



Great Shelford Free Church

Great Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Annual Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31st March 2015

Great Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31.03.2015

The Trustees of GSFC present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended: 31/03/2015.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

- Charity Name:** Great Shelford Free Church (Baptist) also known as GSFC
- Registration Number:** 1141345
- Address:** *Great Shelford Free Church (Baptist)*
High Street
Great Shelford
CB22 5EH
- Minister:** Rev'd. Martin Cockerill
- Ministerial Assistant:** Mrs Diana Parr
- Property Trustees:** The Baptist Union Corporation
Baptist House
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire
OX11 8RT
- Trustees:
(Leadership Team)**
- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Rev'd. Martin Cockerill | Elder (Minister) |
| Mrs Diana Parr | Elder (Ministerial Assistant) |
| Mr David Baslington: | Elder |
| Mrs. Liz Jenkin: | Elder |
| Mrs Cathy Callaway : | Church Secretary |
| Mr Mike Furlow : | Church Treasurer |
| Mrs Anne Beresford | Prayer |
| Mr Paul Callaway | Fabric |
| Mrs Lesley Cornell | World Mission (elected 22/09/2014) |
| Mrs Jane Furlow | Fellowship |
| Mr Laurence Wood | Worship |
- Administrator:** Mr Colin Jefferson
- Bankers:** Barclays Bank plc, Great Shelford Branch, Woollards Lane, Great Shelford
- Independent Examiner:** Mr John Stirrat

Structure, Governance and Management

Non-conformist worship in the village of Shelford began in or shortly after 1812 when Mr James Nutter of The Kings Mill opened a small building for public worship. On 6th June 1825 the Rev John Heaford, one of the first Baptist Home Missionaries, together with James Nutter and members of their families, signed a document bringing a new church formally into being, inviting others to join in fellowship and setting out the criteria for membership. The document was re-adopted in 1850 by signature of 48 Members. This was in effect the first Constitution and from it we draw our beliefs and criteria for membership. By the time the Church's first property was acquired in 1856 it had become more formally associated with the Baptist Union.

The church is now governed by an Approved Governing Document 'Church Constitution – July 2010' (amended September 2014) which states that the principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

The church occupies premises held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd of Great Britain on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above object.

The Church consists of persons who have professed their repentance towards God and their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who manifest the genuineness of their faith in Him by conversation and conduct becoming this profession, and who accept the Purpose of the Church and the responsibilities of Membership. The said profession of repentance and faith will normally be demonstrated by baptism, but baptism is not a criterion for Membership.

The Trustees of the Church comprise those Elders, Officers, Deacons and Minister(s) of the Church that have been appointed according to the Constitution of GSFC. The Trustees are jointly and severally responsible for the governance of the Church. Subject to any specific or general directions of the Church Members' Meeting, the control, management and administration of the Church shall be by the Trustees, save that Trustees are not required to do anything that would cause them to be in breach of the Constitution of GSFC or any trustee duty placed upon them as a result of this role.

The Elders, Officers, Deacons and Minister(s) of the Church (the Trustees) form the Leadership Team which has, among others, responsibility for the following areas: communication, discipleship, evangelism, fabric, prayer, worldwide mission, worship. The Leadership Team is accountable to the Church Members' Meeting.

Church Members' Meetings have reserved authority in the appointment and removal of a Minister, the appointment and removal of Trustees, decisions related to church property including (without limitation) any purchase, sale, lease, mortgage, or redevelopment of property, the administration of the Membership List, and the closure of the Church.

Members of the church meet together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and under the Lordship of Christ to discern the mind of God in the affairs of the Church. General Church Members' Meetings for the purposes of transacting routine business are held quarterly, and more frequently as the Trustees may judge necessary.

Special Church Members' Meetings are held for such purposes as provided for in the Constitution or by the decision of the Trustees.

All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable object.

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal purpose which is set out above, Great Shelford Free Church provides a range of activities, both to its membership and to the community in general, that will vary from time to time with activities being initiated, expanded, or closed, as appropriate.

The Activities may include but are not restricted to:

- a. Regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching
- b. Evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- c. The teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of people of all ages
- d. Nurture and growth of Christian disciples
- e. Education and training for Christian and community service
- f. Giving and encouraging pastoral care
- g. Supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad
- h. Encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians.

Review of Activities

The Church Leadership has given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Pastor's Report 2015 (Rev. Martin Cockerill)

Over my first year at GSFC, I have felt led to encourage our church to stop, to take time to pause from the busyness of *doing* church and, instead, spend time *being* church. As our verse for the year says: 'Be still and know that I am God' and it is this that I believe God is calling us as a church to do at this time. *Be still* as a church so that we can focus on what God wants and is doing in and around our church without distraction. *Be still* in ourselves allowing time for us to develop deeper, sustaining relationships with God and each other, moving away from superficiality. *Be still* within our world as a people of peace, providing a space to stop, think and be restored.

It takes time to learn to be still long enough to focus on God. Although we made a start in 2014, I think we have only just begun. Reflecting back on the last year, one of my personal highlights has been the time spent together as an Eldership. It has been encouraging to 'ditch the agenda' and spend time reading and praying, learning what it means to discern the mind of Christ together. As we have changed the focus from our agenda to focus on God, we have been blessed - in discernment, unity and simply having fun together! I believe that as a church we will similarly be blessed as we focus on God - that we will enjoy being together, that we will love and support each other and that we will know, love and serve the God who brings us together in the first place!

As we move forward, I hope that the new mural on the church wall will remind us of our focus to 'Be Still'. As we move deeper into stillness, that we experience new depth as a church in our relationships with each other and with God. For me, this is an exciting time because I don't know 'the agenda' for our church, but I know that God does. I'm looking forward to being still and watching God work in our lives and church over the coming year.

