012 letters and small Christmas gifts were written, wrapped and sent to the missionaries we support. We praise God that the gifts sent to the Brixey family were received just before Christmas at a time when they were all confined to their house through illness. It was a real tonic for the family and gratefully received.

Our 'Thanksgiving' supper hosted by Michael and Paulette was a very enjoyable social occasion. Naomi graciously visited us in January to enable us to get to know her better and we had a super evening sharing and learning new facets of her life to date.

June Dyer joined us from Terry and Andrea's group during the year as Thursday evenings were more convenient due to her busy schedule on a Wednesday.

Thanks to our group for all for your terrific support over the past year, what a pleasure to have fellowship with you and enjoy your contributions to the teaching and social activities. Housegroups are an important building brick in church life and we need to add new bricks to each of our groups. We still have some way to go in communicating that amazing love and forgiveness that Jesus offers to all who believe.

Gerald & Erika Belcher

Ladies Housegroup

Julie, Denise, Lynn, Glenys, Rachel, Carroll and lately Monique again are the ladies who make up this Group. Numbers vary considerably as we are very rarely all together as other commitments often prevent people from attending every week. We have been amazed though, as we have seen that the Lord has brought together the right people together each week.

This year has not been easy for some of our Group and the main emphasis has been on showing love and support as we have allowed people time to talk and share their burdens. We have then been able to apply God's word and pray into particular situations. We continue to see great answers to prayer – although not always in the ways we expected.

God is constantly teaching us to depend on Him and be willing to extend His love and grace to those around us.

Julie John

Chris and Barbie's / Safari Housegroup

During the summer months we were studying Hebrews and found this a very profitable book to go through, challenging and encouraging. Some evenings had to be cancelled so we did not progress all the way through the book. We were pleased to have Naomi join the group and have valued her contribution.

In September Chris stepped down from leadership and has taken a break from Housegroup. We met together to discuss possible ways forward; the decision was to remain together, but what would we call ourselves? We did not have a designated leader or a regular meeting place and so Safari Housegroup seemed appropriate.

We have studied the Parables of Jesus, it has been good to take a deeper look at these and realise how much there is to apply to ourselves today, both in attitudes and actions. Additionally we had an evening focussing on Josh and Cathy Hooker and family (Namibia). On two other evening Stephanie (Brown) told us about her work with BMS and Helen (Harwood) about CMS. It was very interesting receiving information about new developments, their roles in the organisation and seeing how God is working in many differing situations. During this period we missed Naomi who helped with the 'Glad you asked' course. Our 'Christmas meal' together (Cosmo's in Swindon) was in January! (must be African timing) just before Geoff and Angela left for Malaysia. We miss having them and look forward to their return in June. Sadly, owing to Gwenda's failing health, she and Ray had to withdraw from the group at the end of last year. Additionally Noel and Elaine have 'taken time out'. We miss them all and remember them in prayer.

The group is smaller than when we started, but our fellowship together has grown, meaning that we are able to share concerns and issues, enabling us to pray meaningfully and support each other. As we spend time in study, prayer and fellowship we know we are following a biblical pattern and growing in the Lord.

Margaret Barber

On behalf of the Safari Housegroup

Simon's Housegroup

A year in which the opportunities for the whole group to get together seemed few and far between. However, perhaps on the basis of 'absence makes the heart grow fonder,' our closeness and understanding of one another has increased. Fellowship has far deeper meanings than mere physical presence but those times we have been able to be together have been very precious.

Sadly, Simon has decided to step down from the formal position of group leader. Being a group of mainly mature years and long standing Christian experience, the question of leadership is not of great importance; each is capable of leading meetings and caring for one another. With sensible planning and co-ordination, leadership responsibility can be shared.

Does the change process going on in the Housegroup reflect a wider change process working through the church? We all would like to ensure that the doors are constantly open for those whom the Lord wishes to add to the church so we do not wish to be change resistant. But, we also recognise the need for spiritually sensitive change management.

Thus, the group remains open to whatever changes the Lord is bringing into our lives and we will continue to build each other up in the Lord.

Ian Reynolds

(on behalf of Simon's Housegroup)

Terry and Andrea's Housegroup

The Housegroup continues much as usual but with the missed presence of June, who now goes with Russell on a Thursday, a better day for her. We continue to share the leading of the sessions between those willing to do it and this consists mainly of Bible studies and follow ups to the topics covered on Sunday church meetings. We have social evenings, which are in one of the homes or further afield. The Housegroup serves as a valuable communications forum and an opportunity to try to understand and support one another.

Terry and Andrea Randall

CoffeePlus

Again the group has been encouraging in attendance (regularly 12+), support and participation. Having retired, Angela Girling attends regularly (when in the UK). We miss Julie John who stopped coming because of her mother's illness, subsequent death and then because of extra work commitments. Sadly in the summer, Jill Ward died unexpectedly; her short time in CoffeePlus was a blessing to her. All of the ladies have been greatly saddened by the loss of Gwenda Lucas as our leader. She had to step down in September and then her illness prevented her attending. We thank God so much for such a special person. Gwenda's spiritual depth and loving care has made CoffeePlus what it is. We trust we will maintain her excellent example. Since September weekly meetings have been introduced by June Dyer, Bernice White and Margaret Willemsen.

We have been blessed by the following speakers:

Ruth Andersen 'Retirement in Kenya'.

Margaret Barber 'Uganda Revisited', 'Uganda what Next?' and 'Worth waiting for'.

Paul John 'GFEC in the Community', 'Glad you asked' and 'Open the Book'.

Pauline Selhi 'Ascension', 'A conversation full of surprises', and 'Faith matters'.

