



Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Founded 1944

76th ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended

31 DECEMBER 2020

See separate booklet for Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2020

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the
14th Annual General Meeting
will be held, if the Lord will, on-line
via Zoom and MixLr
on Saturday, 24 April 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Agenda

1. Chairman to open the meeting.
2. Prayer Meeting for Bethesda.
3. General Manager to introduce the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.
4. Questions and discussion (please provide written questions in advance).
5. To approve and adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.
6. General Manager to announce the result of the ballot for election of members of the Bethesda Fund Committee.
7. Closure of meeting and prayer.

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Charity: Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Charity Number: 209376

Trustees serving during the financial year and since the year end:

(Also known as the Bethesda Fund Committee)

Mr. M.D. Ridout (Chairman) Mr. R.A. Saunders

Mr. A.J. Collins (Vice-Chairman) Mr. T.H.W. Scott

Mr. S.B. Cottingham Mr. D.F. Stevens (appointed March 2020)

Mr. P.J. Pocock Mr. R.W. Woodhams (appointed April 2020)

Custodian Trustee: The Gospel Standard Trust,
50 Broadway, Westminster, London SW1H 0BL

General Manager: Mr. A.J.H. Topping

Address of the Principal Office of the Charity:

Bethesda General Office

12(b) Roundwood Lane

Harpenden, Herts.

AL5 3BZ

Telephone: 01582 460522

Email: adriantopping@gsbf.uk

Connected Charity

The Piggott Charity is a “connected Charity” under the control of the Trustees of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund. It exists to help Residents of the Bethesda Homes who are in financial need to pay the cost of their care. During the year a general grant of £9,000 was received from The Piggott Charity. Further information can be obtained from the General Manager.

Auditors: Mazars LLP, 2nd Floor, 6 Sutton Plaza, Sutton Court Road,
Sutton, SM1 4FS

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc, 60 George Street, Luton, LU1 2BB

Solicitors: BDB Pitmans, 50 Broadway, Westminster, London, SW1H 0BL

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR 2020

Introduction

During 2020 the Trustees have been engaged, amongst their other duties, in three areas of activity. The first was to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents and staff as a result of COVID-19 and in the Lord's goodness we can testify that He has proved to be a 'wall of fire' around the Bethesda Homes. The second was, as identified in 2019, to address the Charity's financial stability whilst not losing sight of the purpose of Bethesda which is to provide the highest quality personal care for our residents in a God-honouring environment. As will be seen in this Annual Report, at 31 December 2019 a deficit of £270,909 was reported. Through the Lord's mercies, for 2020 the deficit has reduced to £24,810. The third, has been prayerfully to consider further the future of Bethesda both in terms of the care offered and operating structure. This work is ongoing and the Trustees, if the Lord will, hope to be able later in the year to share with subscribers the progress that has been made.

Objective of Charity

The purpose of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund is to provide accommodation and personal care and support to adults aged 65 and over who are members of a Gospel Standard church, or who regularly attend a Gospel Standard chapel.

How this objective is met

This service is provided to people with a wide range of personal care needs, including those living with dementia and those with nursing needs who can be treated in our Homes by District Nurses. The types of service offered are: permanent residency, short stays for breaks or respite care, and day care. Each resident is treated as an individual and personalised care plans are prepared and monitored regularly to ensure their needs are continually met.

We continue to have a number of residents where the full cost of care cannot be met. Although the Underfunded Residents Fund, set up in 2007 from part of the proceeds of the sale of the Tunbridge Wells Bethesda Home, is now exhausted, we intend to continue to allocate all donations, subscriptions, or chapel collections, unless specified otherwise, to the General Fund, from which any shortfall in fees will be met. Your kind gifts, in whatever way they are made, are therefore highly valued and we sincerely thank you for your continued support. For those requiring financial assistance for short stays, this is provided from the Short Stay Fund.

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund was set up in 1944 with the specific purpose of providing a Christian Home for the elderly and infirm from the

Gospel Standard group of Churches. The provision of this accommodation and the care provided reflects the need to provide a spiritual as well as homely atmosphere for likeminded people. In line with this ethos, life in the Bethesda Homes centres around daily Bible reading and prayer, chapel services which can be attended in person or listened to via the relay into the Homes, and the prayer meetings and hymn signing evenings organised in the Homes.

Governing Document

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund is an unincorporated charitable trust, first registered as a Charity in 1944. It now operates under a Charity Commission scheme which came into effect on 15 June 1999, amended by resolution on 6 January 2003 and 5 October 2007. The scheme is a fully regulating scheme which replaces the former trusts of the Charity.

Constitution and Organisational Structure

Under the scheme, as amended, the Committee appoints members to the Bethesda Fund Committee, and the appointment of new appointees is ratified by the subscribers at the next Annual General Meeting following the appointment. Members of the Committee offer themselves for re-election by rotation at the Annual General Meeting. In this way the subscribers also have the opportunity to ratify the re-election of each Committee Member once every three years.

The members of the Bethesda Fund Committee are the Trustees of the Charity, and with them rests the overall responsibility for running and administering the Charity. The Charity Commission scheme provides for the appointment of a minimum of six committee members up to a maximum of twelve; there are currently eight members after Mr. David Stevens and Mr. Richard Woodhams joined during the year.

The Committee seeks to appoint new members who are sympathetic to the founding purposes of Bethesda and in addition, are able to provide relevant skills and experience. New committee members, prior to joining the Committee, are introduced to their duties and responsibilities including the requirements of the Charity Commission.

In 2019, the Trustees identified the need to review, in the fear of the Lord, the appropriateness of the Charity's current legal entity. This work was started during 2020 and, if the Lord will, will be concluded during 2021.

The General Manager has the responsibility for ensuring that the Bethesda Homes are managed effectively and in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements and is assisted in this by each of the Home management teams.

Public Benefit

As a charitable organisation, Bethesda is required to demonstrate that there is an identifiable benefit to a section of the general public as a direct result of its activities in pursuit of its charitable aims. To that end the Charity's Trustees have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Reserves Policy

The Charity has a reserves policy which is reviewed at least annually by the Trustees.

We consider reserves as that part of our general funds which do not need to be spent immediately and which are not committed or designated. They are the resources we have or can make available to spend on any of our objectives once we have met our known commitments and covered any other planned expenditure.

During 2020 the Trustees considered that the Charity should endeavour to hold, as a minimum, free reserves amounting to “six months expenditure” in one year. At this level the Trustees consider that the current activities of the Charity would be able to continue in the event of a significant drop in funding. The free reserves at the year-end amount to £2,042,942. Therefore, free reserves excess over required expenditure is 119.2% which is satisfactory.

There is no contractual commitment to expenditure for planned works in 2021.

Going Concern

The Financial Statements (shown in a separate booklet) have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees assess whether the use of this basis is appropriate and have identified no material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of 12 months from the date of approval of the Financial Statements.

Financial review

As with previous years, the full Financial Statements have been published in a separate booklet.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows that total income was £1,839,087 compared with £1,617,843 in the previous year. This £221,244 increase is principally due to care home fee income increasing by £213,486, bolstered by government grants of £93,811, offset by falls in investment income of around £10,000 and in legacies and donations of around £64,000. The £93,811 government grants were to offset the costs of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Investment income is lower than last year as investment returns continue to be poor, in line with lower interest rates generally. Donations and chapel collections have decreased by 16.7% (£8,789) this year. We remain truly thankful to our congregations and personal supporters for the regular giving to Bethesda. Four legacies were received during the year amounting to £50,847 with the overall amount received being lower than the previous year when the total was £106,517.