Changes in Personnel

During the year, Lesley Cornell was elected to the Leadership Team to help serve, lead and manage the activities of the church in Worldwide Mission.

Notable events this year:

- The Tour De France came through Great Shelford. This was an exciting time for all the village residents, and we had a gazebo at the event, where we sold cold drinks and took opportunities to have conversations with several people.
- The Service that took place on the Sunday before the Shelford Feast in July was due to be held on the Recreation Ground, but due to inclement weather, the service was held in our church.
- We were involved in the Feast Sunday itself, although not in such a big way as previously. We had three games for people to play, and had the opportunity to talk to several people on the day.
- We reviewed our Church Constitution and made some small changes to that which meant that all Deacons would be Trustees.
- In November we had two Baptisms. It is always good to see God at work in people's lives.
- We held a Church Family Party where we had a quiz and Fish and Chip supper. The event was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. Once again, our quiz Master produced some very entertaining questions making sure that there was something for everyone.
- We have been blessed by the ministry of Rev. Martin Cockerill over the last year, and I am sure that God has further blessings for us in future years.
- We have been looking into how we could make better use of No 29 High Street, now that it is no longer an office. We have had preliminary discussions with a Christian Charity in Cambridge who are looking into what possibilities there might be for them to use it.
- Leadership Team Away Day at Lode Chapel. This was a time of reflection and sharing seeking God's will for the future of Great Shelford Free Church.

This has been our first full year with our new Minister, and we thank God for bringing Martin, Clare and the boys to us, to work alongside us as we serve God together.

As you read the reports that follow this, we are sure you will see just how much God has been doing amongst us over the last year, and look forward with excitement to see what He will do over the next year. Many thanks to all who have helped in any way, large or small, prayer or practical – during the year as all are important to the furtherance of God's Kingdom at Great Shelford Free Church.

Our family constantly changes: some leave and new people come. Following a review of the Church Membership list, 13 people resigned their membership mainly due to no longer living in the area. The Church Membership as of 31 March 2015 is 111.

For some it has been a year of joy, for others a year of pain, loss or hardship. However, our goal remains to serve God in this community. As we journey into the next chapter of life at GSFC, we will all continue to seek Him and remember the promises of scripture.

The following activities reflect the work of GSFC in the local community during the year:

1. Regular public worship, prayer, preaching and teaching

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 10.30 a.m. Communion services are held twice a month – 2nd Sunday of the month at 10.30 a.m. and the fourth Sunday of the month at 6.30 p.m. A regular worship service is also held on Friday mornings.

Numbers attending the Sunday morning service remained static with some people moving on to pastures new and some new faces being added to the congregation.

Numbers attending the **Friday morning worship service** continue to be encouraging. It is good to meet together on Friday morning for an hour of worship and fellowship and to study God's word together. We value the opportunity to share our concerns and successes with each other for encouragement and support of like minds. We appreciate that we are able to have a meal together afterwards with further opportunity to chat.

The format of our services has seen little change. However the presentation each week can be very different with no two Speakers doing things in the same way. Last Summer, we did a themed series under the title of, Water, Rivers, Lakes and Seas, which drew together events from all over the Old and New Testaments. In the Autumn, we took a look at the Heroes of Faith as portrayed in Hebrews Chapter 11. The list is so large we could only scratch the surface, perhaps we will return for another series. Our current series this Spring has studied some of the great prayers of the Bible where we have found their prayers and concerns are not so different to our own. They had the same heartaches, dilemmas, and aspirations as we do, with the same pitfalls and reluctance to learn from the past.

Our **Sunday Intercessory Prayers** form an integral part of the church's prayer focus. Within these prayers, the focus is on the church, the local, national and worldwide community which it serves.

2. Evangelism and Mission

This year, the evangelistic focus has again been on the seasonal periods of Easter, Harvest and Christmas as well as GSFC's participation in the **Shelford Feast**. In addition, much that happens in the children, families and youth work has an evangelistic input such as **3T activities (Tea Time Together)** and **Family Film Shows**. There are also regular events in the community such as **Coffee Pot, Call Inn** and **Create & Share**.

The **Easter** festivities began with our Night/Day of prayer - an overnight prayer vigil - commencing on Maundy Thursday culminating in a morning service on Good Friday. We spent time reflecting on what Jesus won for us at the cross and through the 'torn curtain'. Later on in the evening, those who stayed on spent personal time with the Lord around the cross to pray and reflect on their walk with Him. This was followed by an Easter community meal. Easter Sunday again proved to be a highlight as we joined together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Harvest this year focused on 'Offering our Gifts to God'. The service is usually a family orientated event people in the local community are invited along to GSFC to see and experience what God has given to each of us. Gifts are distributed amongst local charities.

Our **Christmas** theme was 'Discovering Jesus this Christmas'. Many families took part in the 'Operation Christmas Child' (Samaritan's Purse) which involved filling a shoe-box with gifts which would be sent abroad to needy children. Christmas activities began with an All-Age service in mid-December, continued with a Christmas Carol Sing-a-long, held in Shelford Memorial Hall, followed by a Carols by Candlelight service and culminating on Christmas Day with family-focused service.

The **Shelford Feast** is a Fête held at the beginning of July. All profits from the event were donated to the 'Feast' who then distributed the funds amongst local charities. The week commences with an Open Air Community Worship service held on Shelford Recreation ground. This year Great Shelford Free Church and St. Marys Great Shelford joined together to host this service on 6th July.

GSFC's contribution to the fête on Feast Sunday was focused on playing two games: one which required an element of skill, the ability to throw and judge distances; the other was a game of chance or luck. The aim was to demonstrate that whether we feel it or not, God loves us, independent of our luck, skill or worth.