Bernice White 'Psalm 16 Overcoming difficulties', 'Don't lose heart' and 'Marthe Glover –her story'.

DVD's we have watched. 'The making of a champion' Eric Liddell, 'Candle in the dark' William Carey and James 'Humble yourself before the Lord' led by June Dyer.

There have been sessions of 'Prayer and Share' for: 'Sunday Club' and 'Deacons' with Debbie Hooker, 'Youth Group' with Elaine Baker and 'Families'.

CD's we have appreciated, 'Why I believe' Elaine Baker, 'Hope in the Living Saviour' Carol Dadswell.

On other mornings we have had Share a book, Share a scripture, Fellowship and prayer, What's in my memory box? and Focus on Christmas.

At the end of each half term we have a shared meal. Special events were KYB day conference at Swindon 'A living hope' speaker Carol Dadswell, a meal at Cosmo's Swindon and a lunch at Cornerstone for Marthe's 70th Birthday.

CoffeePlus functions well because of many members' involvement, especially Sarah Tippett – prayer time; June Dyer and Jenny Steadman – open house in August; Greta Beckett, pastoral care - flowers and cards; Jenny Steadman - birthday cards. My special thanks to June Dyer and many others who 'filled the gap' when illness prevented me from attending for three months.

As from April, Sarah Tippett joins me as co-leader. I greatly appreciate her willingness to do this and look forward to all that she will bring to the group in this role. We thank God for His faithfulness in the past year, confident that He will continue to guide and direct us as we move forward together in Him.

Lesley Baker

Pastoral Awareness Team

Providing pastoral care in any church situation consistently provides a major challenge. In April last year we began considering how we could more effectively respond to the pastoral, practical and financial needs of people within the GFEC family.

Some of us met together to pray and develop a strategy to achieve this objective. Gerald & Erika, Margaret Barber, Ray & Fiona, Ken and I formed a Pastoral Awareness Team - a group of people to be used as a focal point when needs arise who will then identify and arrange the appropriate support, enlisting the help of other members where appropriate.

Margaret agreed to liaise with Housegroup leaders; Gerald and Erika are taking responsibility for hospitality. Ken acts as a Support Facilitator (with Ray's support), the contact person for when practical needs arise. Fiona and Paul agreed to handle particular spiritual issues.

The team have met regular to arrange appropriate support for individuals expressing a need. Although no church can achieve 100% success in delivering pastoral care in church life, I believe we have taken a significant step forward in trying to ensure that people don't slip through the net.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers – Gal 6:10

Paul John

Hope Unlimited Community Newsletter

During the year we have continued to produce another 3 editions of this Newsletter which have been distributed to over 3,000 homes in the village plus Dentists and Doctors' surgeries.

Articles have included 'The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations', 'Shoebox Sunday', 'Foodbank', 'Cornerstone' plus 'life story' contributions from Elaine, Alex & Abi.

We have again received positive feedback about the quality and content of the publication. It continues to be a vital piece in the jigsaw of raising the profile of our church in the community and engaging with the people of Grove.

In the next edition, we will be including articles covering the 'Independent Advice Centre' and GFEC's move to Old Mill Hall. We will also be seeking feedback from the community, so that we are in a better position to gear future articles to meet people's interests and needs.

I am very grateful to the design team for all their input, to those bundling the Newsletters and arranging distribution, to those of you who have contributed articles and of course, last but certainly not least, each of you who have walked the streets of Grove delivering these Newsletters.

Paul John

Friday Funday Club

Let's start by explaining what we do: we usually meet once a month (on the first Friday of each month), at the Cornerstone from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm.

Our current team is (alphabetically): Erika & Gerald Belcher; Andrew & Helen Harwood; Deborah Hooker; Paul John; Abi and Katrina Kerr; Ian and Janet Reynolds and Bernice White.

Our evening activities include games, craft, a short talk, a meal and other occasional activities such as Wii, snooker, DVDs and singalong 'Silly Songs' from 'VeggieTales'.

What do parents think of Friday Funday Club?

One mum told me, "I think it's brilliant because they can play and do a craft with children of mixed ages, children from different schools and lots of toys or games, which we haven't got. Especially Sarah loves talking and doing things with other adults as well. And it's a really good opportunity for children to talk, play, laugh and eat together. I appreciate all the helpers."

Philippa Kendall, mum to Jessica (8) and Charlie (5), says "Funday Club - relaxed, friendly, creative and inclusive place to meet up and hang out with new and old friends."

Linda Butler, mum to Scott (8), says "We look forward to the Funday Club because it is a chance to play some great games and have fun with my friends."

Thank you to the parents who come along and join in with the activities. Without mums and dads bringing along their children and staying while the kids participate in the activities we would not be able to run the club.

What do club helpers think?

I asked a few and this is what they said:

"The Friday Funday Club provides the best opportunity to establish a good relationship and understanding with families from a non-church background. It is successful."

Another helper said "I think Friday Funday Club is great because it gets old and young alike communicating and playing together. I like volunteering because it is great to serve the community, get people of all ages together and fellowship through work and service for God."

Another helper said "Mum's enjoy the cups of tea or coffee and I enjoy making them and the general buzz of the children playing games. I remember the little boy who clung to one of the helper's legs and didn't want to go home. Good opportunity for mums to sit and talk or play games. Craft ideas are great and so glad we have a Bible story."

So what type of activities have we had in the last few months?