Income from residents' fees was £1,552,238 compared with £1,338,752 in 2019 due to restructuring of our fees and as a result of successful negotiations with Local Authorities as discussed below.

During the year, the shortfall in funding from Local Authorities amounted to £31,075 (2019: £81,134). In the main, this related to pre-May 2020 fees as the revised contracts with the Local Authorities have the effect of limiting any continuing deficit. As mentioned on page 5 of this report, donations, subscriptions, or chapel collections, unless specified otherwise, were allocated to the General Fund, which was used towards any shortfall in fees, together with a grant from our connected charity, 'The Piggott Charity', of £9,000 (2019: £9,000). Assistance towards the fees of short-stay residents was nil this year due to the situation around COVID-19 (2019: £1,240).

During 2020 we held extensive negotiations with the Local Authorities who were funding some of the residents in our Homes. We are thankful to say that the outcome, in the providences of the Lord, has been that without exception, they have agreed to pay the full rates of our fees. We would acknowledge the Lord's help in these negotiations. This result has served to reduce the need to make internal transfers from designated funds to meet any shortfall.

Employment costs have decreased from £1,408,887 in 2019 to £1,391,464 in 2020, representing the third year in a row when staffing costs have reduced. It should be noted however that this is a reflection of staffing levels being scaled back in proportion to reduced occupancy across the three Homes. Although agency costs remain high at £24,518, this is still more than a 36% reduction on the previous year. Further information on employment costs can be found in Note 13 to the Financial Statements.

The cost of repairs and renewals at the three Bethesda Homes is still a significant investment across the three Homes at £70,786, but is down on the previous year when expenditure was £75,307 (2018: £90,554). The expenditure on building maintenance is in line with the charity's policy on maintaining its properties in good condition and meeting all safety and registration requirements. Occasionally, heavy and unexpected repairs can suddenly become necessary.

The Bethesda Homes

A summary of the financial results for each of the Homes is given below.

	<i>Brighton</i>	<i>Harpenden</i>	<i>Studley</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
Residents' fees	812,998	441,605	297,635	1,552,238
Other income (incl. grants)	48,861	54,332	14,704	117,897
Total income	861,859	495,937	312,339	1,670,135
Employment and agency costs	582,704	439,592	302,526	1,324,822
Depreciation	14,156	12,347	9,601	36,104
Hardware, cleaning, laundry	7,983	9,033	5,231	22,247
Insurance	10,181	11,441	5,204	26,826
Motor and travel	5,848	1,250	354	7,452
Power and heating	18,395	15,599	13,302	47,296
Provisions	32,222	16,716	8,304	57,242
Registration fees	3,268	3,268	1,634	8,170
Repairs and renewals	21,803	26,464	22,519	70,786
Staff training	1,468	1,760	792	4,020
Telephone, relay and internet	2,947	1,566	1,801	6,314
Water services	5,762	3,539	2,604	11,905
Council tax	1,398	2,557	1,307	5,262
Garden expenses	112	1,658	2,663	4,433
Medical supplies	5,745	327	1,092	7,164
Personal protective equipment	4,092	5,345	2,917	12,354
Postage & stationery	1,284	1,066	614	2,964
Waste collection	4,229	2,871	3,388	10,488
Professional services	-	1,011	-	1,011
Sundry expenses	2,766	3,761	2,356	8,883
Central office support costs	44,188	50,213	26,111	120,512
Other costs	6,313	4,413	4,175	14,901
Total expenditure	776,864	615,797	418,495	1,811,156
Surplus (deficit) for year	£84,995	(£119,860)	(£106,156)	(£141,021)

The overall deficit in running the three Homes of £141,021 is 70% lower than the previous year when the deficit was £465,117.

Occupancy (inc. short stays)

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Brighton (22 beds)	82.8%	90.3%	74%	72%	80%
Harpenden (25 beds)	39.0%	43.6%	70%	77%	71%
Studley (13 beds)	58.0%	61.5%	74%	81%	72%
Overall	59.1%	64.6%	73%	76%	75%

The Bethesda Flatlets

At Harpenden, all three of the flatlets were occupied for at least part of the year. At Redhill, of the six flatlets, two are occupied by elderly residents. However, several of the Flatlets have been occupied by other people, thus producing additional income. The Harpenden Flatlets show a deficit of £1,778 due to the need to carry out routine maintenance and the Redhill Flatlets a surplus of £5,229 as shown in the summary below.

	<i>Harpenden</i>	<i>Redhill</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£
Residents fees	15,457	27,677	43,134
Total income	15,457	27,677	43,134
Cleaning, windows and waste	215	1,423	1,638
Council tax on unoccupied properties	895	2,057	2,952
Depreciation	5,293	3,325	8,618
Garden maintenance	700	818	1,518
Insurance	801	1,601	2,402
Power and heating	2,002	3,206	5,208
Repairs and renewals	2,833	1,013	3,846
Central office support costs	3,674	7,348	11,022
Other costs	822	1,657	2,479
Total expenditure	17,235	22,448	39,683
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-1,778	5,229	3,451

Overall financial results

Overall, the total deficit for the year was £24,810 compared with a deficit the previous year of £270,909. Every effort has been made, and will continue to be made, to reduce the running costs of the Homes, whilst endeavouring to maintain high standards of care.

The balance between restricted and unrestricted funds has remained similar over the year, with restricted funds at the end of 2020 of £905,291 being just 2% more than the £891,247 balance at the end of 2019. Total charity funds,

using properties stated at their original cost, reduced to £3,997,179 at 31 December 2020 compared to £4,021,989 one year previously. Further details can be found in Notes 21 - 23.

Achievements and Outcome of Activities

As helped of the Lord, Bethesda has been upheld and provided for during 2020. This section of the report summarises Bethesda's activities in fulfilling the purpose of the charity both for the residents and more widely.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the residents in many ways particularly the constraints that have been placed on the Homes, limiting their movement within the Homes and the restrictions placed on visiting by family, relatives and friends. In the Lord's purposes, the Trustees are grateful that those involved in the morning readings within the Homes have been able to continue to do so through the use of technology. At the Brighton and the Studley Homes this has been through 'Mixlr' on the Bethesda website which has also provided a means for others outside of the Bethesda Homes to listen. This has been a help to those experiencing the loneliness of lockdown. In addition, it has been possible to continue hymn singing and prayer meetings as well as services being relayed to the Homes during COVID-19.

We acknowledge the good hand of the Lord in answering the many prayers that went up in seeking much-needed help and wisdom in dealing with the challenges brought by COVID-19 particularly in ensuring that the Homes were adequately staffed and safe. The Trustees believe that we can truly say during 2020 "hitherto hath the Lord helped us".

The Trustees cannot fully express their appreciation of the dedication and commitment of the Bethesda general management team and staff plus the many volunteers who 'stepped into the breach' during the summer months when the first wave of COVID-19 was spreading throughout the country. The Trustees also thank those friends who have kept the Homes supplied, for example, with cakes during the COVID-19 lockdown - these little kindnesses are greatly appreciated.

The establishment of visitor rooms has allowed safe visiting to take place at each of the Bethesda Homes and were, in the Lord's purposes, a timely provision in the first and second wave of COVID-19. We do pray that the Lord will again open the doors of the Bethesda Homes to allow family and friends to once more freely visit the residents.

During the latter part of 2019, the Trustees as part of their role as stewards of Bethesda, addressed the need for rigorously reviewing the budgets for 2020 to ensure that the financial resources of Bethesda were being appropriately used in providing for the care and needs of the residents. This meant considering the level of fees that were needed, negotiating with local authorities the level of funding provided for their supported residents together with ensuring that any expenditure identified was justified. In addition, stringent financial management and monthly reporting was put in place to ensure that expenditure was being controlled and resources used prudently. We are thankful that this discipline has meant that, in the Lord's purposes, the Trustees, working with the Bethesda general management team, have been able to reduce significantly the operating deficit in 2020 compared with previous years. It is acknowledged however, that there is a need to continue this impetus in future years.

