

THE JEAN GROVE TRUST

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st MARCH 2023

Registered Charity No. 1109593

THE JEAN GROVE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Oversight of the charity is in the hands of Trustees who met on four occasions during the year. Three meetings were held "in person" and one was held by videoconferencing to facilitate the attendance of all Trustees.

Policy is set and implemented by the Trustees.

New Trustees are provided with a trustee file, which includes a copy of the governing document, a copy of the latest annual return and a copy of CC3 'The Essential Trustee' published by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees are committed to developing a programme of trustee in-service training and can attend relevant training courses.

The Trustees regularly examine the major strategic, business and operational risks that the Charity faces and have taken any actions necessary to reduce these risks to an acceptable level.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the Charity are to advance the Roman Catholic Religion by advancing the pastoral and social work of the Ethiopian Catholic Church, and to advance the education of children in Ethiopia, regardless of ethnicity or religion, through the support of schools run by the Ethiopian Catholic Church.

The addition of the second objective, which was agreed in May 2016 with the consent of the Charity Commission, recognises that a significant proportion of donors are not members of the Catholic Church but recognise the value of, and wish to support, the educational work undertaken by the Church.

The Charity's current priority is to maintain and increase the support given to the four schools with which the Charity works:

- The Blessed G Michael School at Bahir Dar, run by the Daughters of the Charity of St Vincent de Paul.
- The Lord Jesus Catholic School, Zizencho, in the Eparchy (Diocese) of Emdibir, run by the Bethany Sisters.
- The St Peter and Paul School in Zalambessa, in the Eparchy of Adigrat, run by the St Lucy Filippini Sisters.
- The Holy Saviour Kindergarten School in Dawhan, in the Eparchy of Adigrat, run by the Sisters of St Louis.

The Charity carries out internal reviews and when necessary, will appoint professional advisors to carry out the charity's strategies.

The significant activity of the Charity during the year was to continue to find ways to increase the awareness of the Charity and therefore increase donations to support its objectives.

The long-term strategy of the Charity is to maintain close personal links with the principals of the supported schools and the bishops of the respective Eparchies (the Eparchs) in order to ensure that the giving of grants continues to support the priority needs of the schools.

THE JEAN GROVE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

How our Activities and Achievements deliver Public Benefit

The benefit that a small charity provides for the education of children in Ethiopia is substantial. Two thirds of children in that country are not able to attend school; in rural communities places have to be rationed and allocated to ensure that the benefits of education are spread as widely and effectively across the community. The Catholic Church in Ethiopia provides a high-quality education in much smaller classes than can be offered by the Government schools which themselves are unable to cover all areas of the Country, and does not have any kindergarten programme. The pupil population is made up of approximately equal numbers of boys and girls, and the education is offered to children irrespective of religious background.

The annual cost of educating a child varies from school to school, but around £100 is still enough to cover the cost of salaries, teaching materials, uniforms and food for a single student; inflation in Ethiopia remains high and the exchange rate of the Ethiopian Birr has continued to weaken against the pound, which increases the value of our donations. When conflict broke out in the Tigray region in late 2020, there were around 2000 pupils at the four schools supported by the Trust. The charity was providing full support to the equivalent of some 300 children; in reality, the number of children supported was much greater as the principals of the schools are able to allocate our funding according to individual needs. One of the aspects that makes support from the Jean Grove Trust particularly welcome is that our grants are given without conditions, and are available to cover operating expenditure, especially teachers' salaries. The schools have consistently told us that that is their greatest challenge.