On 14 December we celebrated Christmas with Christmas cards, shortbread decorating and talking about the significance of Christmas. We also enjoyed party food. On 11 January we celebrated new beginnings by making calendars and had a savoury mince casserole with crusty bread. On 1 February we thought about love and how much God loves us. We played a game to remember our names; God knows all our names and remembers them, even if we can't remember each other's names while throwing around the bean bags! We enjoyed Spaghetti Bolognese with garlic bread. One young club attendee told me "Spaghetti Bolognese is my favourite meal at Friday Funday Club." On 1 March we celebrated Mothers' day by making cards, had our now familiar talk with a Christian theme, this time on the image of God like a mother hen with chicks (from the Bible) and enjoyed spicy sweet 'n' sour pork with noodles.

And what is still to come?

A break for April because several regular helpers are not around, and we meet again in May for new life, spring, sheep, shepherds and lambs going astray. More fun craft, an interactive talk and chicken, bacon and sweetcorn chowder with crusty bread. June we will be celebrating Fathers' day making cards made with 'ties' Paul will do a talk on a Fathers' day theme and we hope to enjoy burgers in buns and chips with salad. For July, a Picnic in the Park is planned, with a theme around holidays, the wind, and the Holy Spirit. We hope to make kites, Paul will do a short talk and we will enjoy cheese and ham ploughman's to be eaten in the park.

Reflections

Attendance has dropped off a little of late, possibly coinciding with the better weather. I also wonder if really sticking for the first Friday would help in terms of turnout as we had to pick the second Friday some months due to clashes. I noticed there seemed to be some drop out when we switched back from second Friday to first Friday this year.

I think my over-riding reflection is one of great happiness that Friday Funday Club is so well supported by the church. I am delighted parents allow us to spend time with those most special people, their children. I sincerely hope God will use and continue to use the Friday Funday Club to tell people about his immense love for one and all.

Finally, let's give the last words to Debbie: "Friday Funday Club gives us a fantastic opportunity to get to know and come alongside parents and children in our community. And what a great way to do it with, games, food, crafts, DVD's and more. What has made it extra special this last year has been the introduction of sharing a short Christian message, which appears to be well received, and the joining-up of activities across a predetermined theme. My prayer is that we see these families come to know Jesus and make the transition from Funday Club to integration into the church."

Helen Harwood

'Glad you asked' Course

The 'Glad you asked' Course is designed to spark conversations about faith in a small group situation. It tackles many questions including 'Where is God when people suffer?' 'Isn't the Bible anti-women and full of violence?', 'How do we make sense of life?' and 'If Jesus was God, why did he die?'

Each session asks some communicators for their input on the topic – people who have spent their careers wrestling with the very questions we ask. Their contributions are divided into short DVD interviews, followed by a discussion question to help guests engage with the topic.

In October we began this 6 week course. We had a lot of fun, relationships were developed and the guests really appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues of faith.

I'm very grateful to members for your support in prayer and to Abi & Naomi for their contributions in the discussions. Adrian & Katrina very kindly allowed us to take over their house and we are especially thankful to them for their generous hospitality.

Many of the guests were keen to continue meeting up together and we subsequently arranged further times over the following few weeks. They have subsequently agreed to attend an Alpha Course starting in April.

Paul John

Grove Airfield Development

One of my earliest memories in joining the church was holding 'urgent' discussions with various parties in the hope that we hadn't missed the boat in sharing our vision for a Christian Centre on the new development. Well that was over 7 years ago and we haven't missed the boat!

Last year I reported that 'there have been no developments on the development!' This was a phrase I'm sure that members became increasingly tired of hearing again during this past year.

However, we still continued to pray and plan for the future. Members have contacted Ed Vaizey MP, Geraldine LeCointe (VWHDC) and Frank Parnell (GPC) in support of our vision for a Christian Centre.

In May, we held a 24 hour time of prayer and voluntary fasting. Maurice and Marthe kindly hosted an 'open house' for people to 'drop-in' to pray which concluded with a collective time of prayer on the Sunday followed by a church supper when we broke our fast. We also held several 'Building Vision Prayer Breakfasts' during the year at Cornerstone.

Despite things seeming to go forward, it has all gone quiet again. In fact, the silence is almost deafening. The Planning Application due to be discussed back in December never happened. It was then deferred until early in 2013. To date this meeting still hasn't taken place.

Meanwhile, some developments have developed! The Stockham Farm project is well advanced and the area is currently being cleared in preparation to start building 200 homes. Maybe some of the new residents in these homes will join us to worship at GFEC. There's an opportunity here for us to contact them as they move into the area.

We continue to be in touch with Jonathan Broome, who has in turn contacted Persimmon, but they are not yet in a position to talk in detail with him.

Even when little seems to be happening on the surface, let's remember that God is still working in the background and His purposes will ultimately prevail.

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails – Prov 19:21

Paul John

Music Group

Now that our services are in the Old Mill Hall, I would like to thank the deacons for making this move go so smoothly. I would also like to thank all the players and singers for their continued support, diligence, patience and practice. And thanks are due to our leaders for their valued ministry, and for the time they set aside to prepare our services. A particular thank-you to our amplification crew and to our dedicated team of computer folk who make sure that we in the congregation know what to sing next.

Brian Thomas

Monday Evening Prayer Group

'The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective' James 5 v 16

This Monday evening prayer meeting was started as a group to pray for the Alpha Course over six years ago. It has continued until now because it meets a need, and there are those committed to it, and available on a Monday evening at eight. The format consists of a reading from God's word, a short time of focussing on God and praising Him, and then a longer time praying for various subjects until nine o'clock.