The Trustees have prayerfully considered the future for Bethesda and look to the Lord as that cry goes up, "Lord, what wilt thou have us to do?" Although, steps have been taken to address the financial stability of the Charity the situation still remains where staff costs in two of the Homes are equal to or greater than resident fees. This is indicative of both the decline in the number of Gospel Standard causes of truth and the changes in the adult social care operating environment. The 'hub and spoke' model shared in the meetings held during November 2019 is still one that the Trustees are considering and look to the Lord for His guidance in moving forward. In the Lord's purposes, COVID-19 has placed limitations on meeting face-to-face with people to explain proposals such as moving to an incorporated charity and addressing the needs of Bethesda in the future. If the Lord will, the Trustees look forward to a way being made in 2021 when the future of Bethesda can be discussed with our supporters.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity at the year end and of its income and expenditure during that year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are required to keep proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Charity's governing documents. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Risk management policy

The Trustees review on a regular basis the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis was carried out at the beginning of the year and agreed, and a risks register is maintained, and on the basis of this review a risk management policy drawn up. The Trustees are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to significant risks. The Trustees believe that maintaining unrestricted reserves at the level stated above will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions.

The Charity's policy reflects the principle that effective risk management is the responsibility of all levels of management and staff. The review of risks within the Bethesda Homes is on-going with the encouragement of timely reporting by staff on quality issues and adverse occurrences.

The major risks that Bethesda face are financial and relate largely to under occupation of the Homes and to the low level of care fees compared with fixed costs.

The decreasing number of elderly people attending Gospel Standard chapels is directly impacting on the level of demand for Bethesda services. Whilst the rules covering admissions are regularly reviewed it is considered essential that the original ethos of the Charity is maintained.

The low levels of occupancy in the Homes compared with the high level of fixed costs in running the Homes indicates that high levels of occupation are essential to cover those fixed costs.

The low occupancy of the Homes puts dependence on Bethesda's financial reserves in order to fund the current high standards of care provided. Whilst still strong there is a risk that these reserves will be substantially depleted.

Another risk is the ageing of the facilities in the Homes and the buildings themselves and a programme of refurbishment and renewal is in progress. This

obviously entails considerable expense and this is being managed on a prioritised basis.

The current global COVID-19 pandemic is a risk to the health, safety and welfare of residents and staff, whilst government guidance designed to restrict the spread of the virus is serving to suppress occupancy and reduce income. At the beginning of the spread of COVID-19, the Trustees and Bethesda Management Team took active steps to ensure that the infection prevention and control (IPC) processes in place were sufficient to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents and staff. This involved having protocols in place to ensure that anyone permitted to come into the Homes were safe. Government funding was used to ensure that there were adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and we are grateful to the Lord for the provision that was made so that residents and staff were adequately protected. Additionally, funding was used to provide a safe working environment for staff whilst at work and travelling to and from the Homes.

The steps taken by Bethesda to secure the status of overseas staff has helped mitigate the effects of Brexit, along with steps taken to ensure essential equipment and supplies were adequate to take us through the transition period.

Investment Policy

At the beginning of the year the Trustees reviewed the Charity's investment policy setting out Bethesda's investment objectives. No changes were made to the policy.

There are no restrictions on the Charity's power to invest both restricted and unrestricted funds. In the past, the Trustees have considered only investments classified as low risk. In practice, this means that surplus funds are maintained in short-term deposit accounts attracting competitive rates of interest with reputable banks, building societies or common deposit funds. Details of the Charity's deposits can be found in Note 19 to the financial statements.

The Trustees will continue to monitor closely the Charity's investments in these difficult times.

Policy Statement on Paying Staff

The Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund ('The Bethesda Fund') is committed to ensuring that we pay and reward our staff fairly and in a way which attracts and retain those with the right skills to deliver our charitable objectives.

In accordance with the SORP we:-

- Disclose the number of staff in receipt of more than £60,000 per annum and above (in bands of £10,000)
- Disclose the provision of pensions and other benefits

The Bethesda Fund Committee ('The Committee') meets annually to determine the rates of pay for all staff. The General Manager is in attendance for the meeting (leaving for the discussion regarding the General Manager's remuneration).

The main responsibilities of the Committee in respect of determining of the rates pay are to:-

- review the level of the Bethesda Fund salaries and wages compared with an agreed independent market benchmarking tool and make sure changes, where appropriate to ensure that salaries and wages remain competitive,
- determine the remuneration package of the General Manager, Home Managers and Deputy Managers,
- approve the annual percentage increase in the rates of pay for all staff (which can be zero) taking into account CPIH as at 31 December for the previous year,
- approve any consolidated pay awards and staff salary increases outside of the annual review process as recommended from time to time by the General Manager,
- determine pension arrangements, and,
- ensure that contractual terms on termination of employment are fair to the individual and the charity, that poor performance is not rewarded and a duty to mitigate loss is recognised.

In determining the Bethesda Fund's remuneration policy the Committee takes into account all factors which are relevant. The appropriateness of the remuneration policy is reviewed annually ensuring the Bethesda Fund remains sensitive to the broader issues e.g. pay and employment conditions elsewhere.

We aim to recruit, subject to experience, at the lower – medium point within a band, providing scope to reward excellence. We pay at or above the national living wage for all our staff.

Delivery of the Bethesda Fund's charitable vision and purpose is to a large degree dependent on our staff which is the largest single element of charitable expenditure.

Sadly, as part of the need to address Bethesda's financial position it was not possible to make a pay award for staff in 2020 although the Charity met its obligations for those on the National Living Wage.

The Trustees were however able to make a one-off payment to staff at the end of the year as a 'thank you' for the commitment shown during COVID-19.

Conclusion

2020 will be remembered as the year when the truth and significance of the words “if the Lord will” were brought home in many ways. The Trustees would acknowledge that in the Lord’s will, the provision made to the Lord’s elderly people has continued for another year.

The Lord knows what is before us and we pray that He will go before us and that submission and wisdom might be given to know and do His will (Proverbs 3:5-6).

The prayers of all those with an interest in Bethesda for the Lord to appear and guide the Trustees, support the managers and staff, and watch over the residents are very much felt to be needed at this time.

On behalf of the Trustees

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "M D Ridout". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

M. Ridout, Chairman

19 February 2021

ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE HOMES

Brighton and Hove Bethesda Home



Home Manager: Miss Sarah Williamson
Deputy Home Manager: Mrs. Vivita Torres
Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Jackie Funnell
Home Chairman: Mr. Michael Ridout

Residents as at 31 December 2020

Mr. & Mrs. R. Bradstock	Mrs. E. Burgess	Mrs. B. Chilton
Mrs. M.R. Dann	Mr. P. Drury	Miss I. Fuller
Miss M.V.G. Haddow	Mrs. L. Hills	Mrs. M. Hills
Miss S. J. Holman	Mrs. M. Hughes	Mrs. K.R. Payne
Mrs. R.M. Poole	Mrs. E. Snell	Mrs. G. Walder
Miss B.M. Wickens		

We desire to acknowledge and thank the Lord for His help again through another year despite the difficulties and challenges of COVID-19, our every need has been supplied.

We are thankful for the timely provision of the new relay system which has enabled the use of Mixlr for the daily readings at the Home and we appreciate all those who have willingly participated in this.

Since the beginning of 2020, one new permanent resident has entered the home, Mrs. Elizabeth Burgess. There were two short-stay residents during the year, both benefitting from the rest and change.