Coffee Pot occurs on a weekly basis and is open to anyone to drop-in, have tea / coffee / refreshments, read magazines and meet established and new friends, as well as listen to an epilogue. A strong and supportive team continue to commit to Coffee Pot every Tuesday.

We have continued to meet weekly on a Tuesday 10.00 to 11.30 all year round apart from Christmas and Easter weeks and one week in August. Our numbers average about 26 each week. We still have 47 names on 'register' with 36 of these attending on a fairly regular basis. We have been encouraged by several new people attending fairly regularly.

The Parish Council continue to provide funding for the weekly mini bus service which enables residents from McCauley Ave and Chaston Rd to go shopping in the village and attend Coffee Pot. It was encouraging to have a member of the Parish Council visit the group recently. This was for him to see what the council was actually funding and report back. He did voice concerns that only a few residents in Shelford were fortunate enough to be able to access this service due to limitations of the bus route.

Following the success of previous outings, on 5th June we returned to 'The Five Miles from Anywhere' Restaurant in Upware. 30 of us enjoyed good weather, and good food at this lovely venue on the River Cam.

On Tuesday December 9th we again had a combined Christmas lunch with Call Inn. Coffee Pot took place as usual but in the Sanctuary. Dinner followed at 12.15. The catering team did a wonderful job catering for about 56 diners who enjoyed a traditional Turkey dinner with all trimmings, with a choice of Christmas pudding or Trifle for dessert. Crackers and a gift of a plant completed the festivities.

The Care Network Community Navigator Project has stopped using the church as a 'Call in centre' as there were no 'callers'. A new group has been set up by the Navigator Project on a Thursday at the Parish Church Community room.

Coffee Pot is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the community of Shelford and beyond in the Lord's name. We pray that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all who attend and that they will know of His love for them.

Call-In also occurs on a weekly basis. This follows the Friday morning service, but is open to anyone to attend. A meal is served, by volunteers, to those who attend. It's an occasion when one can spend some quality time with friends as well as get to know new ones. Lent lunches were held this year which attracted many more people from the village of Shelford. This year, the annual Christmas lunch was held jointly with those who attend 'Coffee Pot'.

Create and Share meets on the second Thursday of the month. Some people come for the morning, the afternoon or the full day. Numbers vary from month to month from 3 to 20 people. Between us we have 'Created and Shared' ideas in our 'Free and Easy' workshops for fabric printing, patchwork and quilting, embroidery, cross stitch, knitting, collage pictures and felt making. We have enjoyed workshops where we can learn new crafts or skills such as felt making, making a skirt block pattern and then a skirt that fits, sewing Christmas decorations from fabric or handmade felt. Throughout the year members have donated a variety of sewing items and tools to Tools with a Mission.

Participants cover the cost of materials and refreshments through voluntary donations. We aim to give a warm welcome to anyone who comes to our group regardless of their creative ability or church/non-church background. In our 'Creating and Sharing', we attempt to "Gossip the Gospel" in being part of the Christian community in Great Shelford.

3. Children, Families and Youth

The prayers and involvement of so many over this last year is enormously appreciated as well as the practical help given in this area of ministry. The children's clubs have continued to be a busy part of the life of the church. There is a full children's programme during the Sunday morning services, catering for all ages from crèche to late teens, which have sustained the provision of a safe space and a useful resource for children both from within the church and from the wider community.

The **Youth** have continued to meet on a Sunday morning in the 'Loft'. The young people have been given a taster of being part of the larger body of church by joining some of the services. We have had some good study sessions with them and recognise their desire to know God in a meaningful way that can carry into their lives outside of Sunday.

Kids Club One of our greatest challenges this year has been the fluctuation in numbers who attend on any one week, which makes preparation planning quite difficult for those who lead a particular group. However, we normally have three groups who meet in the main hall from 10.30 -11.30, at which point we join the rest of the congregation for the final part of the worship service. On occasion when numbers are lower we will combine groups for the teaching time.

We have been able to introduce a more regular time of worship into our activities during Kids Club and are developing ways to be more creative in prayer. One of the greatest delights is that we have seen new children settle quickly into the group and it is a joy to witness their confidence increase each week.

We held a children's party during the Easter break in April 2014 and had a good number of children from our entire programme of children's activities, join together to celebrate the resurrection. We made Easter gardens, played games, watched a DVD of the Easter story and had a wonderful tea!

Crèche has continued to run each Sunday morning, but the weekly organization of this has been passed over to Sylvia Briscoe. Numbers of little ones have depleted a little although occasionally it can seem quite busy. The children enjoy playing with our vast selection of toys, looking at books and they usually enjoy a snack together. It has been good to see these little ones become involved in the worship at the end of the church service, waving their flags and cheering with gusto!

The weekly sessions of **Tiny Toes, Little Steps, Jump & Heroes** have all continued to thrive thanks to the invaluable input of our Ministerial Assistant and her magnificent team of volunteers. It is a particular delight to see some children starting at Jump & Heroes whose Mums first brought them to Tiny Toes at its conception!

Tiny Toes is our under 1's group which meets on a Wednesday afternoon during term time. It is an informal session where Mum's can meet new friends over tea and biscuits and have an opportunity for some 'chill out' time. Over the course of the year, we have seen drastic fluctuations in numbers. During the Autumn term, we were seeing a regular attendance of between 30-40 Mums with their babies, hitting a maximum of 45 on the week we had 'Glazed and Amused' (the pottery painting session). This last term, numbers have dropped down to a much more manageable level of about 20 each week which means we can really get to know those who come along.

Unfortunately, this term has also seen the end to our Baby Clinic session due to the Health Visitor going on maternity leave herself and there not being anyone else available to take on this duty. Hopefully, we can remedy this through discussions with our local Health Centre.