The group moves around four or five different homes according to the subjects for prayer; the outreach of the Church (all the evangelism of the Church including Cornerstone), the growth of the Church (it's leaders, members, services etc.), our nation (it's leaders, society, churches etc. & for revival), and missions and the suffering Church (we pray especially for the missionaries whom our church supports). We normally concentrate mainly on the subject for the week but also pray for current needs or emergencies in the Church. We have been roughly about four or five in number in a meeting. The total number of all who have taken part in the year is eleven. Some people have moved out responding to new commitments, and some have had to cope with ill health and have had to drop out, but others have been added to the group. There have been many answers to prayer for people's health. The preaching and teaching of God's word continues to be blessed especially 'Glad you asked' and the 'Alpha Course'. The move to Old Mill Hall has been a focus. Josh Hooker's slow return to health, Carlos and Nancy's successful move to Colombia, and James Brixey's being accepted for a university course, have all been subjects for prayer and praise. We have been cheered in God's presence and strengthened by many wonderful times of prayer. John 14 v 14; John 15 v 7-8; Hebrews 11 v 6.

We purpose to continue. Come and join us if you can.

Maurice Glover

Men's Morning Prayer Group

Each Thursday morning, a few (about four) men gather together to pray for half an hour.

We take it in turns to lead, which simply entails sharing a short scripture reading and thought to give some direction for the following prayer time.

We work our way through the 'friends & family' list (one name or family per week).

As well as a lot of prayer for GFEC, we can and do pray for just about any topic as the Lord leads.

Getting up early to pray requires discipline, but we look to Jesus as our example:

'Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.' Mark 1 v 35

If any other men would like to join us we would be delighted to see you.

Russell Dyer

Prayer Chain

Earlier this year I received the following from Roger, after sending out a prayer chain message for him. It seemed to summarise what we all think from time to time, but was also such an encouragement to me, realising again the value of this ministry

“Many of you, like me, sometimes wonder what the point of praying is when it largely seems that the people we pray for fare no better and no worse than any other person. I have recently had a revelation (no visions, no fireworks, no trumpets, no thunder) that has helped me: **the prayer of a believer ALWAYS changes things**. By faith we should simply accept this and in faith also accept that we often cannot see the results of our prayers”.

“So many of our congregation have been through the mill in terms of their health; some are still in it. For example, from the outside we can look at Barbara and Gary and feel that God doesn't seem to be doing anything. This is almost inevitable because, when we pray for someone, we place them in God's hands for Him to deal with them as a loving Father would. From that point, our bit is done and what transpires as a result is between them and God”.

“So, if you're ever feeling angry (as I often am) that prayers for healing don't seem to result in healing, certainly not miracles, just talk to the one you've been praying for. There's a good chance that they can see God working (even if you can't), especially through their illness. In the same way as you bless and encourage them by praying, they can perhaps encourage and bless you by relating how God is moving in their lives.”

Once again the prayer chain has been well used by many of you. It has been a special privilege to remember our missionary families (so far away physically and yet so near when we pray for them), especially Josh and Cathy Hooker and their family, as Josh had serious medical problems, and the Brixey family as James has been applying to university in England.

Thank you to all who support and use the prayer chain, to Sarah Tippet who is my deputy and to Margaret for helping during my illness.

Lesley Baker

'Open the Book'

'Open the Book' offers a programme of themed and dramatised Bible stories at no charge to Schools. Each session is around 10 minutes long and fits comfortably into assembly times. Teams of volunteer storytellers use drama, mime, props, costume - even the children and staff themselves - to present Bible stories in ways that are lively, engaging, informative ... and great fun for everyone involved!

In December last year, together with people from St John's Church we formed a team to go into Grove C/E School to deliver 'Open the Book' sessions during assembly time. The team includes Fiona Massie, Gerald & Erika Belcher and myself.

In January this year we made our first venture into the School. Since then each Tuesday morning members of the team have presented a Bible story. The Head, Wendy Foster, teachers and the children have really enjoyed these sessions and look forward to them each week with great excitement.

It's been a joy to work together with people from another church. We are thinking about extending our input to Millbrook School in the coming year. Please continue to pray that God will use this initiative as we sow the seed of His Word into people's lives.

We will tell the next generation....and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God - Psalm 78: 4, 6

Paul John

Missionary Action Group

The Missionary Action Group met seven times during the year to discuss and plan missionary related events. The five current members of the Missionary Action Group are Bernice White, Amanda Thomas, Ray and Fiona Massie and Gerald Belcher.

The Church currently support the following missionaries:

Adrian & Antonia Brixey (Thailand) - *Contact: Bernice White*
Josh & Cathy Hooker (Namibia) - *Contact: Andy & Debbie Hooker*
Carlos & Nancy Bernal (Colombia) - *Contact: Amanda Thomas*

We also had the following missionary interests in 2012/2013:

Kenya - *Contact: Ray & Fiona Massie*
Uganda - *Contact: Margaret Barber*
Romania (shoeboxes etc.) - *Contact: John & Margaret Willemsen*
Viva (Children at Risk) HQ in Oxford, with projects worldwide
Praying for the Persecuted Church
(*To help you find out more we have listed the church contacts above*)

Events and speakers during the year:

Dr Barbara Graham
Shoebox Sunday
Margaret's report on trip to Uganda
Viva Christmas Party which was very successfully amalgamated with the 'Light Party'
Prayer for Children at Risk (this year we circulated information to Housegroup leaders so that each group could engage in prayer on behalf of this enormous problem)
Persecuted Church Sunday
The group also lead 2 of the joint Housegroup meetings to pray for mission
Bev & Charlie Stockley – Joint Housegroup at Cornerstone

The demise of the newsletter and evening service has reduced our options to communicate missionary activities and needs to the Church, however there are possible advantages with more participation in the morning services and other special events.