Four residents passed away during the year; Mr. Kenneth Warren, Mr. Peter Cornwell, Mrs. Betty Stewart and Mrs. Isobel 'Sylvia' Ford. They are missed in the Home and remembered with affection.

We are thankful to all the staff for everything they have done to keep the residents and each other safe during the pandemic. There have been some staff changes with Nora Starta and Katrina Starta leaving us to pursue other opportunities and Mima Ilevia and Daiga Fromane returning to their home countries to be with their families in these difficult days. Louise Hayden is on maternity leave and we are thankful for the safe arrival of her and Joseph's first baby. The following staff have joined us during the year: Marta Diallo, Deborah Walker and Isabella Cleary as Bank Care Assistants, May Pragnell is also working as a Bank Care Assistant in addition to her domestic duties.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions it has not been possible to have training sessions with independent trainers or the dementia in-reach team during the year so staff have been kept up to date with in-house training including the use of e-learning.

The E Care Planning continues to be used to ensure residents are receiving the appropriate level of care and support. The use of this software has also resulted in less paperwork and enabling us to spend more quality time with the residents.

We are very grateful to Paul Hanks and Gordon Dadswell for their continual help with decorating and other tasks.

Prayer Meetings were once again arranged by the Home Support Group and local Chapels. In February the Home Support Group held a Prayer Meeting at the Home, and further Prayer Meetings during the year were held, in June by Blackboys Chapel, September by the Home Support Group and in November by Eastbourne Chapel which were conducted remotely via Zoom.

It has not been possible for the residents to have outings this year. However, Room 19 was upgraded to a most suitable room for safe care home visiting, and this has been a great benefit to both the residents and their families which has been much appreciated during the pandemic.

Mrs. Evelyn Snell reached her 100th Birthday on 20th January when the occasion was remembered by staff, residents and friends. A virtual coffee

morning took place during November and December. The amount raised including donations was £905.50.

Mr. Michael Ridout conducted the Christmas Service remotely via zoom.

Howard and Elizabeth Hickman and their family have arranged hymn singing evenings during the year via Mixlr which have been enjoyed by the residents.

The home-made cakes that arrive regularly at Bethesda whilst visitors have not been able to come into the home have been appreciated.

We hope and trust the Lord will continue to supply our needs in the coming year.



A visit using our visitors room

Enjoying the garden



A few of our friends in the Brighton Home

Harpenden Bethesda Home



Home Manager: Mrs. Debbie Scott
Assistant Home Manager: Mrs. Marion Haddow
Administrative Assistants: Mrs. Ruth Janes/Mrs. Esther Green
Home Chairman: Mr. Trevor Scott

Residents as at 31 December 2020

Mrs. J. Baker	Mr. J. Barker	Mrs. M. Brooks
Mr. A. Chivers	Mrs. B. Kingham	Miss E. Morley
Mrs. P.H. Watts	Mrs. A. Wells	

During 2020 at the Harpenden Home, it was year like no other in the history of Bethesda and indeed the whole country. No-one could have anticipated how 2020 would develop. After the shock of the first national lockdown in March we found residents who had developed symptoms of COVID-19. This was followed by many members of staff who also developed symptoms and were unable to work. This was in the early days of COVID-19 when there were so many unknowns and much uncertainty.

The months of March, April and May 2020 will never be forgotten as it was a time of great anxiety. Every day we felt we had to pray our way along not knowing what the next day would bring. We were very thankful to be brought through this intensely difficult period. For the remaining months of 2020 we did not have any residents displaying symptoms or showing positive results even during the second wave.

During March, April and May we were incredibly grateful for people who offered their services as carers. These were people who had worked at Bethesda previously and had previous care experience. This was during a time when almost every member of staff was either unwell with COVID-19 or having to shield. These carers willingly came to help knowing the risks that were involved in caring for residents who were covid-19 positive - they considered the risk to themselves and their families and still they came to help. Even now it is difficult to put into words how grateful we are that they made this decision, so a huge thank you goes to Lucy Barker, Mercy Clark, Katie Hare, Cilla Hayden, Naomi Izzard, Naomi Kerley, Ruth Kingham, Elysia Parish, Julia Parish, Naomi Sayers, Sue Verweij, Linda Wigley and Hannah Woodhams.

We were very sorry to have to lock down in March and deny access to visitors, family, friends and volunteers. At that time, we don't think anyone had any idea how long this situation would last. We look forward to a time when we can welcome families and friends back into the home.

We have been pleased to care for on a temporary (respite) basis; Mr. and Mrs. Tong from Attleborough in October and Mrs. Miriam Rowland from the Harpenden Flatlets in December.

During 2020, we have been sad to lose some of our residents living in the home: Mrs. Marjorie Crowter, Mr. David Keeling, Mrs. Sheila Haddow, and Mrs. Joan Harrison.

There have been a few staff changes over the past year. Trish Webb left her role as a carer to pursue a change in employment and two new night carers, Sheila Anderson and Ekaete Emmanuel, commenced work at the beginning of the year.

We have missed our Home Support Group this year for their company and for all their help in arranging activities for the residents. At the beginning of the year, we had a few activities planned which included a "fish and chip lunch" from our local restaurant in January, and the usual Coffee morning which took place in February. After that, sadly, in March the lockdown was announced, and no further events could be held.

During the year staff have been organising activities with the residents including birthday celebrations, video calls with relatives, a special tea for VE day on 8th May, drives out in the minibus in the autumn, and just before Christmas to look at the Christmas lights. We also enjoyed a short fireworks display.

A big thank you to Andrew and Jane Rayner and family who have taken a lot of their time during 2020 to organise musical evenings via zoom every fortnight. The residents have very much enjoyed listening to and singing along with the hymns and then chatting to Jane and Andrew.

A big thank you as well to members of the Home Support Group and others who kept the garden looking nice during the summer months including the almost daily task of watering.

Chapel services have been live-streamed throughout the year so that residents have been able to listen to services on Sundays and on weekdays.

We were very pleased when the visitor's room was completed in July and we could begin to receive visitors in this way. The residents were pleased to be able to see friends and family after many months, even though behind a screen.

We end with a note of thanksgiving to God for His many mercies towards us during this difficult year.



Residents and supporters sharing a meal (before COVID-19 restrictions)



Mary Brooks on the occasion of her 97th Birthday

Studley Bethesda Home



Home Manager:	Mrs. Sammy O'Dwyer
Home Administrator:	Mrs. Emma Trafford
Home Chairman:	Mr. Philip Pocock

Residents as at 31 December 2020

Mrs. M. Burrows	Miss M. Julian	Mrs. J. Kinderman
Miss P.M.R. Hunt	Mrs. R.D Moore	Mrs. H.E. Painter
Mr. H.A. Wallis		

We give thanks to the Lord for maintaining and providing for us during another year.

We are very thankful that we have continued to provide care for seven residents here at Bethesda and hopefully numbers will increase throughout the coming year.

2020 has brought unprecedented times and with it many challenges. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed all our lives but none more so than our residents who have not been able to have physical contact with their loved ones for a number of months. We are very thankful our seven residents have remained safe and virus free, which under the good hand of the Lord, has been done with the care and diligence of the whole team.

We have been provided with an IPC (infection control grant) from Wiltshire Council which has been spent on a number of home improvements including the secure Covid-19 safe visitors room which has allowed for residents to see and talk to their family and friends.

Prayer Meetings and hymn singing evenings were held throughout the year via zoom or Mixlr, all of which have been appreciated by the residents. In the week running up to Christmas, we held our annual Christmas Hymn singing service via zoom which residents were able to listen to and watch on the projector.