Update from the Schools

The situation in Ethiopia changed dramatically in 2020, firstly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and secondly due to the outbreak of civil war and wider ethnic conflict affecting the northern part of the country, especially the Tigray region, where two of our schools are located. In November 2020, the Ethiopian Government commenced military action against the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and all communications were shut down with the region. There have been many reports of atrocities being committed, including widespread rape of women and murder of school age boys, and there are continuing concerns about famine in the area. In November 2022 a ceasefire was agreed between the Government and the TPLF, and at the time of writing this appears still to be holding. As a result, communications have been re-opened and we have been able to re-establish contact with the Bishop in Adigrat who reported to us as follows:

"The recent peace agreement has silenced guns and some very very little services starting, but still commodity flow from other regions in and out are not yet, so are the banks only starting and with so little service.....Eritrean armies have to leave the places so that the displaced millions internally and to Sudan have to return home, if they can find homes, schools repaired, furnished, unpaid teachers settled, a lot of trauma healing work required..... ALL THIS but with God's help and our friends close and far, like yourselves, peace has to come some way, challenges and life to continue, with restorative works. The current situation priority is almost all needs and engagement emergency reaching out for food, medicine, shelter,

Our Catholic church has remained accompanying the suffering population in all the locations of our missions in the Eparchy which covers all Tigray. Extraordinary witness of suffering Christ with his souls, trying to give hope and helping with whatever little we could get."

THE JEAN GROVE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Through the good offices of the Sisters of St Louis in Dublin, we have received updates from the sisters running the **Holy Saviour Kindergarten School at Dawhan**. We learned of the amazing courage of Sister Perpetua, who travelled into the conflict zone on two occasions to visit the school. Miraculously she discovered that all the teachers were alive, and was able to carry funds, provided by the Trust, to pay their salaries up to date. Subsequent testimonies make it clear that this was a lifeline to them at the most difficult time. The school survived much of the war intact, due to the efforts of the local priest and a devoted caretaker, but sadly was shelled in the months before the ceasefire and the buildings have taken some damage. There has been some looting. With this backdrop we were delighted to learn that the school re-opened in June 2023 with the overall support and supervision of the Parish Priest, and that all the teachers and classroom assistants have returned. 126 children have registered for the coming school year starting in September, over 80 percent of the former school complement. Life is very far from normal, however. We know that the roads are still blocked, and that the Eritrean soldiers are still present around Dawhan.

The Director of the school Ms. Zimam Aufay Geberay on behalf of the fourteen staff members directly expresses her appreciation for the Jean Grove money brought in cash during the school year at some personal risk to Sr Perpetua, "in fact it was our saving grace it came when it was most needed."

Sr Maureen, the Principal of the school, also expresses her deep appreciation for the support of the Jean Grove Trust: "Thank you for the best Evangelization you have given our staff. Saint John Paul II said 'the best evangelisation to give to a child is to educate him/her' and this you have done for them/us in Holy Saviour Kindergarten Dawhan. We are grateful to Jean Grove Trust for the huge heart you have for us, may God continue to be there for you and your entire family."

In February we were also able to make contact with Sister Letteselassie from the Religious Sisters Filippini, who run the **St Peter and Paul school in Zalambessa**. Here the news was not so good. The fighting in Zalambessa was heavy, and the school has taken substantial damage. The sisters are safe, but they and all the school population who could, have moved to Adigrat and integrated with the school there. Few people are left in Zalambessa, and, although we understand some people are returning to the area, we have no knowledge of future plans for the school.

The city of **Bahir Dar**, where we have long supported the **Blessed G Michael School** run by the Daughters of Charity, is the capital of the Amhara region of Ethiopia. The region has suffered both from the consequences of the conflict in Tigray, which has led to ethnic conflict between the Amhara people and the Tigrayans to the east, and from separate conflicts in the western part of the region between Amhara, Gumuz and Oromo peoples. Happily, the school and the banking system have continued to operate through 2022-23, and we received a report from Sr Woynitu in March, saying that demand for places is still increasing, with enrolments up 10% this year. The school now has a serious shortage of educational resources due to a new education curriculum. Support from The Jean Grove Trust has been used partly to provide materials for poor students and to undertake teacher training. We know too that some of the existing buildings are no longer fit for purpose, and there is an urgent need to make improvements to the playing areas for health reasons. These projects are beyond the current means of the Trust to support.