The coming year will see Adrian & Antonia Brixey and family returning to the UK on furlough, there is also some uncertainty regarding Josh & Cathy Hooker. The Missionary Action Group will endeavour to continue to bring relevant missionary activities to the attention of GFEC during 2013/2014.

We would like to thank you for all your support for Mission over the past year.

Gerald Belcher

(on behalf of Ray and Fiona Massie, Amanda Thomas and Bernice White)

Wantage and Grove Foodbank

The Wantage and Grove Foodbank was set up by local churches in August 2010. They collect non-perishable food from anyone willing to donate and distribute it to people as and when it is needed. In 2011 they gave out 81 parcels, plus 36 special Christmas parcels. The need is growing and in 2012 they gave out 137 parcels, plus 66 special Christmas parcels.

The Foodbank aims to help those in Wantage and Grove who find themselves temporarily in difficult circumstances and unable to afford the basics in providing for their family. Various circumstances such as sudden illness or unemployment, bereavement, a delay in benefits being paid, the break-up of a relationship and many other reasons may mean a difficult situation arises.

The Foodbank aims to help the family through the immediate crisis, referring them to other agencies to support them and work with them in finding long term solutions. One food parcel will provide the family with enough basic food for 3-4 days. Occasionally a second or third subsequent parcel is given.

Families are referred to the Foodbank from many different places including the Family Centres in Wantage and in Grove, the Independent Advice Centre, Local GP's and local churches.

The Foodbank relies upon donations of suitable food items. It is well supported by the local churches and the community. Grove Free Evangelical Church first become involved in supporting the Wantage and Grove Foodbank in September 2010 when we had our first collection of items for donation as part of our Harvest offering. Since then we have had regular collections every two months. I have been helping out at the Foodbank on a fortnightly basis and, as well as sorting donated food, I have had the privilege of delivering parcels to those in need. The recipients are usually extremely grateful and amazed that we would do something like this for them. This is a very practical and tangible way in which we can show ours and God's love, care and concern to struggling and vulnerable families in our community.

Thank you to all of those who have given food items and money to support the Wantage and Grove Foodbank.

Debbie Hooker

Cornerstone

On the surface Cornerstone is a Christian coffee shop and bookshop located in one of the shopping areas of Grove (Grovelands). In reality it is much more than this: Cornerstone is a mission station of the four Grove churches that own and run it. Cornerstone provides a Christian presence and witness in our community throughout the working week and from commercial premises.

Cornerstone's mission statement reflects the Christian ethos in that we aim to be 'a place where all shall be welcome for who they are not what they can do and where God is glorified in our dealings with each other'. We see this being lived out in many of Cornerstone's activities such as: work experience opportunities given particularly to those with learning difficulties; use of Cornerstone by various groups meeting needs in our community; being a place where people can come to for prayer or simply a listening ear.

The Christian community is served by having a bookshop to provide Bibles and other Christian literature or resources; by being a meeting place for evangelistic activities such as GFEC's Funday Club/IG-Nite and WCF's Alpha courses; or just being a place to meet other Christians for good food and company. And of course, Cornerstone provides opportunities for Christians from the different churches of Grove to serve together.

During the year much needed refurbishment work has been done, primarily the replacement of cookers and the central heating boiler. The five stars rating for health and hygiene has been maintained. And over the coming year we are hoping to build the sale of drinks from the coffee/drinks machine.

The financial results for the year are shown below:

Cornerstone - unaudited summary financial results		
(all amounts £'000)		
	<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2011/12</u>
Sales	97.3	105.4
Direct costs	(38.6)	(44.5)
Overheads	(77.9)	(80.2)
Trading deficit	<u>(19.2)</u>	<u>(19.3)</u>
Donations	14.9	16.0
Net deficit	<u>(4.3)</u>	<u>(3.3)</u>
Cost of refurbishments	(6.6)	-
Donations for refurbishments	4.5	-
	<u>(2.1)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total deficit	<u><u>(6.4)</u></u>	<u><u>(3.3)</u></u>

It can be seen that the financial position is very difficult with a trading deficit not quite being covered by donations received. Also the cost of refurbishments was not completely covered by the donations made to support this work.

Donations continue to be important to maintain Cornerstone's viability. Over the year various fundraising activities have taken place, such as a well-received "South Africa" evening and sponsored cycling and running. However, most financial support is from regular gifts from friends of Cornerstone.

Also important to Cornerstone is the work of volunteers and we are very grateful for the commitment and time given by so many, not least our two Saturday team. Prayer too is vital and we are similarly grateful to all who uphold Cornerstone in prayer.

Cornerstone's real mission of being a Christian presence in the community depends on the support we receive from the Christians of Grove – support from financial giving, from volunteering, from prayer or simply support by being a good customer. I would urge everyone to pray about these needs and whether you could make a contribution in some way to the Cornerstone mission.

Michael Elliott

Diamond Jubilee of Queen's Ascension to the Throne - Monday 4th June 2012

As a church, we had the privilege of supporting the celebrations in Grove. The ideas for a big event on Grove Rugby Ground were sown in the Community Outreach Group (COG) way back in March 2010, when Frank Parnell, Chair of the Grove Parish Council attended our meeting and shared what needs there are in Grove that we could get involved in. In passing he suggested that it would be good to a 'Grove Show' (which used to take place many years before).

The first planning meeting was held on 1 Oct 2010 and only Frank and I were there! However, some interest was generated from clubs and societies and a Steering Group formed to take the event forward. I agreed for our church to take responsibility for the 'Family Entertainment' area but also plugged that it would be good to open the event with a short Christian celebration – which was taken forward as the Chair of the Group pointed out that the Queen was the head of the Church of England!