During the summer months the residents were able to spend a good amount of time in the garden, appreciating the lovely weather and on occasions enjoying their tea out there.

Activities were provided daily for residents who wanted to participate such as painting, puzzles, exercises, and baking.

The annual coffee morning was kindly organised by Myrtle Robinson at her home in November which raised £600. The proceeds have been used for the benefit of the residents including purchasing a projector and screen, solar lights, and a fountain for the garden.

We held a firework display for the residents on the 5th November with the help of Alan Honeysett which the residents thoroughly enjoyed.

The staff have continued to run the Trolley Shop on the behalf of the usual volunteers during the lockdown period, which provides a bespoke shopping facility for the convenience and benefit of the residents.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the many friends who continue to loyally support us by taking the morning readings, hymn-singings, and prayer meetings remotely.



Enjoying the garden



Mr. & Mrs. Burrows speaking to family



Fireworks night

ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE FLATLETS

Harpenden Bethesda Flatlets

203 Luton Road, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 3DE



Warden: Mr. Alan Rayner

Residents as at 31 December 2020

Miss P.A. Lawrance

Mrs. M. Rowland

We would return our grateful thanks to the Lord for His goodness to us in maintaining the Flatlets for another year.

This year all three flats were occupied for at least some of the time, with Miss Pat Lawrance remaining in Flat 1 for the whole year, Mrs. Miriam Rowland coming into Flat 3 in June, whilst Mrs. Jenny Tyler, who started the year with us, moved to Norfolk in August.

Sadly the COVID-19 restrictions have made it more difficult for our friends in the Flatlets to engage with the life of the adjoining Home to the same degree as in the past. Those that wished to do so were able to form a ‘bubble’ with the residents and staff and still have some involvement.

We are grateful to our Warden for his on-going assistance in the Flatlets.

Redhill Bethesda Flatlets

3 White Post Hill, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 6AN



Warden:

Mr. Jon Hickman

Residents as at 31 December 2020

Mrs. R. Mercer

Mrs. D. Sayers

‘Hitherto hath the Lord helped us’ in the constant care of our Redhill flatlets throughout 2020.

Our two aged residents, Mrs Rose Mercer in Flat 2 and Mrs Dorothy Sayers in Flat 3, have been with us through another year. In July Tom Hickman moved out of Flat 1 for his new home near Uckfield in East Sussex, before his marriage to Emily in September after 4 years as a temporary resident. He said that the Flat had been such a blessing, and he had thoroughly enjoyed living there and attending Hope Chapel, Redhill. We wish Tom and Emily the Lord's richest blessing in their new home and future path together. We are thankful two other Flats continue to be occupied by our valued temporary residents, Jean Starkey and Karl Roberts. At the close of the year therefore, Flats 1 and 6 remained vacant together with the Guest Room.

Once again, we are thankful the Redhill flatlets have been largely occupied for most of the year, providing valuable income to the Bethesda General Fund, as well as being an appreciating asset.

Regretfully, due to the Coronavirus, friends from our local chapels could not join the residents for the monthly coffee mornings, with reading, prayer and hymn singing, but we are very thankful to the Lord that all the residents were preserved from catching the virus.

We are grateful to those who carried out the cleaning of the communal area during the Coronavirus lockdown, together with maintenance and repairs, resulting in significant savings in the running of the Home.

The Lord continue to bless this provision, and graciously fulfil His word: 'I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread'. Ps. 132:15



(Coffee morning picture taken in August 2019 before COVID-19)

Published by the Trustees of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Printed by Olive Press, Stotfold

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Financial Statements

for the

year ended

31 December 2020

Charity No. 209376

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund
Bethesda General Office
12(b) Roundwood Lane
Harpenden
Herts
AL5 3BZ

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

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The Annual Report for 2020 is available from the address above.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' Report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out in the Trustees' Report, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Based on our understanding of the charity and its activities, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the UK tax legislation, pensions legislation, employment regulation and health and safety regulation, anti-bribery, corruption and fraud, money laundering, non-compliance with implementation of government support schemes relating to COVID-19, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, such as the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, in particular in relation to fund accounting, and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to those identified risks, including non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) and fraud that are material to the financial statements. Our audit procedures included but were not limited to:

- Discussing with the trustees and management their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;

- Communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed:  Vincent Marie (Mar-19, 2021 10:46 GMT)

Mazars LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

6 Sutton Plaza, Sutton Court Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4FS

Dated: 19-Mar-2021

Mazars LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

		----Unrestricted funds----		Restricted funds	Total funds
	Note	General	Designated	funds	2020
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	47,972	-	47,010	94,982
Charitable activities	4	1,708,436	-	693	1,709,129
Investments	5	18,610	210	7,156	25,976
Grant - The Piggott Charity	6	9,000	-	-	9,000
Total		1,784,018	210	54,859	1,839,087
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7-8	12,926	-	-	12,926
Charitable activities	7-13	1,821,585	-	29,386	1,850,971
Total		1,834,511	-	29,386	1,863,897
Net (expenditure)/income		(50,493)	210	25,473	(24,810)
Transfers between funds	14,23	26,359	(14,930)	(11,429)	-
Net movement in funds		(24,134)	(14,720)	14,044	(24,810)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		3,089,518	41,224	891,247	4,021,989
Total funds carried forward		£3,065,384	£26,504	£905,291	£3,997,179


Comparative figures for the prior year
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	----Unrestricted funds----		Restricted funds	Total funds
		General	Designated		2019
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	85,487	43,123	30,832	159,442
Charitable activities	4	1,410,139	-	2,804	1,412,943
Investments	5	26,930	479	9,049	36,458
Grant - The Piggott Charity	6	-	9,000	-	9,000
Total		1,522,556	52,602	42,685	1,617,843
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7-8	13,807	-	-	13,807
Charitable activities	7-13	1,834,929	2,636	37,380	1,874,945
Total		1,848,736	2,636	37,380	1,888,752
Net (expenditure)/income		(326,180)	49,966	5,305	(270,909)
Transfers between funds	14	90,240	(61,134)	(29,106)	-
Net movement in funds		(235,940)	(11,168)	(23,801)	(270,909)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		3,325,458	52,392	915,048	4,292,898
Total funds carried forward		£3,089,518	£41,224	£891,247	£4,021,989

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	15-17	1,022,442	1,051,319
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		<u>1,022,442</u>	<u>1,051,319</u>
Current assets:			
Debtors	18	138,854	152,772
Investments	19	2,623,642	2,702,650
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>313,813</u>	<u>193,610</u>
<i>Total current assets</i>		3,076,309	3,049,032
Liabilities:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	20	<u>(101,572)</u>	<u>(78,362)</u>
<i>Net current assets</i>		<u>2,974,737</u>	<u>2,970,670</u>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		<u>3,997,179</u>	<u>4,021,989</u>
Total net assets		<u>£3,997,179</u>	<u>£4,021,989</u>
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted -			
General	21	3,065,384	3,089,518
Designated	21,23	26,504	41,224
Restricted income funds	21,22	<u>905,291</u>	<u>891,247</u>
Total charity funds		<u>£3,997,179</u>	<u>£4,021,989</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 19 February 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



M. RIDOUT, Chairman

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
<i>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</i>	24(a)	<u>33,764</u>	<u>(309,582)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest and rents from investments		25,976	36,458
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		<u>(18,545)</u>	<u>(36,434)</u>
<i>Net cash provided by investing activities</i>		<u>7,431</u>	<u>24</u>
<i>Change in cash & cash equivalents in reporting period</i>		41,195	(309,558)
Cash & cash equivalents at start of reporting period		<u>2,896,260</u>	<u>3,205,818</u>
Cash & cash equivalents at end of reporting period	24(b)	<u>£2,937,455</u>	<u>£2,896,260</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice SORP (FRS 102) (2nd edition) published by the Charity Commission in 2019.