It has been good to have Rev. Martin Cockerill join us for the second half of the afternoon to chat to the Mums and he has taken a share in the 'epilogue' at the end of the session. We have also continued in our tradition of giving a child's Christian books to every family at the end of the Christmas and summer term.

During the year, there have been opportunities to visit a few of the mums at home where there has been a need.

Little Steps, for babies and toddlers until the end of the term in which they become three, meets every Wednesday morning in term time, although some needy children stay with us a little longer. Between 45 and 60 children attend each week bringing their carers along too - mothers, fathers, grandparents, nannies or child-minders. Our entry criteria continue to be fairly flexible. We automatically welcome children from the Shelford and Stapleford area, and the majority of our guests continue to come from our flourishing Tiny Toes group, many of whom live locally. Apart from that, we try hard to maintain relationships with those who already come to the Tea Services or other groups in the church. Children (and grandchildren) of church members are always accepted, as are those who are referred to the group by health visitors, or where we recognise specific need. We are always busy.

Our core team of helpers has about 10 members, most of whom have served for several and some for many years. Although we tend to have specific areas in which we each work, we are fortunate that most people are happy to change roles whenever necessary. Everyone helps to set out and put away play equipment, an exceptionally time-consuming but important task. We continue to clean and replace toys on a regular basis, and invest regularly in good quality Christian books that we give to the children at Christmas and at the end of the summer term. Each child also receives a birthday card every year.

We have celebrated many of the festivals of the church year, including Candlemas, when we blessed our children as we retold the story of the blessing of Jesus at the Temple, and gave our carers little nightlights in pretty glass holders as a reminder. Again we enjoyed both our world-famous puppet show at Christmas time and our special all-join-in nativity story on the last toddler day before Christmas.

We have regular activities for the children each week – playdough, painting and sticking tables are supervised, free play is encouraged, and the ‘troublesome trucks’ (ride-on toys) have to stay in the church! These are put away at 11am when we have song and story time that includes a blessing for everyone who attends. A few of the team are specifically tasked with talking and listening to our guests, introducing new friends to others who have been with us some time, or leading a larger group.

Our very important snack time sees most of the small people on tiny chairs or carpet squares as they wait for tasty bread sticks, rice cakes, biscuits or cheese. We give out dozens of little plastic cups with lids containing juice or water. Tea, coffee or juice is available to carers, now always served with a sip-lid in place, as we know that scalds are very serious indeed for small children.

Funds raised from the teddy-bears’ picnic were donated to the local Children’s Hospice and we learned more about children in very hard circumstances. In our song and story times every week we always encourage parents and carers to bless the children. We have found that as some of our carers have gone through difficult circumstances, we have been able to talk more openly about our own faith, and have prayed with many individuals.

We continue to sponsor Bidjory, a little boy from Haiti, writing to him and receiving wonderful picture letters from him too. We also continue to support other charities whenever we can, as we believe that it is crucial for us to share our plenty.

Jump, an after school club for 3-6 year olds, continues to thrive. We began the year with a reduced number of children, but since September our numbers have increased again and we now have a core of about eight regular attendees (some of whom have been with us for a full three years) and an extra group of children who attend more occasionally. With the addition of younger siblings, who seem to enjoy being a part of the group as much as their older brothers and sisters, we have an average of eighteen children each week.

The children seem very enthusiastic to join in all the activities and we trust that they are beginning to develop an understanding of how they can relate to God through our story and prayer time.

We have also developed some good relationships with the parents and carers who bring the children along and sometimes have opportunity to discuss issues of faith with them.

Heroes is the group for older children which runs concurrently with Jump and gives a natural progression for the children who become too 'grown-up' for the younger group. It is based on a DVD series, following the adventures of two friends in first century Jerusalem.

There has been a change in staffing of this group over the last year as some helpers have stepped down or wanted to take on a lower profile role. The group is organized by Sylvia Briscoe with Rev. Martin Cockerill being the regular supporter. Previous helpers step in to fill the gaps when we are short.

Although the group remains fairly small (about eight children each week), those who attend are very consistent and seem to really enjoy this club. We are looking for ways to recruit a few more members. At the end of each term, there is a celebration session where we join for tea with the Jump group.

The '**Fantastic Light Party**' was relaunched on October 31st as a Christian alternative to Halloween. We worked in conjunction with All Saints Anglican Church, Little Shelford: they were to host an event for the youth (11-14 age group) and our event was for 6-10 year olds. We had a couple of volunteers from their church join us to help, but as their event was moved to an alternative venue at Sawston, extra helpers from here were not required.

The event was well attended by children from both churches and we were able to highlight the message of Christ being a 'light in the darkness'. We hope to be able to hold a similar event next year.

Family Film shows have been held twice during the year showing the films 'The Lego Movie' and '101 Dalmatians'. Numbers attending these were lower than in the past. At the conclusion of each film, there was a short talk relating the theme of the film to a gospel truth.

A Family Tea Party was held in May and in June a Family Barbecue event was held in the Manse garden. These were then re-launched in September as: **3T - Tea Time Together**. This is a creative and informal time for all, whatever age or stage of life one may be in. It usually takes place on the third Sunday of each month, but each one has a slightly different focus, format and often a different venue, trying to incorporate some outdoor activities as well as our previous indoor sessions.

We have been to Wandlebury and the Gogs, as well as having a twilight walk around the village and a bonfire at the rear of number 29 High Street. We have also had a craft afternoon, a games afternoon and a pizza making session. It has been good to see some new faces coming along to these and having some different people involved in the organization of different sessions.