We could not have asked for better weather on the day – it was beautiful and a lot of people attended. The recreation ground played host to a show arena, family entertainment, craft tent, live bands, 'It's a Knockout' competition (in which Andrew Harwood and I were part of a team – "Run for Fun" – we didn't win but we had fun!) and various stalls. A firework display provided a fantastic finale to 3 days of celebrations in Wantage and Grove to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Our Pastor Paul John and Rev. Glyn Oliver from Wantage Christian Fellowship, worked together in planning and leading the Thanksgiving Service that 'kicked off' Monday's festivities with Hannah Hooker doing a prayer and the Wantage Silver Band playing the music for the hymns. Members and friends of GFEC helped with many activities in the family entertainment area, provided a 'Make a Jubilee Crown' children's craft activity, and gave away special Diamond Jubilee editions of the New Testament Bible. Many children enjoyed having their face painted (thanks to Vale Elim Church), making a crown, then dressing up as a queen for their own special photograph opportunity (courtesy of Jean McVeigh's wedding dress!)

It really was an opportunity "to make Christ known in our community".

Barbie Margetts

Wantage and Grove Street Pastors

What we achieved

We have continued to meet often needy and vulnerable people on the streets of Wantage and Grove and offered the love of Jesus through practical help and prayer.

Throughout 2012 we patrolled on Friday nights and one Saturday per month and made contact with over 1700 people.

We are so grateful for all the support and hard work that we received from our volunteers — from the Street Pastors on the streets and PSVs (prayer support volunteers) backing up the teams in prayer and with practical support at the base, to fundraisers, event organisers, administration, finance, transport and many unseen acts and prayers. Thank you!

Thank you too for lending us your people, your prayers, your premises, for giving your finances and for supporting our work.

Highlights

Several youngsters asked one of our teams to help a young girl who had passed out on a park bench in Grove. We helped to keep her warm with an emergency blanket and contacted her father and the emergency services.

Often we find people who have been separated from friends and find themselves alone and feeling vulnerable, perhaps having travelled some way to get to Wantage. Our team stayed with a distressed lone female until she was safely on her way home in a taxi.

One of our teams spent some time encouraging a young man facing a very difficult situation in his life. We were able to listen to his concerns, encourage him and support him in prayer.

On many occasions, our teams supported young men and women who were unwell having drunk too much while celebrating their 18th birthday.

Away from the streets, in June Nigel, Margaret and Yvonne ran a stall for us at the Grove Jubilee Fair. As well as raising awareness and contributing to our funds, they had a long conversation with the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire who was very pleased to know more about Street Pastors.

What changed?

In spring 2012 our Chair Neil Townsend resigned, and the trustees welcomed David Law as Acting Chair until November.

At our AGM in October we elected two additional trustees: Maggie Mellersh and Philip Lambert; and in November the Trustees elected Philip to be Chair.

Teams continued to report quieter streets than when we first started patrolling, and we continued to work towards providing a second Saturday team.

Challenges

In the summer of 2012 it became clear that we needed to find more income for the work or there would have been no money left by March 2013. The trustees appealed to all the participating local churches and to all members of the Charity. The response was humbling and a cause for thanks.

We joined in fundraising events enabling the public to contribute towards the work. Volunteers enjoyed working with, and we accepted proceeds from, Wantage Male Voice Choir (£446 for us) and the pig roast at Wantage Dickensian Evening (£758). An earlier application to a special police fund for charities like ours brought in £3000 we had not been able to anticipate. Both churches and individuals were generous with donations, some extending well into the future and many Gift Aided. Altogether you helped us raise £7843. Thank you!

As the year ended we were comfortably solvent until the end of March; and we still had Pandemonium's concert coming up.

For the future

On the streets we would like to have more Street Pastor trainees and PSVs, to help us to respond more freely to changing needs. At present we expect to move teams from Fridays in Wantage (now consistently quieter) to cover more Saturdays (already up to two). One need specific to Fridays is to maintain our presence for younger people at Sweatbox. We aim to have one more team of trained or training Street Pastors and one more PSV team in action during 2013.

During 2013 we aim to complete the training of all Street Pastors who started working before the start of 2012; and to provide refresher training for all who completed their training before the start of 2013.

We will also consider ways to extend our membership, perhaps enabling churches in nearby villages to take part or finding ways to recognise as supporters people not associated with a participating church.

Our Treasurer Margaret Monk wishes for personal reasons to stand down from that office at the end of March 2013. We asked for someone to become Treasurer for our financial year beginning in April, and if possible for future years; and at the time of writing Trevor Johnson is preparing to do so, with formal appointment expected in April and transition taking a few months after that. We are grateful for what Margaret has done so long and so well, and for what we fully expect Trevor will do.

Your generosity continues, as does Steve West's hard work in finding grants, and the concert Pandemonium gave us was amazing. At the time of writing we anticipate a balance for the end of March of at least £3000 more than the £3200 we treat as a reserve. Grants are increasingly hard to get and of smaller amounts, and the other demands on household and business budgets are constantly increasing; but we go on in faith. For sources of funds, we feel we must match faith with works. We shall be more systematic about fundraising events and activities: we expect to work towards joining in or arranging three or four major events each year.

The trustees depend on all members for this, and welcome all offers of skills, time or contacts. We hope to find one of the trustees to coordinate a programme of fundraising, and to make arrangements for continuity in their absence.

WGSP Management Committee: Philip Lambert (Chair) from October, David Law (acting Chair until October), Margaret Monk (Treasurer and Secretary), Maggie Mellersh from October, Rodney Tillotson, Steve West.

Wantage and Grove Street Pastors Prayer Support Volunteers

It has been another great year supporting our Street Pastors in prayer. As more Saturday teams were made we saw a change in the dynamics as team members moved around and we had the blessing of getting to know new people from different churches. Praying in our groups of 4 is a very intimate and moving time as the Lord leads. The base phone rings regularly giving us updates as to specific needs that may arise on the Pastors' rounds. We share, sometimes personally and pray for each other and each other's churches as we come together to further the gospel and love of God in our community. It is a wonderful uniting and barrier free opportunity to work together for God. Mid-session we provide drinks and food for the Pastors and have a time of catch up, laughter, rest and refreshment before the next street tour. Sometimes I take my guitar and while we are praying we have a time of worship too. It is always good to get home to our beds after midnight but hugely rewarding to know we have contributed to either a peaceful night or showing love to someone in need by praying for them and making a difference for God.

Katrina Kerr

For about 18 months I have been involved with Street Pastors as a Prayer Support Volunteer (PSV). This means that once a month I spend from 10pm on a Saturday evening to about 2:30 the next morning supporting a team of Street Pastors as they patrol the streets of Wantage. This support consists of prayer for their work generally and in response to specific issues the Street Pastors 'phone in to the PSV's, and we also provide some practical help (such as providing a welcome and hot drink when they come back to "base").

I have found this a fulfilling and rewarding ministry in many ways:

- It is always good to hear back from our Street Pastors how they are helping people and even better to be able to support them in prayer. This is especially so when they are able to have meaningful conversations with some of those they encounter.
- We have learned how the streets of Wantage (and other areas where Street Pastors work) seem more peaceful and less troubled than before. It is encouraging to know that a Christian group is contributing to this.
- I love the fact that Christians from different traditions are working, praying and having fellowship together. In my group of Street Pastors and PSV's there are members from The Community Church, Wantage Christian Fellowship, the Anglican Church and Vale Elim. Indeed people Street Pastors meet have commented positively on this.

The work of Street Pastors is something I would commend to anyone with a heart for the lost in our community and who believe that practical action together with Christian love and unity can help point people to Christ.

Michael Elliott

Wantage Nursing Home Worship Service

I took over coordinating the monthly worship service from Maurice in August 2012. We have continued to hold a service once a month, now held on the first Wednesday of each month, at the request of the Home. The hope being that there would be more staff available to help.

Ten to twelve residents and sometimes more, attend. We sing several well-known hymns, which many know by heart, pray and have Scripture read with a brief talk. The talk needs to be short with plenty of repetition. A story is enjoyed. Visual aids are very helpful. At Easter, the story of Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb meeting the risen Lord was helped by the wearing of a scarf and a bit of acting! On some of the faces was the wonder again of Jesus' Resurrection and its significance as the end of earthly life approaches.

Challenges have been many, often due to activities, staff changes at the Home, unexpected decorators in the booked room, lack of musical accompaniment, to name a few. But there is joy too and a sense that this ministry is important to the Lord. I love to see the faces light up as they sing familiar words of hymns or are reminded of the truths of God's eternal word and for it to become personal.

'...I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me ...' Matt 25:36.

Pauline Selhi

GROVE FREE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2013

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David Cooke & Co
Chartered Accountants
5 Briar Close
Banbury
Oxon. OX16 9DS

GROVE FREE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the Financial Statements of the Church for the year ended 31 March 2013.

Reference and Administrative Details

The Church is a Registered Charity no. 283079. The address is: Grove Free Evangelical Church, c/o 67 Mably Grove, Wantage, Oxon. OX12 9XW.

The charity trustees for the purpose of these accounts comprise the Elders and Deacons of the Church. The Elders and Deacons during the year were as follows:

Mr Paul John (Elder)	Mrs Deborah Hooker (Deacon)
Mr Andy Hooker (Elder)	(resigned 21/05/12)
Mr Chris Margetts (Elder)	Mr Adrian Kerr (Deacon)
Mrs Barbara Margetts (Deacon)	Mr Ken Hayward
(resigned 30/06/12)	(appointed 26/04/12)
Mr Russell Dyer (Deacon)	

Structure, Governance and Management

The Church is governed by its Constitution, which was last amended and issued to members in October 2008. The Elders and Deacons are elected by the Church Meeting, and are responsible for leadership of the church.

The Elders and Deacons meet regularly to effect proper control of all arrangements for the running of the church.

Objectives and Activities

The Church's aims are to spread the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to edify the congregation through the preaching and teaching of the Word of God, and the circulation of good Christian literature. The Church's vision is to build a community of people who live out God's purposes.

Achievements and Performance

The Church's main work is carried out through its own Sunday services, mid-week Bible study and prayer meeting. Other meetings were convened for individual groups such as young teenagers, women, men and young adults.

GROVE FREE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013 (Cont.)

Public Benefit

In carrying out its activities in the year under review, the trustees have had regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission, and are satisfied that the activities mentioned above have all been for the public benefit.

Financial Review

Funds are used to pay the Pastor's and Administrator's salaries, to pay the rent for the buildings the Church uses for meetings, to support Missionary organisations, to provide literature and to fund various projects.

As shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 4, there was a net inflow of resources of approximately £329 spread across the funds. Overall, the state of affairs of the Church is considered to be satisfactory.

The Church has a policy of retaining a Reserve of at least £15,000, and this sum is shown in a separate Reserve Fund

On behalf of the Elders & Deacons

Trustee

Trustee

Date:

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF GROVE FREE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 March 2013, which are set out on pages 4 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of directors and independent examiner

The Church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act); and
- To state 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 seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 Acthave 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.