(b) Going concern

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate and have identified no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of 12 months from the date of approval of the Financial Statements.

(c) Income

Voluntary income, including donations, Gift Aid, and chapel collections, is recognised in the period in which the income is received.

Investment income and rent is recognised on a receivable basis.

Legacies are accounted for as income either upon receipt or where the receipt of the legacy is probable. Receipt is normally probable when:

- there has been a grant of probate
- the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate, after settling any liabilities, to pay the legacy; and
- any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.

Legacies which have been notified, but are not recognised as income in the Statement of Financial Activities, are disclosed within the note 'Donations and legacies' with an estimate (if possible) of the amount receivable.

Fees from residents in the care homes and flatlets are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided.

Government grants are not recognised in income until there is reasonable assurance that (a) any attached conditions will be satisfied, and (b) the grants will be received. Grants are recognised using the performance model such that a grant without future performance-related conditions is recognised in income when it is receivable, and other grants are recognised when the future performance-related conditions are met.

Grants received before the revenue recognition criteria are satisfied are shown as a liability.

(d) **Income tax recoverable**

Any income tax due to be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue on donations made under Gift Aid or income tax deducted from interest received net of basic rate tax, has been brought into these financial statements as a debtor.

(e) **Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, that is, when a liability is incurred. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

Support costs are costs incurred in support of both income generation, charitable activities, and governance, as shown in the note 'Allocation of support costs.' These costs comprise a proportion of central office staff, information systems and internal accounting costs, and costs relating to the premises. Also included is a proportion of the management and administration costs in the three Bethesda Homes and servicing of the Homes' premises.

Governance costs are costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity which relate to the general running of the charity as distinct from those costs associated with its charitable activities. They include the cost of meeting constitutional and statutory requirements, audit fees, legal fees, and a proportion of central office costs.

(f) **Pension scheme contributions**

Contributions payable to the Charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. For further information see the note 'Employee information.'

(g) **Capitalisation and depreciation of tangible fixed assets**

Freehold properties

Freehold properties are carried in the accounts at their original cost. Depreciation is provided to write down the original cost of the buildings, and the cost of later permanent additions and improvements, on a straight-line basis over a period of fifty years. No depreciation is charged on freehold land.

Equipment

Due to the large number of fixed assets owned and used by the charity, our policy is to recognise within the assets register only those assets that cost more than £1,000. Numerous items purchased at the same time costing in total more than £1,000 but each item individually costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised. This policy of depreciation applies only to assets acquired after January 1990; all equipment acquired before that date has been written off completely in previous accounting periods.

Equipment in the Homes and Flatlets costing more than £1,000 is capitalised and written off on a straight-line basis over a period of five years, and is shown in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation, the annual depreciation being charged as a running cost of the Homes and Flatlets. Equipment in the Homes and Flatlets costing less than £1,000 is not capitalised but is written off in the year of acquisition as an expense, being charged directly to the running costs of the Homes and Flatlets under 'Repairs and renewals.'

Equipment in the Bethesda General Office at Harpenden costing more than £1,000 is capitalised and written off on a straight-line basis over a period of five years, and is shown in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation, the annual depreciation being charged as a running cost under 'Central office costs.'

Equipment in the Bethesda General Office costing less than £1,000 is written off as an expense in the year of acquisition, being charged to 'Central office costs' under 'Repairs and maintenance.'

Motor vehicles

Motor vehicles are written off at 25% per annum on a reducing balance.

(h) Transactions with trustees and related parties

No trustees received any remuneration for their services as a trustee. Four trustees (2019: 6 trustees) were reimbursed expenses covering travel, subsistence and accommodation when away on the charity's business, totalling £1,822 (2019: £4,329). Expenses waived by trustees amounted to £380 (2019: £865). Besides the disclosures in these financial statements, no trustee or connected persons had any beneficial interest in any material contract, transaction or arrangement with the Charity during the year.

(i) **Indemnity insurance**

The charity carries a comprehensive insurance package provided by Travelers Insurance. Engineering Insurance and Inspection is provided by Allianz Insurance, Trustees Liability by Catlin Insurance via Angel Risk Management Ltd., Group Personal Accident by Chubb Insurance, Cyber & Data Risks by Lloyd's via CFC Underwriting Ltd., and Motor Vehicle Insurance by QBE Insurance.

(j) **Stocks of foods and other supplies**

Stocks held at the year end have not been brought into these Financial Statements, as the amounts held are relatively insignificant.

(k) **Funds**

Unrestricted funds - these comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds that are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds - these are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees at their discretion from the general funds for specific purposes.

Restricted funds - these comprise funds subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors and funders.

Further details of the nature and purpose of each fund are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Surplus cash is held on fixed term deposits. Deposits maturing in less than one year are recognised as current investments and those that mature in more than one year are recognised as fixed investments.

2 Statement of Financial Activities

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all income, gains, expenditure and losses recognised for the reporting period. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

3 Donations and legacies

	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Total 2020</i>	<i>Total 2019</i>
	£	£	£	£
Collections & donations from chapels:				
For general purposes	10,518	-	10,518	10,498
For specific Homes	-	-	-	675
For assisting short-stay residents	-	870	870	1,546
Personal donations & subscriptions:				
For general purposes	1,580	-	1,580	1,591
For general purposes - Gift Aid	27,028	-	27,028	31,034
For specific Homes	-	3,668	3,668	4,681
For specific Homes - Gift Aid	-	340	340	1,143
For the Flatlets - Gift Aid	-	-	-	1,250
Home collecting boxes	-	132	132	507
Total	39,126	5,010	44,136	52,925
Legacies received:				
Mr & Mrs P Dawson	3,660	-	3,660	-
Mr K Evans	5,186	-	5,186	-
Mrs Joan Harrison	-	15,000	15,000	-
Other	-	27,000	27,000	-
Miss Mary Guest	-	-	-	22,280
Miss F Curd	-	-	-	4,910
Miss Dinah Gibb	-	-	-	5,000
Miss Ruth Fuller	-	-	-	74,242
Mr Brian Honeysett	-	-	-	85
Total	8,846	42,000	50,846	106,517
Total	£47,972	£47,010	£94,982	£159,442

3 Donations and legacies (continued)

The Charity has been advised that it is a beneficiary of the following legacies:

Mr S E George: Balance arising from the sale of building land and a partial interest in tenanted agricultural land. There is no immediate prospect of the balance being realised.

Mrs J Painter: No further details are yet known.

For an explanation of when legacies are recognised as income see Note 1(c).

4 Income from charitable activities

	<i>Total</i> <i>2020</i>	<i>Total</i> <i>2019</i>
	£	£
Fees from residential care homes	1,552,238	1,338,752
Fees from flatlets	43,134	49,624
Staff board charges	15,716	17,922
Covid-19 government grants	93,811	-
Sundry receipts	4,230	6,645
	<u>£1,709,129</u>	<u>£1,412,943</u>

5 Investment income

	<i>Unrestricted</i> <i>funds</i>	<i>Restricted</i> <i>funds</i>	<i>Total</i> <i>2020</i>	<i>Total</i> <i>2019</i>
	£	£	£	£
Interest on short-term deposits	16,320	7,156	23,476	33,958
Use of bookroom	<u>2,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>
	<u>£18,820</u>	<u>£7,156</u>	<u>£25,976</u>	<u>£36,458</u>

The bookroom within the Bethesda General Office, Harpenden is occupied by The Gospel Standard Trust as its publications centre. As the fair value of the investment property component cannot be measured reliably, the entire property is accounted for within tangible fixed assets and not under investments.