Schools Work is an essential part of our ministry in the local community. Our Ministerial Assistant, Diana Parr, has continued her work in Shelford Primary School going into the school on a regular basis.

Every half term there is opportunity for each of the three local churches to lead an assembly at Great and Little Shelford Primary school. The content and themes of these are planned with discussion between the church representatives and the head teacher. These take place on a Monday morning at 10.30am and normally we lead two each half term.

We also continue to run a lunch time Bible Explorers club in conjunction with helpers from All Saints Church, Little Shelford. This academic year we have been running a series on Peter and discovering what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The club runs from September through to May half term and we repeat the series for years 5&6, years 3&4 and a short introductory series for years 1&2.

It is always a privilege to have the opportunity to go into schools. Diana says that she is always amazed at the number of children who greet her by name in different contexts, especially those who come to other events that we run.

4. Nurture and growth of Christian disciples and developing Fellowship

As a Fellowship, we continue to learn how to draw closer to each other and our Lord and Saviour Jesus as we meet regularly whether after church services, social events or in our small groups.

The Church runs a series of '**small groups**' throughout the year on a weekly basis, which are open to all, for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some members. The programme is a mixture of Bible Study themes and social events. Sometimes, the groups come together for special events.

Welcoming and **Stewarding** is a very important role. Noticing new people and giving them a warm welcome can make a huge difference. Having fellowship with everyone else is very important by way of chatting, praying and perhaps just saying hello. We are indebted to the many people who serve the church in a variety of ways through words of encouragement, hugs, demonstrating the love of Jesus to all who come to GSFC as well as being members of the various hospitality, stewarding and audio-visual rotas.

During the year, we have had '**Bring and Share**' lunches which have helped us to work towards our aim of developing a community spirit. Another new initiative has been the '**Fellowship Lunches**' which consist of a simple bread and soup lunch where people can continue discussions started over coffee, can chat to those who they may not normally get a chance to talk to, for families to share together along with other families, a time to just relax and enjoy some food shared together. These lunches take place roughly every 3 months. A new initiative this year was the '**Newcomers' Lunch**' which was successful. It gave an opportunity to get to know better those who have been coming to the church on a Sunday within the last year.

Fellowship for the church community is so important. We have tried to remember those who cannot come to services or take part in other activities and there are those who visit them at home to share and pray with them. Sometimes, through illness, people are not able to come and again an arm of fellowship is given by way of visits or in practical ways. We are all part of a big picture, knitted together by our faith in Jesus.

5. Church Fabric

Upgrading various facilities within the **Manse** continued as the fire place was reopened and the chimney prepared for a Multifuel Stove to be installed. The pump for the central heating was replaced. The floor in the bay window of the lounge was repaired and new air bricks installed. The outside of the house was repainted. The trellis on top of the wall to the back garden was replaced.

Throughout the year, maintenance projects were undertaken in and around the church buildings including cleaning gutters, installing extra emergency lighting, repositioning of the water heater (kitchen), repainting of the church hall as well as repairs to various leaks. A five year electrical check was also completed.

Depending on finances, it is anticipated that the outside of the church will be repainted, gutters to be replaced and a repair to the roof

6. Community service

- The church plays an active part in the community, opening its premises with the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ.
- **Cambridge Street Pastors, Through Faith Missions, and Romsey Mill** use the premises when they bring people together for training updates.
- **Stretchworks** is a 'fitness' activity for women held on a weekly basis. It is for those women who want to keep themselves mobile. The sessions are vibrant and are choreographed, using muscles that don't get used in an average day's work. Donations received are given to Tearfund.
- The premises has also played host to **Shelford Twinning Association** on numerous occasions as they continue to further their links with Verneuil-en-Halatte in Northern France.
- Each year GSFC plays host to a group of highly talented musicians who perform a concert with guests making donations towards the Arthur Rank Hospice.
- The premises have been used by community groups such as the National Ambulance Service as well as individuals booking the premises for parties and events.

7. Pastoral care

Psalm 127: 1 says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." (NIV)

The Prayer Ministry in the church changes year by year as God directs us but, our belief that prayer is the foundation on which everything in the church & in our individual lives should be rooted & built, remains the same.

A Pastoral Team provides oversight and response to pastoral situations. Their work is mirrored by the focus of the Prayer Team on the pastoral needs of the people in the church and the local community. Any prayer matters from individuals in the community are treated confidentially by the team. Relevant visits are arranged by mutual consent.

The **Prayer Chain Network** continues to operate by phone, text and email. We praise God for the many answered prayers over this last year. We are especially blessed when we receive updates from people who have asked for prayer through the Prayer Chain telling us of God's healing and restoration in many lives and situations.

The **Children of Promise Ministry**, sending out a Bible text every Monday, has continued to flourish and blesses many in the church and the wider community. Most encouraging is the fact that the majority of those receiving it are people outside our Church.

There has been a steady increase in the number of people outside the church asking for prayer through the **Prayer Request Box** in the church lounge as well as others sending requests via texts after receiving the Children of Promise Text.

During the year, had several **Prayer Evenings** at which we spent time in prayer and worship praying for different areas of the church's ministry. At the end of the year, we decided to take a break from these so that we were not doing them out of habit. As we continue on in 2015, we will meet again to pray for those concerns God is laying on our hearts and for which we need to seek His will together.

The Prayer Team also sends a **monthly prayer letter** to House Groups and others who pray at home. This keeps us informed about prayer needs in the church and gives the opportunity to share together in prayer.

The weekly newsletter – the LINK - focuses our prayers on those people and situations needing God's help, healing and direction. We all have the privilege of being able to come to God in prayer and seek His will for ourselves and others.

God has blessed us through the year as we've been led in prayer on Sunday mornings by various members of our congregation. Our thanks go to all of them for their willingness to 'step out of the boat' and lead prayers of intercession.

Over the year we have prayed with those who need prayer on a Sunday morning after the service. This can't be a prolonged time and we encourage those who need further prayer to meet with us during the week which a number have done.

As we seek God's will for the Prayer Team and its future leadership, we ask everyone to join with us in seeking His way forward. We trust and know that He "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us." (NIV)

8. Supporting and encouraging charitable social action.

The Church gives regularly to charitable organisations both at home and abroad. It also responds to specific requests from other people and organisations. This year it has used its tithe to support the BU Home Missions, BMS World Mission, GenR8, Friends International, Stapleford and Shelford Youth Initiative (S&SYI), Arab Vision, SASRA, Friends of Mengo Hospital (Uganda), Through Faith Missions (TFM), Centre of Hope and the Leprosy Mission. Throughout the year donations were also made to Tearfund, BMS Birthday Scheme and extra support for Alan and Megan Barker – our BMS Partnership Missionaries, Wycliffe Bible Translators for work in Northern Kenya, Romsey Mill (Church Christmas Card donations) and Spurgeon's (formerly Spurgeon's Childcare – Christmas Day Offerings).

Practical support has been provided through regular donations of food and money to the Sawston Food Bank at John Huntingdon's Charity in Sawston and in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal organised through Samaritan's Purse. Our church was a Drop-Off point for this appeal so we received boxes from a number of individuals and organisations outside the church. Used postage stamps are also brought by members of the congregation for the Leprosy Mission.

Our prayer support for our mission partners has been aided by information provided in the form of prayer letters and "Blogs" from Alan and Megan Barker and quarterly reports from the Weera Project in Kenya for the Wycliffe Bible Translators. Magazines and prayer diaries are also made available from Tearfund, SASRA, Arab Link and Leprosy Mission. Two Mission Services have been held this year. In July Alan and Megan visited us while on home leave and brought us news of their work in Surkhet, Nepal with INF and asked for our prayers for the continuing work to which they were returning. In October ASR Lee McDade came on deputation from SASRA and told us of the work he was involved with at Catterick Barracks and also asked for our prayers for his work there.

Team members take turns to put up displays in the church lounge and send articles for the LINK to keep the church informed about our various mission partners highlighting points for prayer and praise.

In January the team spent a Saturday afternoon away together reflecting on God's word, praying for each other and thinking about the way forward together. At this time we also agreed to donate £200 from the Bursary Fund towards an internship discipleship course with New Wine working in Cheltenham.

9. Encouraging relationships between churches and other Christians.

The church works with other churches on joint projects such as Street Pastors, Remembrance Services, Community Services and gatherings.

10. Child Protection & Safeguarding Policies.

The church operates systems to ensure that all church members working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted with regard to the Criminal Records Bureau. Arrangements are in place for all people working with children, young people and vulnerable adults to receive suitable training for their roles in the church.

11.Future Plans

The Trustees' current future plan key objectives are:

- a. To continue developing the work of the Church locally, principally through ...
 - Teaching and preaching of the Christian message
 - Encouraging participation in home study groups
 - Collaboration with other Churches in community events such as Christmas Carols at the Memorial Hall and the Remembrance Day service.
- b. To continue to review the needs in the local community and develop ways that the Charity can help
- c. To continue to support the wider Baptist community through participation in ...
 - The Eastern Baptist Association,
 - The Baptist Assembly,
 - The Baptist Home Mission,
 - The Baptist Missionary Society.
- d. To review the Church buildings and discern how their use can be maximised to further the work of the church in the local community.
- e. To continue the actions set out earlier in the report.

12.Public Benefit

The Church has read the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public. It's good to know that we have a faithful God who helps and supports us as we seek to be in the local community for the local community. We continue to pray that the Holy Spirit's Power will fill each one of us to overflowing as we seek to draw alongside, and help, the people in our local community.

"And this is my prayer; that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1: 9-11

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

Signed*Catherine T.G. Callaway*..... Full Name*CATHERINE T.G. CALLAWAY*.....
Signed*M. Furler*..... Full Name*MICHAEL W - FURLER*.....
Date:*13th October 2015*.....

Financial review

Financial policies

The Church has established systems to properly receive monies in and to control expenditure in accordance with the Constitution and the directions of the Trustees and the Church Meeting. Resources used are controlled to match anticipated income based upon previous years and expected changes.

The Church Treasurer is appointed in accordance with the Church Constitution.

Financial guidelines have been approved by Members for the protection of the Church's finances and assets and also for the protection of individual members of the Finance Team. The Treasurer is always a Trustee, but individual members of the Finance Team are not necessarily Trustees.

The guidelines stipulate who may authorise payments from the bank accounts and what processes should be followed when purchasing goods or services.

The Finance Team consists of three people - the Treasurer, Church Administrator and another church member. Only one of these may be a Trustee. The Finance Team considers and advises the Trustees on financial issues. In particular they discuss, and amend if necessary, the annual budget prepared by the Treasurer, before it goes to the Trustees' meeting. Similarly, the annual accounts will be reviewed by the Finance Team prior to going to the Trustees' meeting.

The Treasurer presents a comparison of budgeted income and expenditure against actual income and expenditure at least four times per year.

The annual church accounts are prepared and examined by external, qualified accountants.

Reserves Policy

Expenditure is controlled to match anticipated income based on annual budgets, with some allowance to build up reserves as prudent provision for known upcoming major expenses. The General Fund Reserves have been set at 25% of the current year's budgeted expenditure.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for the financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources of the year and the application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which GSFC faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Pensions Policy

The Church pays pension contributions for its Minister and Ministerial Assistant to the Baptist Ministers Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme until December 2011, which is not contracted out of the State second pension. (From January 2012 it is defined contribution scheme.)

Principal Funding Sources

GSFC derives its funding from voluntary gifts, free-will offerings and legacies which are received from its members and others who worship at the Church. Tax refunds are also reclaimed on any offerings given under the Gift Aid scheme.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

The expenditure is incurred to enable the church's programme of services and activities to be held. Approximately 15% of the General Fund's income is given to other organisations as specifically agreed by the Church Membership. The rest of the General Fund expenditure is in respect of the Minister's stipend and other employees of GSFC, the maintenance and running costs of the premises and the Manse and general administrative requirements.

Unrestricted Funds

The Church has a General Fund, which is an unrestricted fund. This Fund is used to finance the regular activities of the Church, and its principal income is from the free-will offerings given to the Church by its members and other regular worshippers who attend the services and activities.

Designated Funds

Social Action Fund

Designated fund under the Charities Act and is intended to be used for grants and loans to members and others in special financial need.

Building & Fabric Fund

Designated fund under the Charities Act and is intended for the purchase of and for major refurbishment/repair of Church buildings.

Special Projects Fund

Designated fund under the Charities Act and can only be used for any purpose approved by the Church membership.

Special Projects (Mission) Fund

Designated fund under the Charities Act and can only be used for any mission-associated purpose approved by the Church membership.

Church Tithe Fund

This fund is used to support the work of those involved in Christian service/aid work locally, nationally and internationally. The monies in this fund are apportioned annually and are agreed by the Church Meeting. The Church Tithe is currently set at 12.5% of 'free will offerings'.

Training Fund

Restricted fund under the Charities Act and can only be used for costs of those preparing for Christian work either in the UK or overseas.

Restricted Funds

- **'Other'**. Funds donated for a variety of 'restricted' purposes.
- **Development Fund.**

This is restricted under the Charities Act and can only be used for the development, but not the maintenance, of the facilities, premises and land at Great Shelford Free Church (Baptist).

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

On the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2015

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Great Shelford Free Church

I report on the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2015 which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts;
2. state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners' statement

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiners' statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept; and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records; 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 Stirrat FCCA
Hardcastle Burton (Newmarket) Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
90 High Street
Newmarket
Suffolk**

Date:

Great Shelford Free Church
Receipts and Payment Account

For the period from 01 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2014/15	Total funds 2013/14
<i>Incoming Resources</i>						
Voluntary Income	2	72139.91	2000.00		74139.91	99293.80
Investment Income	3	8557.67	63.47	3.50	8624.64	17756.31
Charitable Activities	4	10403.17			10403.17	9841.11
Other Incoming Resources	5	15987.90			15987.90	20709.95
Total incoming resources		107088.65	2063.47	3.50	109175.62	147601.17
<i>Resources Expended</i>						
Charitable activities	6	93470.82	46735.55	1,000.00	141206.37	198177.98
Governance costs	7	1008.00			1008.00	996.00
Total Resources Expended		94478.82	46735.55	1000.00	142214.37	199173.98
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources		12609.83	-44672.08	-996.50	-33058.75	-51572.81
<i>Transfers</i>						
Net transfers between funds	8	-11375.00	11375.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net incoming/outgoing before other gains/losses		1234.83	-33297.08	-996.50	-33058.75	-51572.81
Net movement in Funds		1234.83	-33297.08	-996.50	-33058.75	-51572.81
Totals brought forward		53268.14	434344.87	2447.86	490060.87	541633.68
Total funds carried forward		54502.97	401047.79	1451.36	457002.12	490060.87

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015

	Note	General Fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds 2014/15	Total Funds 2013/14
Fixed Assets						
Intangible Assets						
Tangible Fixed Assets			450340.68		450340.68	450340.68
Fixed Assets		0.00	450340.68		450340.68	450340.68
Current Assets						
Debtors		15985.90			15985.90	19132.20
Cash at bank and in hand		43831.63	-9292.89	1451.36	35990.10	84683.99
Current Assets		59817.53	-9292.89	1451.36	51976.00	103816.19
Current Liabilities						
Creditors:		5314.56			5314.56	3096.00
Building Loans			40000.00		40000.00	61000.00
Net current assets		54502.97	-49292.89	1451.36	6661.44	39720.19
Net assets		54502.97	401047.79	1451.36	457002.12	490060.87
Represented by						
Unrestricted General Fund		54502.97			54502.97	53268.14
Designated - Social Action			1504.92		1504.92	1582.66
Designated - Training for ministry			2000.94		2000.94	1998.09
Designated - Building and Fabric			396917.15		396917.15	429964.34
Designated - Special Projects			290.78		290.78	290.78
Designated - Special Projects - Mission			0.00		0.00	0.00
Designated - Church Tithe			334.00		334.00	509.00
Restricted - Other				1451.36	1451.36	2447.86
Restricted - Development of Premises but not repairs					0.00	0.00
Restricted - Agency Collection					0.00	0.00
Funds of the church		54502.97	401047.79	1451.36	457002.12	490060.87

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31st March 2014

1. Accounting policies

a. *Basis of Preparation*

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the Accounting Regulations set out under the Charities Act 1993, and with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2005.

b. *Donations*

Donations are accounted for gross when received.

c. *Legacies*

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

d. *Investment Income*

Investment Income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable.

e. *Fund Raising and publicity costs*

The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and the expenditure on these items is therefore not material.

f. *Grants Payable*

The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for in the year in which they are paid.

g. *Governance Costs*

This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the church. Most of the management is carried out without charge by volunteers and the Trustees of the church. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities, since there is no measurable cost to these people for their service.

h. *Fixed Assets*

The Church Premises are included in the balance sheet at insurance value because reliable cost information is not available, and valuation would incur significant costs which would be onerous compared with the additional benefit gained by users of the accounts.

The Manse premises are stated at cost.

Items of equipment are written off when acquired.

i. *Depreciation*

Depreciation has not been charged on the Church or Manse premises because, in the opinion of the Trustees, the residual value of the asset is not less than the original cost price.

j. *Investment Assets*

If applicable, quoted investments would be stated at market value.

Note 2 Voluntary Income

				2014/15	2013/14
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
Gift Aid Offering	64878.63			64878.63	61799.70
Other offering	6816.28			6816.28	4341.28
Donations	445.00	2000.00		2445.00	33152.82
	72139.91	2000.00		74139.91	99293.80

Note 3 Investment Income

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
Rent	8500.00			8500.00	17535.74
Interest	57.67	63.47	3.50	124.64	220.57
	8557.67	63.47	3.50	8624.64	17756.31

Note 4 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
Evangelism	3189.11			3189.11	3886.56
Junior Church	4440.06			4440.06	2957.38
Youth	0.00			0.00	0.00
Church Weekend	0.00			0.00	398.00
Leaders Conference	0.00			0.00	0.00
Disbursements	1081.43			1081.43	1641.57
Other	1692.57			1692.57	958.32
	10403.17			10403.17	9841.83

Note 5 Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
Gift Aid recovered	15985.90			15985.90	20707.95
Legacies	0.00			0.00	0.00
Other Income	2.00			2.00	2.00
	15987.90			15987.90	20709.95

Note 6 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
Staff and Admin	60400.19			60400.19	36970.86
Staff Expenses	415.22			415.22	1583.70
Youth	3672.50			3672.50	2806.05
Evangelism					
Evangelism	2677.25			2677.25	3712.67
Discipleship/Housegroup	947.86			947.86	962.26
Prayer Ministry	424.00			424.00	364.96
Sanctuary Resources	463.19			463.19	259.41
Pulpit Supply	330.00			330.00	770.00
Fellowship	969.93			969.93	710.66
Mission Expense	121.38			121.38	71.52
Training Resources				0.00	2000.00
Events and Materials					
Leaders Conference	817.50			817.50	143.00
Delegates Expenses	169.00			169.00	453.50
Church Weekend	0.00			0.00	887.75
Mission					
BU Home Mission		3725.00		3725.00	3625.00
BMS World Mission		3725.00		3725.00	3625.00
SSYI		1100.00		1100.00	1050.00
Through Faith Mission		350.00		350.00	300.00
Mengo		350.00		350.00	300.00
SASRA		350.00		350.00	300.00
GenR8		350.00		350.00	300.00
Leprosy Mission		350.00		350.00	300.00
FI		350.00		300.00	300.00

Arab Vision		350.00	300.00	300.00
Centre of Hope		350.00	300.00	300.00
Spurgeons College		0.00	0.00	300.00
Social Action Payment		80.00	80.00	650.00
Mission Support		200.00	200.00	4000.00
Administration				
Heating/Ins/Ctax	10354.74		10354.74	5836.19
Church Cleaning	2746.02		2746.02	2477.80
Telephone/Internet	880.75		880.75	314.60
Stationery & Postage	1524.88		1524.88	1698.89
Subs & Donations	1409.90		1409.90	1466.02
Repairs and Renewals	3085.19	35105.55	38190.74	112202.60
Bank Charges	36.00		36.00	36.00
Computer Software	797.76		797.76	1285.38
Disbursements	1081.43	1000.00	2081.43	1641.57
Equipment	146.13		146.13	3858.09
Other	0.00		0.00	14.50
	<u>93470.82</u>	<u>46735.55</u>	<u>1000.00</u>	<u>141206.37</u>
				<u>198177.98</u>

Note 8 Gross transfers between funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
Restricted Other				0.00
General fund	-11375.00			-11375.00
Social Action				0.00
Training for ministry				0.00
Building and Fabric				0.00
Special Projects				0.00
Special Projects Mission				0.00
Church Tithe		11375.00		11375.00
	<u>-11375.00</u>	<u>11375.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>

Note 9 Analysis of net Assets

		Fixed Asset	Investment	Current Asset	Total
Restricted Funds	(Note 11)	0.00	0.00	1451.36	1451.36
Designated Funds	(Note 10)	450340.68	0.00	-49292.89	401047.79
Unrestricted Funds				54502.97	54502.97
		<u>450340.68</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6661.44</u>	<u>457002.12</u>

Note 10 Designated Funds

	2012-13	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains & Losses	Transfers	2013-14
Social Action	1582.66	2.26	-80.00			1504.92
Training for ministry	1998.09	2.85				2000.94
Building and Fabric	429964.34	2058.36	-35105.55			396917.15
Special Projects	290.78					290.78
Church Tithe	509.00		-11550.00		11375.00	334.00
	<u>434344.87</u>	<u>2063.47</u>	<u>-46735.55</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>11375.00</u>	<u>401047.79</u>

Designated Funds held in:

	Fixed Asset	Investment	Current Asset	Total		
Social Action			1504.92	1504.92		
Training for ministry			2000.94	2000.94		
Building and Fabric	450340.68		-53423.53	396917.15		
Special Projects			290.78	290.78		
Church Tithe			334.00	334.00		
	<u>450340.68</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-49292.89</u>	<u>401047.79</u>		
	2013-14	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains & Losses	Transfers	2014-15

Note 11 Restricted Funds

Restricted Other	2447.86	3.50	-1000.00		1451.36
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2447.86	34.81	-1000.00	0.00	0.00	1451.36
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Restricted Funds held in:

	Fixed Asset	Investment	Current Asset	Total
Restricted Other			1451.36	1451.36

0.00	0.00	1451.36	1451.36
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