David Cooke MA (Oxon) FCA FCIE

David Cooke and Co.

Chartered Accountants

5 Briar Close

Banbury, Oxon.

OX16 9DS

Date: _____

**GROVE FREE EVANGELICAL
CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013**

	<u>Note</u>	Unrestricted <u>Funds</u> <u>£</u>	Restricted <u>Funds</u> <u>£</u>	2013 <u>Total</u> <u>£</u>	2012 <u>Total</u> <u>£</u>
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary income		63,510	5,341	68,851	66,410
Investment income		494	14	508	504
Total incoming resources		<hr/> 64,004	<hr/> 5,355	<hr/> 69,359	<hr/> 66,914
Resources expended					
Cost of Generating Funds	2	255	-	255	603
Charitable Activities	3	65,318	3,307	68,625	73,473
Governance Costs	5	150	-	150	150
Total Resources Expended		<hr/> 65,723	<hr/> 3,307	<hr/> 69,030	<hr/> 74,226
Net Movement of Resources		<hr/> (1,719)	<hr/> 2,048	<hr/> 329	<hr/> (7,312)
Transfers between Funds		-	-	-	-
		<hr/> (1,719)	<hr/> 2,048	<hr/> 329	<hr/> (7,312)
General Fund brought forward		64,328	7,988	72,316	79,628
General Fund carried forward		<hr/> <hr/> 62,609	<hr/> <hr/> 10,036	<hr/> <hr/> 72,645	<hr/> <hr/> 72,316

The notes on pages 6 and 7 form part of these financial statements.

**GROVE FREE EVANGELICAL
CHURCH**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2013

	<u>Note</u>	Unrestricted <u>Funds</u> <u>£</u>	Restricted <u>Funds</u> <u>£</u>	2013 Total £	2012 <u>Total</u> <u>£</u>
FIXED ASSETS	7	1,368	-	1,368	923
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtor - Tax repayment due		8,626	-	8,626	8,539
Cash at Bank & in hand		56,128	10,036	66,164	66,619
		<u>64,754</u>	<u>10,036</u>	74,790	<u>75,158</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		66,122	10,036	76,158	76,081
LESS: CREDITORS:					
Due within one year		(3,514)	-	(3,514)	(3,765)
NET ASSETS		<u>62,608</u>	<u>10,036</u>	72,644	<u>72,316</u>
Financed by:					
RESERVES					
Accumulated Income Fund	8	<u>62,609</u>	<u>10,036</u>	72,645	<u>72,316</u>

Approved on

Treasurer

Elder

The notes on pages 6 and 7 form part of these financial statements.

**GROVE FREE EVANGELICAL
CHURCH**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013 (Cont.)

3. Charitable Activities	Unrestricted <u>Funds</u> £	Mission <u>Fund</u> £	2013 <u>Total</u> £	2012 <u>Total</u> £
Staff costs (note 6)	43,067	-	43,067	42,555
Visiting speakers' fees	215	-	215	1,008
Other Ministry & Missions (note 4)	12,404	1,956	14,360	17,537
Donations	-	-	-	327
Accommodation	6,488	-	6,488	7,054
Insurance	280	-	280	271
Administration expenses	668	-	668	696
Miscellaneous expenses	1,965	1,351	3,316	3,717
Depreciation	231	-	231	308
	<u>65,318</u>	<u>3,307</u>	<u>68,625</u>	<u>73,473</u>
4. Other Ministry and Missions				
Missions expenses	10,942	1,956	12,898	13,547
Outreach	628	-	628	2,649
House groups expenses	-	-	-	24
Fellowship Fund	361	-	361	733
Sunday Bible Club	147	-	147	311
Youth Group	45	-	45	16
CoffeePlus	281	-	281	257
	<u>12,404</u>	<u>1,956</u>	<u>14,360</u>	<u>17,537</u>
5. Governance Costs				
Independent Examination	150	-	150	150
6. Employee information				
Wages, salaries & social security costs	41,954	-	41,954	40,288
Pastor's expenses	953	-	953	1,732
Training costs	160	-	160	535
	<u>43,067</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,067</u>	<u>42,555</u>

The average number of persons employed during the year was 2 (2012: 2). No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 p.a. No trustee received any remuneration, apart from Mr John for his work as the pastor of the church, and Mrs Hooker for her work as church administrator.

**GROVE FREE EVANGELICAL
CHURCH**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013 (Cont.)

7. Fixed Assets	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cost brought forward	1,641	1,641
Additions in the year	<u>676</u>	<u>676</u>
Cost carried forward	<u>2,317</u>	<u>2,317</u>
Depreciation brought forward	718	718
Charge for the year	<u>231</u>	<u>231</u>
Depreciation carried forward	<u>949</u>	<u>949</u>
Net book value, 31/03/13	<u>1,368</u>	<u>1,368</u>
Net book value, 31/03/12	<u>923</u>	<u>923</u>

8. Funds	Brought <u>forward</u>	Incoming <u>Resources</u>	Resources <u>Expended</u>	Fund <u>Transfers</u>	Carried <u>Forward</u>
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>					
General Fund	49,328	64,004	(65,723)	-	47,609
Church Reserve Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
	<u>64,328</u>	<u>64,004</u>	<u>(65,723)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,609</u>
<u>Restricted Funds</u>					
Designated Fund	(50)	4,741	(3,307)	-	1,384
Building Fund	1,701	114	-	-	1,815
Church Development Fund	6,337	500	-	-	6,837
	<u>7,988</u>	<u>5,355</u>	<u>(3,307)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,036</u>
<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>72,316</u>	<u>69,359</u>	<u>(69,030)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,645</u>