Related Party Transactions note: The Gospel Standard Trust is a Custodian Trustee of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund and holds in trust all of the charity's freehold properties. The appointment was made under the Charity Commission Scheme referred to earlier in this report.

6 Transactions with The Piggott Charity

A grant of £9,000 (2019 - £9,000) was received from The Piggott Charity towards assisting underfunded residents. The Piggott Charity is a 'connected charity.' The trustees of the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund are also trustees of The Piggott Charity. However, the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund does not exercise any dominant influence over The Piggott Charity. The Piggott Charity makes grants at its own discretion to the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund. Therefore, based on this, no consolidated accounts are prepared. For further information see notes on 'Designated funds' and 'Restricted funds.'

7 Analysis of expenditure

	<i>Direct costs</i>	<i>Governance & support costs</i>	<i>Total 2020</i>	<i>Total 2019</i>
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds	-	12,926	12,926	13,807
Charitable activities:				
Running costs of care homes	1,451,627	359,529	1,811,156	1,832,839
Running costs of flatlets	28,661	11,022	39,683	38,091
Underfunded residents' fund	-	-	-	2,636
Short-stay residents' fund	-	132	132	1,379
	1,480,288	370,683	1,850,971	1,874,945
Total	£1,480,288	£383,609	£1,863,897	£1,888,752

'Raising funds' is the term required by accounting rules to be used for expenditure in relation to dealing with donations, grants, legacies, subscriptions and management of investments, hence a proportion of costs are allocated under this caption.

8 Allocation of Governance and support costs

Support costs comprise costs incurred in support of both income generation, charitable activities, and governance, as shown below. These costs comprise a proportion of central office staff, information systems and internal accounting costs, and costs relating to the premises. Also included is a proportion of the management and administration costs in the Bethesda Homes and Flatlets and the servicing of the buildings.

Governance costs are those for the governance arrangements of the charity. These include audit, legal advice for trustees and costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as trustee meetings and preparing statutory accounts. Governance costs are not shown separately in the Statement of Financial Activities but are instead included as a sub-category of support costs and allocated to activities along with the other support costs. Governance costs are shown in Note 9.

	<i>Staff costs</i>	<i>Other costs</i>	<i>Total 2020</i>	<i>Total 2019</i>
	£	£	£	£
Raising funds	9,043	3,883	12,926	13,807
Charitable activities:				
Care homes	286,274	73,255	359,529	356,052
Flatlets	7,205	3,817	11,022	11,585
Subsidies: underfunded residents	-	-	-	2,636
Subsidies: short-stay residents	87	45	132	139
Total Governance & support costs	£302,609	£81,000	£383,609	£384,219

9 Governance costs

	<i>Total 2020</i>	<i>Total 2019</i>
	£	£
Audit fees incl disbursements - current year	8,750	8,500
Audit fees incl disbursements - prior years	464	103
Advertising and Website costs	22	77
Bank charges	935	727
Committee members' expenses	1,589	4,562
Printing	846	606
Legal and professional costs	4,628	2,750
Management and finance staff costs	23,529	24,457
Other costs	7,376	9,075
	£48,139	£50,857

10 Subsidies paid to short-stay residents

During the year no residents coming into a Bethesda Home for a short stay required assistance with their fees from the Short-Stay Fund (2019: 2 residents). Covid-19 regulations made short stays less feasible. During the year the Short-Stay Fund was supported by one (2019: 2) chapel collections.

11 Assistance towards residents' fees

Fee subsidies amounting to £31,075 (2019: £81,134) were given to residents supported by Local Authorities under the Community Care Act in cases where the maximum amount paid by the Local Authority was less than the Bethesda fee. These subsidies relate in the main to pre May 2020 fees, as after that date successful negotiations with Local Authorities (along with a reducing number of Local Authority supported residents) reduced the need for fee subsidies. These were funded from the General Fund in the year (2019: paid from a Designated Fund, see Note 23). During the year seven residents were assisted in this way: five residents at the Brighton Home, one at Harpenden, and one at Studley (2019: 8 residents).

During the year contributions amounting to £161,733 (2019: £115,111) were receivable from Local Authorities towards residents' fees.

12 Ex gratia payments

Ex gratia payments and gift vouchers amounting to £1,650 (2019: £2,000) were paid by way of honoraria to people who assist the charity in various ways. One payment (2019: 4 payments) was made in the year of £600. In addition, twenty-one £50 gift vouchers were given in relation to help provided during the Covid-19 crisis. In some cases the payment, or part of the payment, has been used by the recipient to defray expenses incurred in rendering services to the charity.

13 Employee information

The average number of care home staff employed during the year, including part time workers, was 87 (2019: 93). The number of management and administration staff at the Bethesda General Office was 2 (2019: 2). Staff costs were as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,255,616	1,256,830
Social security costs	84,103	85,607
Pension costs	27,227	28,087
Agency workers	24,518	38,363
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£1,391,464	£1,408,887
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cost of raising funds - support costs	9,043	9,399
Costs relating to charitable activities:		
Care homes - direct costs	1,088,855	1,101,085
Care homes - support costs	286,274	289,102
Flatlets - support costs	7,205	7,489
Fee subsidies - support costs	-	1,721
Short-stay Fund - support costs	87	91
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£1,391,464	£1,408,887
	<hr/>	<hr/>

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more in either year. Premiums of £1,280 (2019: £1,280) were paid into a private pension plan held by 1 officer (2019: 1 officer). Employers premiums of £26,063 (2019: £26,685) were paid into 'The People's Pension' scheme administered by B&CE Insurance Ltd. which is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. This is an auto-enrolment scheme which commenced in October 2015.

Key management personnel are identified as the General Manager and the three Home Managers. The compensation of these members of staff amounts to £154,270 (2019: £152,470) including remuneration and all benefits paid. The Home Manager of the Harpenden Home, Debbie Scott, is daughter in law to a trustee, Trevor Scott. Regulations require that each of the care Homes has a registered Manager. Each Home Manager's remuneration is decided with due reference to current market rates and the prevailing economic climate.

14 Transfers from restricted funds

	2020	2019
	£	£
Transfer from restricted funds relating to capital expenditure	<u>11,429</u>	<u>1,504</u>
Total transfers	<u>£11,429</u>	<u>£1,504</u>

The expenditure for 2020 related to two commercial washing machines, a wi-fi upgrade and a medical bed (2019: various high value items including a powered bath seat, wi-fi home coverage, commercial dishwashers & washing machine, patio extension, audio equipment & split heat pump system).

15 Freehold land and buildings

(a) *Holding trustee*

The freeholds of the Bethesda Homes and Flatlets and the Bethesda General Office are held by the custodian trustee, The Gospel Standard Trust.

(b) *Net book value*

The Trustees consider that the open market value of the freehold land and buildings is in excess of the net book value at which they are shown in the Balance Sheet.

(c) *Note concerning the Brighton and Hove Home*

The Gospel Standard Baptist Library is situated within the grounds of the Brighton & Hove Bethesda Home. The cost of the library building, which was erected in 1980 and extended in 2003, was met entirely from the funds of the library. There is no formal agreement with the trustees of the library and no ground rent or other payments are received.

	Bethesda Homes £	Bethesda Flatlets £	Office Premises £	Total £
COST				
At start of year	1,300,371	449,492	125,019	1,874,882
Additions	-	-	-	-
At end of year	1,300,371	449,492	125,019	1,874,882
DEPRECIATION				
At start of year	611,495	190,334	53,373	855,202
Charge for year	23,770	7,612	2,484	33,866
At end of year	635,265	197,946	55,857	889,068
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31.12.20	£665,106	£251,546	£69,162	£985,814
At 31.12.19	£688,876	£259,158	£71,646	£1,019,680

Included within the cost of freehold property is land of £181,523 (2019: £181,523) which is not depreciated.