Since we received this report, we have heard that fighting between militia groups has spread and intensified in the Amhara region, including Bahir Dar itself. Communications with the region have been shut down. We have received a brief message from the Bishop to the effect that he and staff are safe and the school continues to operate.

THE JEAN GROVE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

The region of Guraghe, in which the fourth of our schools, **The Lord Jesus Catholic School at Zizencho**, is situated, is over 600 miles from the areas in conflict and has been relatively unaffected. The school, which was established with a single kindergarten class, now goes up to grade 8, with new classrooms, a dining hall, a library and a laboratory, and numbers have increased to 547 children on site. 80% of the children come from poor families. The schooling is offered free of charge and remains extremely oversubscribed; places are awarded on a 'first come first served' basis. Malnutrition is general and the midday meal given by the school is much prized by its recipients. The Trust's annual donation covers over 50% of the entire cost of the school.

At the time of writing, we are awaiting the annual report for 2023 from the school.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The total income received by the Trust fell to £27,199 (2022: £30,861). This is due to the effect of a legacy of £5,000 in the previous year. Income from the Christmas fair and the sale of Christmas cards etc. increased to £1,843 (2022: £1,197).

Fundraising activities have continued to be severely constrained due to the restrictions in place in response to the global pandemic. It is unlikely that we will be in a position to launch a new fundraising initiative until the Trustees are in a position to make another visit to Ethiopia. As a result, and excluding the impact of legacies, the income raised from donations has fallen from £35,192 in 2020, to £28,026 in 2021 and £25,117 in 2023. Most of this arises from a fall in 'one-off' donations. Regular donations are a little lower than in the previous year and now stand at around £21,900 per annum including gift aid (2022: £22,200); the Trustees have been immensely grateful to the regular supporters who have mostly been happy to continue their support.

It is a core principle of the Trust that grants are only made where we have direct contact with the recipient schools and the responsible bishops, so that we can be assured that the funds are reaching the intended beneficiaries. Last year this meant that we were unable to send funds to Zalambessa and Dawhan, and we decided to hold one year's grant for each of these schools in reserve, in the expectation that there will be exceptional needs when these schools are able to begin operations again. The efforts of Sister Perpetua meant that we were able to deploy the funds held over for Dawhan in payment of salaries due to the staff. This has contributed very importantly to the early reopening of the school. A further reserve of £3,224 has been held over for Dawhan from 2023. We remain unable to send funds to Zalambessa.

As a result, we were able to maintain our annual grants to Bahir Dar and Zizencho at the temporarily higher level, established last year, of £12,000 per school, and also to pay Dawhan's 2022 grant of £6,000, previously held in reserve. Grants paid out therefore came to a total of £30,000 (2021: £29,000). As a result, there was a deficit in net income of £3,721, which has had the effect of reducing the reserves held by the Charity.

THE JEAN GROVE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)

Because of the uncertainty in timing of distribution of funds held in reserve to Ethiopia the Trustees decided in 2022 to make some longer-term investments in line with the investment policy. £12,500 was accordingly invested with the IFSL CAF Alternative Strategies Fund at the beginning of the year. The three-year investment objectives of this Fund closely matched the investment criteria of the Trust. The Trustees were therefore extremely disappointed to receive notice from the fund managers after less than one year of their decision to close the Fund. None of the replacement Funds offered had comparable investment objectives and the Trustees therefore reluctantly concluded that they were left with no alternative but to withdraw the investment. This incurred a loss of £395. As a result, a formal complaint was raised with the fund managers which was unsuccessful. The loss was substantially offset by additional interest earned on funds deposited with the Nationwide Building Society.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

It is the Trustees' intention to make a personal visit to Ethiopia to visit the schools as soon as it is safe to do so. This will enable us to reinforce relationships, to reassess needs on the ground and to launch new fund-raising initiatives. In the meantime, we continue to focus our efforts on the following objectives:

1. To increase awareness of the Charity to donors and to undertake further fundraising activities.
2. To continue to monitor the existing projects and to increase awareness of the Charity in the area of benefit and increase grant giving.
3. Maintain and strengthen links with schools and other funding bodies and individuals.

POLICIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Risks faced by the Charity

The Trustees have identified two significant risks faced by the Charity. These are:

- That the money sent to the schools is diverted or not used for its intended purpose. This is mitigated by Trustee visits, by the financial reports that the schools send, and by communication at the time of transfer that the money has been safely received.
- That the Trust fails to raise enough money to cover annual commitments. The reserve policy is designed to mitigate against this.

The Trustees are confident that the Charity has the resources available to it to continue as a going concern. The Trust has no employees, and no remuneration is paid to members or Trustees for their work.

Grant Making Policy

The policy of the Charity is to sustain and, where possible, grow regular annual support to schools to cover the costs of education, on the understanding that regular progress reports are received. These awards are considered each year at a full meeting of the Trustees. Applications for other 'one off' grants made under the policies of the Charity are assessed and recommendations considered at a full meeting of the Trustees. Follow-up action is taken by the Treasurer.

THE JEAN GROVE TRUST**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023****POLICIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)****Reserves Policy**

As a grant-giving charity the aim of the Trust in normal times is to disburse its funds in the year of receipt, not to hold them. At the same time, being aware of the reliance that the supported schools have on their annual grant, the Trustees wish to ensure that, in the event of a reduction in donor support, any consequential reductions in grants can be 'smoothed' in order to assist the schools to adapt. The reserves policy seeks to provide a cushion to enable grants to be sustained for a two-year period.

The Trustees' policy is therefore to maintain sufficient reserves to cover two years' committed expenditure, after allowing for regular committed income. Unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2023 amounted to £28,537 (2022: £32,258), which figure remains artificially high as a result of the Trustees' decision not to send funds to schools until satisfactory communications are established and needs can be assessed. The reserves figure includes provision of £15,224 intended for the two schools in Tigray, to meet exceptional needs when they are able to resume operations. Remaining 'free' reserves stand at just over £13,000, a modest reduction from last year's level of £14,000. The Trustees are aware that it will be necessary to further reduce grants in future years if fund-raising remains constrained.

Investment Policy

The Trustees recognise that there are situations in which the Trust may find itself holding funds for a longer term. This might for instance arise because:

1. Instability in Ethiopia means that grants cannot be sent to beneficiaries, or the situation makes it impossible to be assured that they are applied for the intended purposes.
2. 'One-off' fund raising activities or legacies received are designated to be used to support the Trust's work on a longer-term basis.

In these circumstances there is a risk that the value of funds held in reserve is eroded by low interest rates, or high rates of inflation. Accordingly, the Trustees may decide to invest the surplus funds of the Charity to mitigate these risks. In order to guide these decisions, the Trustees have agreed to adopt the following investment policy:

THE JEAN GROVE TRUST**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023****POLICIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)****The Jean Grove Trust - Investment Policy****Investment powers**

The Trustees' powers to invest are governed by the Charities Act, and the current guidance from the Charity Commission (England and Wales). Nothing in the original Trust Deed further constrains these powers.

Investment objectives

- To protect the real value of the Trusts reserves in order to sustain the real value of the grants made in Ethiopia.
- To achieve this over an investment horizon of no longer than three to five years
- To avoid unnecessary risk of capital loss.

Making investment decisions

In setting these objectives, the Trustees recognise that the size of the Charity and the funds available mean that it will not usually be feasible to seek professional investment advice. Accordingly, they will follow the following principles in making investment decisions:

- Ensure appropriate diversification of the Trust's reserves across different institutions, having regard to the size of funds available.
- Use bank deposits in preference to investment funds where they enable investment objectives to be achieved.
- Use diversified investment funds, designed to meet the needs of smaller charities.
- Have due regard to the ethical investment policies of those institutions and funds.

The Trust will not invest in any organization or institution, which could be seen as creating a conflict of interest for any of the Trustees.

Monitoring performance

The performance of investments will be monitored at regular Trustees' meetings, through the Treasurer's report.

THE JEAN GROVE TRUST**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023****STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**


Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant legislation and the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee



Date

9/10/2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE JEAN GROVE TRUST**

I report on the accounts of the Jean Grove Trust for the year ended 31st March 2023, which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and related notes. The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

This report is made to the Trustees, as a body, in accordance with the terms of my engagement. My work has been undertaken so that I might carry out an Independent Examination of the financial statements in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees, as a body, for my work or for this report.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply and that an Independent Examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under section 145 (1) (a) of the Act); to follow procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and 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 Act

have not been met; or

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

 9th OCTOBER 2023

Ashleigh Bridges
1 Dalton Square
Cambridge
CB4 1QJ

THE JEAN GROVE TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

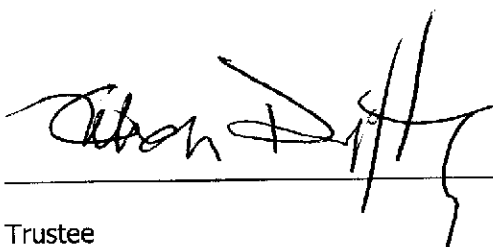
	Notes	2023 £	Unrestricted 2022 £
INCOME FROM			
Grants and Donations	2	25,117	29,661
Income from Investments		239	3
Other Trading Activities		1,843	1,197
Other Income			
Total Income		27,199	30,861
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Raising Funds		450	440
Loss on Investments		395	-
Charitable Activities	3	30,075	29,169
Total Expenditure		30,920	29,609
Net Income and Net Movement in Funds		-3,721	1,252
Funds Brought Forward		32,258	31,006
Funds Carried Forward		£28,537	£32,258

None of the Charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.


THE JEAN GROVE TRUST
BALANCE SHEET AT 31st MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at Bank and in Hand	5	28,537	32,258
Debtors	5		
TOTAL NET ASSETS		£28,537	£32,258
INCOME FUND			
Unrestricted General Fund		28,537	32,258
TOTAL FUNDS		£28,537	£32,258

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 9th October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



 Trustee



 Trustee

THE JEAN GROVE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. They have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 July 2015) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that there are no uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably. Donations are recognised when received. Other income is recognised when received.

(c) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

(d) Grants

Grants payable are charged in the year in which the offer is conveyed to the recipient except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Gift Aid is accounted for when received.

(e) Cashflow Statement

The Charity has taken the exemption available under the SORP and has not produced a cash flow statement.

(f) Fund Accounting

The unrestricted funds may be used by the Charity in furtherance of its charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

(g) Value Added Tax

The Charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly where applicable, all expenditure incurred is inclusive of VAT.

THE JEAN GROVE TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

2. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donors	20,982	25,031
Gift Aid Recovered	4,135	4,630
	<u>£25,117</u>	<u>£29,661</u>

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Grants to Organisations

Blessed Ghebre Michael Catholic School – Bahir Dar	12,000	17,000
The Lord Jesus Catholic School Zizencho, Emdibir	12,000	12,000
Holy Saviour School, Dahwan	6,000	-
St Peter and Paul School, Zalambessa	-	-
	<u>30,000</u>	<u>29,000</u>

Support Costs

Sundry Costs	26	120
Bank Charges	49	49
TOTAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	<u>£30,075</u>	<u>£29,169</u>

4. GOVERNANCE COSTS

The Charity incurred no Governance Costs, as the Independent Examination was undertaken gratuitously.

5. CURRENT ASSETS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in bank and at hand:		
Nat West: Reserve Account	13,794	30,880
Nat West: Current Account	1,937	1,262
Nationwide Building Society	12,693	
Cash in hand	113	116
Other current assets:		
Debtors	-	-
	<u>28,537</u>	<u>32,258</u>