16 Equipment and motor vehicles

	Equipment in Homes £	Equipment in Flatlets £	Office Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
COST					
At start of year	229,389	14,914	6,082	55,837	306,222
Additions	13,571	-	-	4,974	18,545
Disposals	(8,301)	-	-	-	(8,301)
At end of year	234,659	14,914	6,082	60,811	316,466
DEPRECIATION					
At start of year	203,678	10,891	5,219	54,795	274,583
Charge for year	10,830	1,006	216	1,504	13,556
Less: Disposals	(8,301)	-	-	-	(8,301)
At end of year	206,207	11,897	5,435	56,299	279,838
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31.12.20	£28,452	£3,017	£647	£4,512	£36,628
At 31.12.19	£25,711	£4,023	£863	£1,042	£31,639

17 Tangible assets

	2020 £	2019 £
Freehold land and buildings	985,814	1,019,680
Equipment and motor vehicles	36,628	31,639
	£1,022,442	£1,051,319

18 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid	5,940	6,705
Interest accrued on short-term deposits	5,483	22,625
Gospel Standard Trust - use of bookroom	-	2,813
Legacies	42,000	74,243
Prepayments and accrued income	22,671	19,214
Residents' fees receivable	62,760	27,172
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£138,854	£152,772
	<hr/>	<hr/>

19 Investments: short-term deposits

	2020	2019
	£	£
<i>Current assets</i>		
Charity Bank One Year Bond	-	253,241
Charity Bank Easy Access Account	200,830	-
United Trust Bank Two Year Bond	-	250,000
United Trust Bank One Year Bond	-	392,809
United Trust Bank Three Month Bonds	1,150,231	-
Hampshire Trust Bank One Year Bond	-	253,232
Hampshire Trust Bank One Year Bond	-	392,809
Cambridge & Counties Bank One Year Bond	276,799	395,680
Cambridge & Counties Bank Easy Access Account	201,615	-
Cambridge & Counties Bank One Year Bond	-	272,967
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	393,133	491,912
Skipton Building Society Community Saver Account	200,531	
Virgin Money Deposit Account	200,503	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£2,623,642	£2,702,650
	<hr/>	<hr/>

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Accrued expenses	3,412	4,357
Accrued holiday pay	19,550	22,599
Financial services fees	8,750	8,500
PAYE & NIC due to HMRC	24,141	22,631
Pension premiums due	5,309	5,437
Deferred government grant income	27,619	-
Residents' fees repayable/paid in advance	3,351	5,165
Trade creditors	9,440	9,673
	<u>£101,572</u>	<u>£78,362</u>

All the deferred government grant income shown above was received but deferred in 2020. This is because it will not be known whether the attached grant conditions are satisfied until some months after 31 December 2020. The accounting policy on government grants is detailed at Note 1(c).

21 Net asset analysis by fund

	---Unrestricted funds---		Restricted	Total	Total
	Designated	General	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	2020	2019
				£	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible	-	1,022,442	-	1,022,442	1,051,319
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets:					
Investments	26,504	1,691,847	905,291	2,623,642	2,702,650
Other	-	452,667	-	452,667	346,382
Current liabilities	-	(101,572)	-	(101,572)	(78,362)
	<u>£26,504</u>	<u>£3,065,384</u>	<u>£905,291</u>	<u>£3,997,179</u>	<u>£4,021,989</u>

22 Restricted funds

	<i>Balance</i> <i>01.01.20</i> £	<i>Income</i> £	<i>Expenditure</i> £	<i>Transfers</i> <i>to capital</i> £	<i>Balance</i> <i>31.12.20</i> £
<i>Brighton Home:</i>					
Miss M J Guest	41,595	267	(11,979)	(4,545)	25,338
Mr J Tucker	20,557	164	-	-	20,721
Mrs E E Walker	68,650	549	-	-	69,199
Other	-	27,108	-	-	27,108
<i>Harpenden Home:</i>					
Mr S E Biggs	21,713	101	(11,203)	(6,884)	3,727
Mrs E M Burgess	76,722	614	-	-	77,336
Mrs N M Gosling	141,075	1,129	-	-	142,204
Miss M J Guest	67,043	536	-	-	67,579
Mrs J Harrison	-	15,060	-	-	15,060
Mr L W Palmer	280,521	2,244	-	-	282,765
Miss M A Patterson	79,541	636	-	-	80,177
Mrs E D Sneesby	5,043	40	-	-	5,083
Miss M K Watts	2,787	22	-	-	2,809
Miss R E Wilkins	17,137	137	-	-	17,274
<i>Other funds:</i>					
Brighton Amenity	26,896	2,600	(5,215)	-	24,281
Harpenden Amenity	14,466	1,813	(317)	-	15,962
Studley Amenity	22,055	921	(540)	-	22,436
Short-stay Residents	5,446	918	(132)	-	6,232
	<u>£891,247</u>	<u>£54,859</u>	<u>(£29,386)</u>	<u>(£11,429)</u>	<u>£905,291</u>

Restricted funds are to be used only for the benefit of the Bethesda Home under which they are listed above. The Short-stay Residents Fund is supported by chapel collections and is used to assist people coming into the Bethesda Homes for short stays. See Note 1(k) for more information on Restricted funds.

23 Designated funds

	<i>Balance</i> <i>01.01.20</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Net</i> <i>transfers</i>	<i>Balance</i> <i>31.12.20</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Underfunded Residents	14,930	-	-	(14,930)	-
Miss K E Aston dec'd	26,294	210	-	-	26,504
	<u>£41,224</u>	<u>£210</u>	<u>£-</u>	<u>(£14,930)</u>	<u>£26,504</u>

The Underfunded Residents Fund was set up in 2007 from part of the sale proceeds of the Tunbridge Wells Bethesda Home, and was used to assist residents who were unable to meet the full fees. The original Fund became exhausted some years ago, but was continued until the end of 2019 by transfers from the General Fund. For administrative reasons it has been decided to discontinue the Fund with effect from 1 January 2020, with the remaining balance consequently transferred back to the General Fund (from where it originated). Any shortfalls in fees are intended to continue to be met directly from the General Fund. The General Fund is supported in this purpose by the allocation of donations, subscriptions, and chapel collections to it unless specified otherwise. Further information can be found in the Trustees' Report.

Part of a legacy received in 2009 from the estate of the late Miss Kathleen Eunice Aston was transferred into a Designated Fund to be used for the benefit of the Brighton Bethesda Home, where Miss Aston was a resident for over ten years.

Income includes interest received on unexpended balances. See Note 1(k) for more information on Designated funds.

24 Notes to Statement of Cash Flows

(a) Reconciliation of net (expenditure) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Net (expenditure) for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)	(24,810)	(270,909)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	47,422	44,667
Loss on disposal of equipment	-	1,093
Interest and rents from investments	(25,976)	(36,458)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	13,918	(38,732)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	23,210	(9,243)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	£33,764	(£309,582)

(b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand	313,813	193,610
Cash on deposit (current asset investments)	2,623,642	2,702,650
	£2,937,455	£2,896,260

25 Commitments under operating leases

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
<i>Amounts due:</i>		
Within 1 year	6,253	6,253
Between 1 and 5 years	13,967	17,887
After 5 years	777	3,110
	£20,997	£27,250

26 Commitments for expenditure

There were no other material commitments for expenditure at the year end.

END OF NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS