for

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

and

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday 3rd May 2023

8pm

Christ Church

Bedford

www.ccbedford.org



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 8 pm

In accordance with the Notices fixed to the Notice Boards, the Meeting of Parishioners for the purpose of appointing Churchwardens, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in Christ Church, Bedford, on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 8 pm.

Meeting of Parishioners

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence
- 2. Appointment of Churchwardens
- 3. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

2.

Minutes of: a/Last Meeting of Parishioners

b/ Last Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 3. Election of 4 lay representatives to the Deanery Synod for 3 years
- 4. Election of 4 lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council for 3 years
- 5. To receive a copy of the revised Electoral Roll
- 6. To consider the Trustees 2022 Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council
- 7. Election of an Independent Examiner for the current financial year
- 8. Notification of appointment of Reader to the Parochial Church Council
- 9. To consider Reports of: a/ the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church,

b/ the Deanery Synod,

c/ various Committees and Activities of the Church.

10. Vicar's Report

- 11. Consideration of any other business of parochial or general church interest
- 11. Results of elections to the Deanery Synod and Parochial Church Council
- 12. Closing Statements

DAVID THOMAS Vicar

CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD Minutes of the MEETING OF PARISHIONERS and of the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

held on Tuesday 30 March 2022 at 8pm in the Church and on Zoom Chairman: Chris Brown

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies

Sue Bradley, Pat Davies, Jon and Jane Day, Cheryl Grint, John Hartup, Mary Moir, Keith Priddin and Andrew Russell.

2. Appointment of Churchwardens

Two nominations have been received: Kay Berrington and Andrew Russell. There being no other nominations they were declared duly elected for the forthcoming year. Chris Brown thanked Kay and Andrew for their willingness to stand. To be a churchwarden during a vacancy is a massive responsibility. There are a huge number of things that they need to do to keep the church going and they are heavily involved in the process of selecting a new vicar. Please keep them in your prayers.

3. Appointment of Assistant Churchwardens

Kay Berrington thanked the following who have been willing to serve as assistant wardens during the year:

Margaret Baron	Pauline Barber	Rachel Bennett	Simon Berrington
Fiona Betteley	Rachel Day	Daniel Gicharu	Cheryl Grint
Sarah Hibbert	Berty Jacob	Christine James	Sandra Mahaffey
Sue Marshall	Pat Mathias	Keith Priddin	Mike Seamarks
Mary Shaw	Dorothy Summerfield	Lucy Waters	Steve Welsh

Sarah Hibbert, Sandra Mahaffey, Mike Seamarks and Lucy Waters stepped down during the year and Kay thanked them for their service over many years. The meeting showed their appreciation to all with a round of applause.

Kay Berrington proposed that June Pedzeni and Geoff Topham be approved to join the list of Assistant Wardens and that the other 16 be reappointed. Wendy Pegg seconded the proposal, and the list was approved unanimously. Kay then went on to thank the sidespeople, welcomers and stewards for their ongoing commitment to ensuring the smooth running of services.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies

Sue Bradley, Pat Davies, Jon and Jane Day, Cheryl Grint, John Hartup, Mary Moir, Keith Priddin, and Andrew Russell.

2. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Meetings of Parishioners

The minutes of the APCM and meeting of parishioners held on 27 April 2021 are to be found on pages iii-vi of the APCM booklet and the minutes of the meeting of parishioners held on 17 November on page vii of the APCM booklet were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

3. Election of 1 representative on Bedford Deanery Synod

Due to Daniel Gicharu being elected to Diocesan Synod a vacancy has arisen to represent Christ Church on Deanery Synod for the final year of the triennium. One nomination had been received: Helen Ryan. There being no other nominations Helen Ryan was declared duly elected.

4. Election of 7 lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council

- 4 representatives for 3 years
- 1 representative for 2 years

• 2 representatives for 1 year

Ten nominations had been received necessitating an election. The ten candidates were invited up to the platform and introduced to the electorate: they were Margaret Cottenden, Tony Daniels, Martin Hamilton, Ruth Lessing, Sue Marshall, Wendy Pegg, Kathy Priddin, Tom Rees, Ellie Ryan-Johnson and Chris Somervell. Those present at the meeting voted using ballot papers and those attending the meeting via Zoom were able to vote via a voting app. The chairman explained that four candidates with the most votes would be elected for three years, the person in fifth place for two years and those in sixth and seventh places for one year.

5. To receive a copy of the revised Electoral Roll

Pauline Grimley, acting Electoral Roll officer, explained that the Electoral Roll revision took place between 2nd and 15th March 2022. The number on the Electoral Roll now stands at 287, a decrease of 15 from 2021, of whom 26% live in the parish. It was noted that sadly a number of church members had died during the year. The revised Electoral Roll was received by the meeting.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

7. To consider the Trustees 2021 Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council

The Trustees Report and accounts are to be found on pages 3-27 of the APCM booklet. These pages form our official annual report for the Charity Commission. Richard Hibbert helped write the first draft of the report before he left Christ Church and Chris Stevens with the Resourcing Impact Group pulled the accounts together. We have done a number of things in the past year to meet our priorities. For example, we have increased our social media postings. We are very grateful to the teams who enabled us to continuing worshipping together when Covid prevented in person worship, and we have continued to make our Sunday morning services available online. Ruth Hulme has been overseeing the building back up of our children's work and we have refreshed our Sunday evening service. The latter began socially distanced around tables. It is exciting to see where God will lead us next. The accounts have been independently examined by Suzy Goodson and the report will be sent to the diocese and to the charity commission.

The chair invited Chris Stevens, the Honorary Treasurer, to explain the accounts. Chris thanked everyone who gave money to Christ Church. £252,064 was given to the church by way of donations and reclaimed income tax, of which £188,567 was regular giving. We also collected extra money for various specific causes. We ended 2021 with a surplus rather than the budgeted deficit. Our major items of expenditure are the parish share £137,648; staffing £64,638; missions £33,258 and buildings £13,541.

Out of every pound the congregation gave 46p went to pay the Parish Share, 22p to staffing costs, 11p to support mission, 5p to building maintenance, and 2p to gas and electricity costs.

£47,920 was received from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs under the Gift Aid Scheme. Those who are able to Gift Aid their donations to Christ Church and don't already are encouraged to do so. Another large contributor to our income comes from those who hire our halls.

The treasurer concluded his presentation by commenting that it is great to see new people at church and that some of those are beginning to give to the work of Christ Church. Whilst we don't want to pressure people to give more to the church, but ask that you please pray and ask the Lord what he wants you to give.

In response to a question Chris replied that it is impossible to say whether hall hire fees cover the cost of running the halls as we don't have a sufficient breakdown of costs to say, for example cleaning and

energy costs are for the whole building: church and halls. He also explained that the parish share goes to the diocese who pay the vicar and curate and provide many other services for us. Our share goes into a pot which also supports smaller churches.

Chris was thanked for his service in this his first year as our Honorary treasurer. It has been a huge learning curve for him. He received a round of applause.

The trustees 2021 report and accounts were received by the meeting.

8. Election of an Independent Examiner for the current financial year

Suzy Goodson of Wright Connections Ltd has been our independent examiner for a number of years. The Resourcing Impact Group proposed that we continue to work with her. The meeting approved the election of Suzy Goodson as our independent examiner for the 2021 accounts via a show of hands.

9. Election of Reader(s) to the Parochial Church Council

At present we have one reader, Michael Bishop. He has indicated that he is willing, if approved, to serve as an ex-officio member of the PCC, and this was approved by the meeting.

10. To consider Reports of:

10.1 The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

This report was produced by the Buildings Impact Group on behalf of the wardens, and it is to be found on pages 28-29 of the APCM Report. There are a number of outstanding issued that need to be address from the 2018 quinquennial report. This work needs to be complete by 2023.

10.2 Deanery Synod

This report is to be found on page 7 of the APCM booklet. It was noted that the Diocese faced a large financial deficit due to COVID and that the Deanery has been made aware of what is being done locally to support those struggling due to the COVID pandemic.

10.3 Various Committees and Activities of the Church

These reports are to be found on pages 29-45 of the APCM report. There are a lot of different activities taking place at Christ Church and the reports give a good idea of what is going on.

11. Results of elections to the Parochial Church Council

Chris Brown published the results of the election to the PCC: -

Elected for 3 years: Tony Daniels, Sue Marshall, Tom Rees, Chris Somervell Elected for 2 years: Martin Hamilton Elected for 1 year: Kathy Priddin, Ellie Ryan-Johnson

He thanked the others for standing and encouraged them to take part in Impact Groups and to take on other roles in the church.

12. Wardens' Report and Closing Statements

Kay Berrington gave the report on behalf of the wardens. She said what a privilege it is to be a warden and part of the congregation at Christ Church. Life is busy but she had had lots of encouragement and support and people offering help. The last five months have been quite an emotional rollercoaster since we learned Richard Hibbert was leaving, but God has been with us and beside us. Richard's ministry has impacted many and the halls are a tangible reminder of his vision for Christ Church. There was a great leaving party with so many tributes. He did prepare us for his departure. The Standing committee met at least fortnightly, even weekly, to pray and plan together. We sought the opinions of congregation, and these have been used to inform our church profile. This has been approved and is on now our website; the advert for our new Vicar has been placed. Shortlisting will be at the end of April with interviews on 19 May. Please pray for them.

3½ months is an unusually quick timescale but we all knew time was of the essence with the curate and Min-Min moving on. The Standing Committee has also been working towards finding a

replacement for Jess, our Youth Minister. Thank you Jess. We need to grow not just our youth but also our 18-30s. On Sunday we are holding interviews for a Youth and Young Adults' Minister. This will include focus groups of youth and 18s-30s please pray that God would make it clear what we should do at this point. Thank you to those volunteers currently supporting our youth ministry and making sure it didn't collapse. Thank you too to the APCM report writers, and all those involved in our music, magazine, website, AV, sound and streaming. Thank you to all of our eager volunteers who give generously of their time and do so many things. Do consider how to involve others in our service together as it is a great way to get to know one another.

Thank you to our good humoured and hard-working staff team. Hall bookings have increased keeping Dawn busy welcoming people. We lose count of the tasks done by Vandon as site manager. We have a social media presence thanks to Ben and Ruth has worked tirelessly. She sees every time of year as an opportunity to engage children. Wild Church is proving to be a great success and we are able to welcome families who do not normally attend church on Sunday. Pauline is our supposedly part-time office administrator managing to smile as she answers yet another question.

John is in his third year of curacy and we know we will soon be losing him and his lovely family. He shows compassion and kindness to all he meets and has provided great pastoral care and ministry. We pray that God will make clear his leading in the next few months. Thank you John, Rebecca, Sophie and Daniel.

We pray that God will be glorified in all that we do at Christ Church Bedford, as we trust in His sovereignty for the coming year.

Chris Brown then thanked the Wardens, Kay and Andrew for their vision, hard work and energy.

The meeting closed with the grace at 9.15pm.



Christ Church Staff Team Christmas 2022



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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

FOR

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD ("Christ Church")

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1134785

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Report of Trustees

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice, applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

COVID-19 and Beyond

COVID-19 continues to have an impact upon the life of the church and the community. This is seen in a number of people and families who continue to self-isolate and are unable to participate in person. To this end we continue to stream our Sunday 10.30am service on YouTube so they can participate. It has also helped other people with health and mobility issues. COVID-19 has not gone away and at various times throughout 2022 a number of people within the congregation have had covid and had to self-isolate.

2022 has also been a year where a cost-of-living crisis has greatly impacted the country and our community here in Bedford. We have seen numbers attending Foodbank increase, as well as people struggling to pay bills and put food on the table.

Aims and purposes

The primary responsibility of Christ Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, Reverend David Thomas, in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The mission statement of our Church is 'To enable everyone to become maturing followers of Christ, who experience and live out God's love daily in every part of their lives'.

The Core Values of our Church are: -

G enerous	in faith
R eal	about ourselves
A ccepting	of all
C ompassionate	to our community
E ncouraging	all who come

The headline priorities of our Church for 2022 continued:

- 1. Making new disciples
- 2. Deepening our faith
- 3. Transforming our community
- 4. Visible social media

Objectives and activities

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charities Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living within and outside of the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate all this, we maintain the fabric of the Church and complex at 140 Dudley Street. The PCC also had responsibility for the upkeep of 161 Dudley Street.

The main Priorities and Objectives of our Church for 2022 were: -

Priorities and Objectives

The Mission Action Plan for 2022 remained the same (as seen below), however the key priority of 2022 was keeping the church running smoothly during the vacancy following Richard Hibbert's departure, and working with the Diocese in the successful process of appointing the new vicar David Thomas.

1. Making new disciples

- a. Offer enquirers courses (e.g. Alpha, Grow, Parenting etc) 3 times per year so that at least 10 people come to faith in each year
- b. Members intentionally praying for 5 friends/relatives to come to faith
- c. Intentionally offer invitations to friends/relatives to enquiry course or Sunday worship

2. Deepening our faith

- a. Promote active membership of weekly Home Groups, who create their own goal for next 12 months for a ministry area
- b. Ministries (Men, Women, Seniors, Children and Youth etc) to create clear goal to fulfil the priority 'Going deeper into God'
- c. At least fortnightly, promote personal testimony stories to encourage maturing followers of Christ (whole life discipleship)

3. Transforming our community

- a. Increase involvement and presence at Castle Newnham School (e.g. minimum 1 x Governor, provide Open the Book, support and nurture CU, offer lunch clubs, etc)
- b. Start Christians Against Poverty Debt Counselling service
- c. Establish and promote annually a new sustainability initiative across Devon Park and Castle Road

4. Creating a greater and more visible social media presence

- a. Train 2-3 church members in the next 12 months in delivery of Social Media posts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc)
- b. Ensure regularly weekly flow of news and events via Social Media
- c. Change over the next 12 months physical outdoor signage

REPORT OF TRUSTEES

In order to achieve these objectives and respond to realised needs: -

- During the vacancy, as per the key roles and responsibilities of Church of England office holders and Canon Law (E1), the wardens took on significant responsibility along with the Area Dean and Archdeacon to ensure that worship, pastoral care and mission continued in the parish.
- The Church Wardens have worked closely with the Staff Team to ensure that the day to day running of the church continued as smoothly as possible.
- The Impact Groups continued to look after different areas of the life of the church and ensure that the church continued to be active in the community.
- The Standing Committee (subset of PCC, including the Church Wardens) met regularly on behalf of the PCC to make sure that the vacancy did not negatively impact the life of the church.

Achievements and performance

The key achievement in 2022 was keeping the church running during the vacancy, and successfully appointing a new vicar in the summer of 2022. During the vacancy, all three services of worship on a Sunday continued to run throughout 2022 during the vacancy and beyond; a testament to the clergy, wardens, staff team and volunteers who played their part to enable this.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but gives a flavour of some of the significant things which took place in 2022:

- Vacancy meeting and process profile, advertising, interviews, appointment, service of Institution, installation and induction.
- At the request of the diocese, put on a Living in Love and Faith study Group.
- Implemented new safeguarding guidelines and updated safeguarding policy. PCC members undertook additional safeguarding training in line with the new requirements.
- First Aid Course for a dozen church members in May.
- Trips to Coventry, Hartlepool and St Albans to support Richard Hibbert, John Bell and Min-Min Peaker as they moved to new ministries (farewells to the above too).
- Project Sunflower our response to the invasion of Ukraine. Four church households/ families took in refugees supported by the whole congregation.
- Approved people to go forward for Reader training and Foundation of Ministry training.
- Put the maintenance of our buildings on to a more secure footing.

Staff Team

There have been a number of changes to the staff team over 2022.

- Revd Canon Richard Hibbert and family moved to Coventry after 22 years at Christ Church, joining Holy Trinity Church.
- Dr Min-Min Peaker, Ordinand, was ordained deacon at St Alban's Cathedral and is now serving at Clapham (Beds) Parish Church.
- Revd David Thomas was inducted as vicar on 20 July.
- Benjamin Hulme stepped down from his role as Social Media lead in August, and was replaced by AJ Wade in November.
- Ellie Ryan-Johnson was appointed as part-time Trainee Youth Minister in August.
- Revd John Bell, Curate and his family moved to Hartlepool in October following the end of his training at Christ Church, joining the Central Hartlepool Group.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES

Role of Volunteers

Without volunteers most activities which Christ Church puts on would cease to operate. We are extremely grateful to everyone who gives up their time and energy to serve both the church and the community.

We see this especially in areas such as our musical worship, our children's and youth work, and our engagement with older members of the community. Without the many volunteers our Children's Worker (Ruth Hulme) and our Trainee Youth Minister (Ellie Ryan-Johnson) would be unable to do all that they do. We are also extremely grateful for all that Rachel Bennett does, whether that be organising holidays, Go4Gold or the Sunday afternoon walks to name a few.

Christ Church continues to be one of several distribution centres for Bedford Foodbank. Many of the volunteers helping on Tuesday afternoons are from Christ Church. 2022 saw numbers attending continue to increase.

Children and Youth Ministry

2022 saw lots of activities in person for our Children's Ministry: Sunday ministry:

- Daring Disciples (0-7s): 12-16 children weekly
- Passports (7-10s): 5-10 children weekly
- Wild Church: 10 families 11 children monthly

Midweek ministry:

- Forge: 14 children weekly
- Morning Out: 35-40 children weekly
- Little Fishes: 4-10 babies weekly

One Off Events:

- Pancake Olympics : 10 local families attended after school activity
- Easter special event: Rise up with Jesus (an interactive reflection of the Easter Story using stations)
- Easter fun: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday interactive activities for children
- Summer Holiday Club ran across 5 days 35 children each day
- October half-term Light Trail round local streets, Light Party
- Christmas It's a boy 40 families attended to enjoy a Christian pantomime

We are extremely grateful for the help of volunteers, many of these events would not have taken place without them.

In August 2022 Christ Church appointed Ellie Ryan-Johnson as Trainee Youth Minister. She has been instrumental in growing the Friday Night Youth from an average of 6 to regularly seeing 15. She has renewed strong links with Three Rivers Church, our neighbour on Denmark Street. In September the young people went to a Youth Night as a part of the Hope Bedford mission at All Nations and they attended a fireworks party on November 4.

It is impossible to quantify in financial terms the contribution made by these and many other volunteers, but it is considerable, without which the PCC would not be able to fulfil its charitable objectives.

We thank all the many volunteers, who work so hard to make this church the lively and vibrant community that it is. In particular, we thank the Churchwardens, Kay Berrington and Andrew Russell who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf during 2022, especially with the added responsibilities during the vacancy.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES

Worship and prayer

Worship and prayer continue to be central to the life of Christ Church. We are extremely grateful to Carolyn Barnes, Laura and Matt Jewell, and the many other people who have been involved whether playing and singing, projecting words onto screens, operating the sound desk and live streaming our services.

Some highlights in the year include the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving on Sunday 30 October and the midweek Service of Worship and Prayer Thursday 17 November. Two services with very different feels, and yet many people came away feeling that something significant had happened and were speaking about it for a long time afterwards.

Typical attendance at 9am has been 12-18 people, at 10.30am 150-180 people, and at 7pm 35-50 people. We continue to livestream our 10.30am service but as the community gets used to being able to worship together in person, we have seen less people joining us online. However, this continues to be a valuable part of the worshipping life of the community for those who are unable to attend for a variety of reasons, including ill health, home and work commitments.

At present, there are 293 names on the Church Electoral Roll, 68 of whom are resident within the parish. 17 names were added during the year and 11 were removed either through death, or because they moved away from the parish or to another church.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at life's milestones: 6 baptisms, 1 thanksgiving for the gift of a child, 1 wedding, and a total of 6 funerals and services of thanksgiving.

Deanery Synod

We had 4 Deanery Synod elected representatives and 3 Diocesan Synod representatives, offering an important link between our parish and the wider Church of England. At each Deanery Synod meeting, there is a primary focus of discussion, and the opportunity to hear of the work of the wider church: General Synod, Diocesan Synod, Diocesan Board of Finance and Deanery Standing Committee. There were 4 Deanery Synod meetings in 2022.

March – Focus on Safeguarding and the responsibilities of the PCC and the church. Updates on the team ministry at Elstow, and a presentation of changes at the Church of the Transfiguration.

May - Sam Cappleman, Area Dean, spoke on Bedford Deanery, its demographics, churches and challenges. David White, Diocesan Secretary, spoke on his role and the central support available at the Diocese of St Albans. Current issues for the diocese include how to achieve the Church of England's target of Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and how to help churches grow younger.

June - Kate Peacock, Diocesan Deputy Director of Ministry and Mission, spoke about Reaching New People. Marcus Ottaviani, Curate at St Mary's Goldington, spoke about the Dwell Well Project.

October - the majority of this meeting was taken up with reports from the recent General Synod and a discussion regarding Net Carbon Zero and things for consideration.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES

Pastoral care

Pastoral care continues to an important area for the life of the church. At the centre of this is the Home Groups, we are particularly grateful to Pauline Barber (a volunteer) for all she does in overseeing this area of ministry. Each week at the Staff Team meeting, pastoral concerns are discussed and church members not seen for a while are attempted to be contacted by someone, often the curate, vicar or church warden(s).

Activities such as Ladies Elevenses and Men's Breakfast continue to key areas of pastoral care and time. A number of lay people as well as the curate and vicar take home communion to people who need it, whether on a continual basis (such as Dame Alice Court) or one offs due to illness and the like.

Our parish magazine is published bi-monthly and continues to create a pastoral, spiritual and informative link amongst church members, hall users and our local community.

Mission and evangelism

Helping others is a demonstration of our faith, whether practical, emotional or spiritual.

The Mission Impact Group channels support and news between our Mission Partners, scattered across Africa, the Middle East and Europe, and encourages prayer for them. One Mission Partner returned to the UK, ceasing to be a mission partner, and a new mission partner was approved to replace them.

Alpha Courses, run by Outreach Impact Group, occurred physically and on-line:

- January March: on-line with 3 regular attendees
- Sept December: in person with 8 regular attendees

Alpha is an 11-week course that enables participants to consider the basics of the Christian faith and the work of Jesus Christ. Only 2 Alpha courses were run in 2022 due to the vacancy. The Jan-March one was planned pre-vacancy, and the Sept-Dec was planned once the new vicar was installed.

Ecumenical relationships

We continue to be blessed by our ecumenical links to other local churches across Bedford and benefit from HOPE Bedfordshire. We actively supported the town-centre open-air Good Friday Witness, attended by over 1000 people. And a number of our congregation attended the Hope Bedford mission in September.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £342,974, with £194,614 from standing orders and £46,489 was from Gift Aid. Restricted donations totalled £11,398. Further details are shown in the annual financial statements.

£317,098 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from Christ Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share of £140,094 which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

Net movement in funds was an increase of £28,293 during the year, and the total reserves increased to £211,375.

The principal source of donations are the church members. The PCC takes its environmental, social and ethical duties seriously and consideration of these undergird the ministry decisions of the church.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain sufficient funds, being between 3 and 6 months of expenditure to ensure the smooth financial running of the church, and ensure that unexpected expenditure can be met as and when required. Total funds held at the year end amounted to £211,375.

The balance on the general reserves at the year end was £171,105 which is considered adequate since it represents approximately 5 months of expenditure, and is therefore within the PCC policy. Total unrestricted funds (including the general fund) amounted to £205,426 with £34,321 representing amounts raised in respect of a previous house purchase.

The purpose of any restricted fund is noted in the financial statements. Restricted funds are in respect of specific projects and or schemes.

Financial risks

Total restricted funds amounted to £5,949. The cash reserves of the church, excluding restricted funds, totalled £153,671 as at 31 December 2022. The budget for 2023 was approved by the PCC showing a deficit of £18,000. Most of the income generated by the church is from regular standing orders. The level of standing orders has remained consistent during the year and this, together with careful management of resources, has not had a significant impact on the financial risks of the church. The PCC therefore considers it has sufficient resources to sustain its purposes and activities during 2023.

Plans for future periods

Over the last quarter of 2022 and moving into 2023 the vicar and Standing Committee, on behalf of the PCC, have been working on a new Vision Statement and values for Christ Church. Following this, the Mission Action Plan of the church will be updated in Summer 2023.

In November 2022 Christ Church formally sent an expression of interest to the Diocese of St Albans for a stipendiary curate beginning summer 2024.

In March 2023 a Church Weekend Away is taking place, and in July a church holiday is planned. (At time of writing, the majority, if not all, of the costs have been covered for this)

Risk management

The PCC is aware of its risk management duties and in 2022 the Fire Evacuation Policy, Safeguarding Policy, and Health and Safety Policy were reviewed and signed off by the PCC.

All PCC trustees, youth and children's paid and voluntary leaders, and volunteers in contact with vulnerable adults are DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline measure 2016. We continue to take seriously the need to look after children and vulnerable adults. The PCC have adopted all the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance, as well as "Promoting a Safer Church" (child protection and vulnerable adults policy) and the Domestic Abuse statement.

We have a Parish Safeguarding Officer/Lead Recruiter and an Assistant Recruiter. Those who work with vulnerable groups in the Parish are recruited in accordance with the Practice Guidance Safer Recruitment July 2021. DBS checks are renewed every five years and all those who have been safely recruited and all members of the PCC, have undertaken the appropriate safeguarding training within the last 3 years.

We continue to ensure that there is adequate insurance cover for all activities involving children or adults undertaken in the name of the Parish. There have been 2 issues of safeguarding concern reported during 2022. These matters were dealt with according to the relevant safeguarding policies and guidance by the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Vicar and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

From a financial perspective, the PCC has delegated a level of responsibility to the Resource Impact Group along with the Treasurer to look after the accounting and budgets. The Treasurer regularly reports back to the PCC how things look compared to budget.

Structure, governance and management

Christ Church is a corporate body established by the Church of England, and it is part of the deanery of Bedford and the Diocese of St Albans.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules (CRR). At Christ Church the membership of the PCC consists of the licensed clergy, churchwardens, one of the Readers, members of Diocesan and Deanery Synods and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll, and so if they fulfil the criteria(as per CRR) they can stand for election to the PCC.

New PCC members/trustees were offered a copy of *The PCC Member's Essential Guide*, and a copy of the PCC Notes of Guidance.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC met 8 times during 2022 with an average attendance of 67%.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of impact groups, each one dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These groups, which include communications, mission, buildings, outreach, resourcing, fellowship, and young people, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with reports of their meetings, decisions and recommendations being received by the PCC and discussed as necessary.

Standing Committee: This committee is required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Buildings Impact Group: This group is responsible for the management and development of Christ Church PCC's buildings and infrastructure.

Communications Impact Group: This group is responsible for oversight of both external and internal communications, including our physical and online presence.

Fellowship Impact Group: This group is responsible for the planning, resourcing and delivery of events focused on the development of fellowship within Christ Church.

Mission Impact Group: This group is responsible for caring, praying and practically supporting our Mission Partners and Organisations and encouraging vocations and support to mission at home and overseas.

Outreach Impact Group: This group is responsible for the planning, resourcing, coordination and delivery of all pre-evangelistic, evangelistic and early discipleship support at Christ Church.

Resourcing Impact Group: This group is responsible for the financing of Christ Church and the prudent management of its financial resources.

Worship Impact Group: This group is responsible for the planning, resourcing, coordination and delivery of all corporate worship at Christ Church.

Young People's Impact Group: The Young People's Impact Group is responsible for supporting the Youth Minister and the Children's Minister in developing and implementing a strategy for young people's and family work at Christ Church, which directly contributes to the achievement of Christ Church's mission.

Administrative information

Christ Church is situated at 140 Dudley Street, Bedford. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 140 Dudley Street Bedford MK40 3SX. Registered charity number 1134785 under the name the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Bedford. It is also known as Christ Church Bedford, PCC or Christ Church.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex-Officio Members:

ex-Officio Members:		
Incumbent	The Revd Canon Richard Hibbert The Revd David Thomas	Chairman (until 30 January 2022) Chairman (from 20 July 2022)
Curate	The Revd John Bell	(until 16 October 2022)
Wardens	Mrs Kay Berrington Dr Andrew Russell	
Reader	Mr Michael Bishop	
Diocesan Synoc	d Mr Daniel Gicharu Mrs Min-Min Peaker Mr Christopher Stevens	(until 2 July 2022 Treasurer
Deanery Synod	Ms Rachel Bennett Miss Helen Ryan Mr Paul Templeman Mr Anderson (AJ) Wade	(from 30 March 2022)
Elected Members:		
	Mr Kenneth Barber Mr Simon Berrington	(until 30 March 2022)
	Mr Christopher Brown	Lay Chair of the PCC
	Mr Tony Daniels	(from 30 March 2022)
	Dr Jonathan Day Ms Rachel Day	(until 30 March 2022)
	Mr Martin Hamilton	(from 30 March 2022)
	Mrs Margaret Haywood Ms Amy Hutchinson	(until 30 March 2022)
	Ms Susan Marshall	(from 30 March 2022)
	Miss Wendy Pegg	(until 30 March 2022)

	Mrs Kathryn Priddin	(from 30 March 2022)
	Mr Thomas Rees	(from 30 March 2022)
	Miss Helen Ryan	(until 30 March 2022)
	Miss Eleanor Ryan-Johnson	(from 30 March 2022)
	Ms Christine Somervell	(from 30 March 2022)
	Mrs Cynthia (Sue) Templeman	
	Miss Jessica Walker	(until 30 March 2022)
Co-opted members		
	Andrew Turpie	(until 30 March 2022)
(PCC Secretary)	Mrs Pauline Grimley	(not a PCC member)

Bank:

CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Suzanne Goodson BSc FCA Wright Connections Limited Registered Auditors Bedford I-Lab Priory Business Park Stannard Way Bedford MK44 3RZ

During the vacancy, Chris Brown was Chair of the PCC for 5 meetings. Day-to-day management of the charity is delegated to the incumbent, during the vacancy the Wardens fulfilled this role:

Incumbent (from 20 July 2022):

The Revd David Thomas

Christ Church Vicarage 115 Denmark Street Bedford MK40 3TJ

Approved in principle by the PCC on 30 March 2023 and finally approved by the Standing Committee on 18 April 2023 and signed on their behalf:

Revd David Thomas (PCC Chair)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Bedford

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 14 to 27.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies. I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Juganne M Good.

Suzanne Goodson BSc FCA Institute of Chartered Accountants England & Wales Wright Connections Limited Bedford I-Lab Stannard Way Bedford MK44 3RZ

Date: 26 April 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure account)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 31-Dec-22 £	Total Funds 31-Dec-21 £
INCOME FROM					
Donations and Legacies	4	268,576	9,532	278,108	263,078
Charitable activities	5	68,625	1,866	70,491	46,820
Other trading activities		5,560	0	5,560	4,668
Investments	6	212	0	212	49
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		342,974	11,398	354,371	314,615
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	7	317,098	8,981	326,078	313,118
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		317,098	8,981	326,078	313,118
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		25,876	2,417	28,293	1,497
Transfers between funds		9,670	(9,670)	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		35,546	(7,253)	28,293	1,497
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward	18	169,880	13,202	183,082	181,585
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD at 31 December 2022	18	205,426	5,949	211,375	183,082

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 December 2022

	<u>Note</u>	31-Dec-22		31-Dec-21	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS Tangible fixed assets	12		104,716		93,890
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	17,363		12,487	
Cash at bank and in hand		216,872		194,164	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		234,234		206,652	
Creditors due within one year	15	-71,896		-61,781	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		_	162,339	. <u></u>	144,871
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILI	ITIES		267,054		238,761
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	16		-55,679		-55,679
NET ASSETS		-	211,375	_	183,082
FUNDS	18				
Unrestricted funds			205,426		169,880
Restricted funds			5,949		13,202
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		_	211,375		183,082

Approved in principle by the PCC on 30 March 2023 and finally approved by the Standing Committee on 18 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

ronos

Revd David Thomas

Chairman

a 9

Mr Christopher Stevens

Hon. Treasurer

1134785

The notes on pages 17 to 27 form part of these accounts

Charity registration number

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

	Note	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
Cash flow from operating activities Cash generated from activities	3	45,053	10,836
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets Interest received		(17,630) 212	0 49
Net cash flow from investing activities		(17,418)	49
Cash flow from financing activities			
Interest paid		(4,928)	(4,320)
Net cash flow from financing activities		(4,928)	(4,320)
Net increase/decrease in cash and cash equiv	valents	22,707	6,565
Cash and cash equivalents at 1.1.22		194,165	187,600
Cash and cash equivalents at 31.12.22		216,872	194,165
Cash and cash equivalents consists of			
Cash at bank and in hand		216,872	194,165
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period not available for charitable purpos	es	189	707

as held as agent

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31st December 2022

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) General information

Christ Church, a registered charity in the United Kingdom is a corporate body established by the Church of England, and it is part of the deanery of Bedford and the Diocese of St Albans. Its trustees are all members of the Parochial Church Council and they operate under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity administrative information on page 11 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are shown on pages 3 to 10 of these financial statements.

b) Basis of preparing the financial statements

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) 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 Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years prescribed.

c) Income recognition

Voluntary income and capital sources

All incoming resources , including government grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Collections are recognised when made. For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. Pledged amounts are only recognised on receipt of the funds.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid scheme donations is recognised in the period the income is received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of the entitlement and the likely amount due.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity. For example, the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31st December 2022

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustee' Annual Report.

Where practicable, gifts in kind donated for distribution to the beneficiaries of the charity are included in stock and donations in the financial statements upon receipt. If it is impracticable to assess the fair value at receipt or if the costs to undertake such a valuation outweigh any benefits, then the fair value is recognised as a component of donations when it is distributed, and an equivalent amount recognised as charitable expenditure.

Legacies

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Other trading activities

Other trading activities represent feed in tariffs from solar panels and are recognised on entitlement.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is accounted for when earned. Fees due to the PCC for weddings, funerals, etc. are accounted for on an event by event basis.

d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Costs directly related to the work of the church

The Diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable and any amount unpaid at 31st December is included as a creditor in the Balance Sheet. Grants and donations are accounted for at the earlier of payment or formal approval by the PCC. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year-end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

e) Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church property

Consecrated and beneficial property is excluded from the financial statements by s. 10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property.

All expenditure on consecrated and beneficial property and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off in the year incurred. This includes all expenditure incurred to date in respect of the Hall Redevelopment Project, including the build costs, since the build is occurring on consecrated ground, and as such cannot be capitalised.

Other land and buildings

Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes are valued at cost. No depreciation is charged on such properties since it is considered that the estimated residual value of the properties is in excess of the purchase price. Any expenditure on maintenance or improvement is written off in the year incurred.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31st December 2020

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment purchased within the accounting period is capitalised on the balance sheet. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off in the year in which the asset is acquired.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset in a systematic basis over its expected useful life. Depreciation rates used are as follows: -

Furniture and solar panels – 10% per annum (estimated useful life 10 years), Equipment – 33.33% (estimated useful life 3 years)

f) Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

g) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The purpose of any restricted fund is noted in the financial statements. Restricted funds include amounts raised for the Hall Redevelopment Project (HRP).

The financial statements include transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe an affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

h) Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

i) Bank and Cash

Bank and Cash include short-term deposits which include cash held on deposit at CAF Bank.

j) Loans

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

k) Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within 1 year

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are included as debtors at transactional values less any provision for amounts that may prove to be uncollectible. Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

I) Judgements

No judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022

2 YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021 Comparatives

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 31-Dec-21 £
INCOME FROM				
Donations and Legacies Charitable activities Other trading activities Investments		252,064 46,335 4,668 49	11,015 485 0 0	263,079 46,820 4,668 49
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		303,115	11,500	314,615
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities		300,346	12,772	313,118
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		300,346	12,772	313,118
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		2,769	(1,272)	1,497
Transfers between funds		0	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		2,769	(1,272)	1,497
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward		167,111	14,474	181,585
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD at				
31 December 2021		169,880	13,202	183,082

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022

3 Reconcilation of net expenditure for year to net cash flow from operating activities

		31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
		£	£
Net expenditure for year		28,293	1,497
Interest receivable		(212)	(49)
Interest payable		4,928	4,320
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		6,804	5,520
Decrease (increase) in debtors		(4,875)	1,617
Increase (decrease) in creditors		10,115	(2,070)
Net cash flow from operating activities		45,053	10,836
4 Income from Donations and Legacies			
4 medine from Donations and Legacies		31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
		£	£
Gifts		241,225	235,688
Legacies		13,617	200,000
Other Donations		23,267	27,390
		20,207	21,000
		278,108	263,078
5 Income from charitable activities			
		31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
		£	£
Rental income		39,366	26,861
Grants		250	550
Events and activities		29,275	17,295
Fees		1,600	2,114
Ň		70,491	46,820
6 Income from investments			
		31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
		£	£
Deposit interest		212	49
7 Charitable Activities Costs			
	Direct costs	Donations	Total
	£	£	£
	004 000	04740	000 070
Church Activities	291,362	34,716	326,078
See note 21 for further details			
8 Support/ Governance costs			
		31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
		£	£
Independent examiners remuneration		1,620	1,620
9 Net income for the period is stated after c	harding		
a net moome for the period is stated aller c	naryiny	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
		£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		6,804	5,520

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022

10 Trustees and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

Three trustees (W Pegg, E Ryan-Johnson, AJ Wade) received £5,426 for church work during the year (2021 - One - W Pegg £1,093)

In 2022 and 2021 the incumbent and the curate were remunerated by way of a stipend by a related party, being the Diocese of St Albans who are responsible for setting the level of remumeration. As is standard practice in the Church of England the clergy were provided with housing by the Diocese (incumbent) and PCC (curate).

Four trustees, including incumbent and curate, were reimbursed £1,343 during the year (2021, Two trustees - £4,010). This was for travel, hospitality, books and expenditure on behalf of the church.

11 Staff Costs

	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
	£	£
Wages and salaries	64,117	60,847
Social security costs	0	0
Defined contribution pension costs	2,670	3,673
	66,787	64,520

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
Youth Minister and Children's Minister	2	2
Other	6_	6
	8	8

No employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000

12 Fixed Assets

Fre	eehold Property	nold Property Equipment		
COST	£	£	£	
At 1 January 2022	90,000	90,379	180,379	
Additions	0	17,630	17,630	
Disposals	0	0	0	
At 31 December 2022	90,000	108,009	198,009	
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2022	0	86,489	86,489	
Charge for the year	0	6,804	6,804	
Disposals	0	0	0	
At 31 December 2022	0	93,293	93,293	
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2022	90,000	14,716	104,716	
At 31 December 2021	90,000	3,890	93,890	

Note:

The property held at 31 December 2022 consists of 161 Dudley Street, Bedford, which is subject to an equity sharing loan from the Church Commissioners (see loan note for further details).

13 Debtors: amounts falling due within 1 year	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
	£	£
Other debtors	17,363	12,487
	17,363	12,487

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022

14 Monies raised for others

During the year the following monies were collected for external organisations				
	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21		
	£	£		
Menara (Christmas appeal 2021)	73	675		
Leaving gift Vicar and Curate	4,420	0		
Christmas Appeal 2022	135	0		
Bedford foodbank (Christmas appeal 2020)	0	393		
Bishops Harvest appeal	0	398		
Ordinand training	66	205		
ВННСТ	385	930		
Other	219	156		
	5,298	2,756		

A total of £189 was held as at 31 December 2022 (£707 31 December 2021)

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

HRG creditors Other creditors		31-Dec-22 £ 57,252 14,644	31-Dec-21 £ 57,252 4,529
		71,896	61,781

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	31-Dec-22 £	31-Dec-21 £
Other creditors	55,679	55,679
	55,679	55,679

The PCC has a loan of £55,679 from the Church Commissioners which was taken out to assist with the purchase of 161 Dudley Street (the Curate's House) This is an interest only value linked loan representing 62% of the original value of the property. It is repayable on sale of the property together with a 62% share in any increase in value since acquisition.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022

17 Related parties

The Diocese of St Albans is a related party by way of the constitution Details of receipts from related parties are found in note 20 Details of payments to related parties are found in notes 21 and 22

18 Fund reconciliation - 2022

Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 01-Jan-22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31-Dec-22 £
General fund Designated funds Unrestricted house reserve - 161 Dudley Stree	131,189 4,370 34,321	342,974	(317,098)	(5,960) 15,630	151,105 20,000 34,321
-	169,880	342,974	(317,098)	9,670	205,426

Designated funds as at 31 December 2021 for live streaming totalling £3,401, with £969 transferred to back to the general fund as not needed. A new amount was set up to enable repairs to the church to be completed.

Restricted funds

	Balance at 01-Jan-22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31-Dec-22 £
Vicars discretionary fund and restricted missic Live streaming	1,973 9,670	9,532	(7,139)	(9,670)	4,366 0
HRP funds	9,070 273	0	0	(9,070)	273
Holiday at Home	1,286	1,866	(1,841)		1,310
Total restricted	13,202	11,398	(8,981)	(9,670)	5,949

	Unrestricted funds 31-Dec-22 £	Restricted funds 31-Dec-22 £	Total 31-Dec-22 £
Fixed assets	104,716		104,716
Cash and current investments	153,671	63,201	216,872
Other current assets	17,363		17,363
Creditors: amounts due in less than one year	-71,896	-57,252	-71,896
Creditors: amounts due in more than one year	-55,679		-55,679
	205,426	5,949	211,375

19 Post Balance Sheet events

The PCC has approved plans to sell 161 Dudley Street in 2023 but no sale has been agreed. Part of the proceeds will be used to repay the loan disclosed in note 16, but the estimated amount & timing of any repayment is uncertain.

We have applied to receive a stipendiary curate from 2024 and will therefore need to provide suitable housing and assistance in providing such housing will be sought from the congregation as required.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022

20 INCOME

l Funds Dec-21
£
188,567
0
0
47,121
27,390
263,078
47, 27,

Note - included above are the following amounts given by trustees

Unrestricted			27,347	28,100
Total		-	27,347	28,100
Income from charitable activities				
Rental income	39,366		39,366	26,861
Social & Youth Events	20,333		20,333	12,839
Grants	250		250	550
Morning Out receipts	2,273		2,273	438
Lunch Club Receipts	1,766		1,766	655
Holiday at Home		1,866	1,866	485
Fees	1,600		1,600	2,114
Sundry receipts	3,037		3,037	2,878
	68,625	1,866	70,491	46,820
	00,023	1,000	70,491	40,020
Income from other trading activities				
Income from solar panels	5,560		5,560	4,668
	5,560	0	5,560	4,668
Income from investment				
Deposit interest	212	0	212	49
	212	0	212	49
AL INCOME	342,974	11,398	354,371	314,615

Total Funds Total Funds 21 Resources spent Unrestricted Restricted Funds Funds 31-Dec-22 31-Dec-21 £ £ £ £ Notes Grants Mission and charitable giving 27,577 1,027 28,604 36,250 Other donations 6,112 6,112 8,498 0 7,139 34,716 44,747 27,577 **Directly relating to Church Ministry** Parish share - payment to a related party 140,094 140,094 137,648 Clergy & staff expenses 1,721 1,721 3,624 Housing costs 332 332 1,462 Services including music 5.320 5,320 2,974 Telephones 2,301 2,301 2,456 Books 91 91 162 Explorers, Holiday Club & Youth Work 3,296 3,296 3,342 978 978 25 Training Morning Out 951 951 289 Lunch Club 507 507 583 Holiday at Home 1,841 1,841 1,282 Outreach (including social events) 20.603 20,603 12.295 Sundries 5,831 5,831 1,174 Interest payable 4,928 4,928 4,320 186,952 1,841 188,794 171,636 Church management and administration Heat and light 8,065 8,065 5,250 Insurance 2,427 2,427 2,266 4,163 4,163 **Cleaning Materials** 2,653 Church and property maintenance 8,097 0 10,888 8,097 Equipment - not capitalised 272 272 507 Hall Redevelopment 0 0 0 66,787 66,787 Salaries and wages 64,638 Printing, postage and stationery 2,542 2,542 1,644 Other 1,792 1,792 1,747 Depreciation 6,804 6,804 5,520 100,949 100,949 0 95,114 1,620 Support/Governance Costs 1,620 1,620 TOTAL RESOURCES SPENT 317,098 8,981 326,078 313,118

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 December 2022

22	2 DETAILS OF MISSION AND CHARITABLE GIVING		Total	Total	
		General	Restricted	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
		£	£	£	£
	OVERSEAS				
	Rob & Ruth S - Middle East	0	0	0	5,950
	SIM (supporting the Deneufchâtel's)	2,900	0	2,900	3,800
	Gayet (work in Belgium)	6,040	460	6,500	6,450
	Barnabas Fund	500	0	500	1,000
	Diocese of Gulf and Cyprus	1,058	0	1,058	1,700
	Egypt EDA	0	0	0	750
	Bradleys	6,000	500	6,500	750
	Samuti - interfaith helpers	100	0	100	0
	Friends of Johannesburg Bible College	1,050	0	1,050	1,500
	Neno Macadamia Fund	500	0	500	500
	Malawi Orphan Fund	1,650	0	1,650	3,000
	Other specifc giving	0	0	0	317
		19,798	960	20,758	21,586
	HOME	-,		-,	,
	Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust	5,500	0	5,500	5,950
	King's Arms Project - Bedford	500	0	500	600
	COACH including Beth Bradley	0	0	0	2,550
	Bedford Street Angels	50	0	50	100
	Bedford Foodbank	500	0	500	600
	Care for the Family	0	0	0	120
	Just Love	0	0	0	100
	Friends for Life	554	0	554	100
	Eden (prison bibles)	0	0	0	244
	Hope Bedfordshire	100	0	100	0
	Christians Against Poverty	500	0	500	0
	Other specific giving	75	67	142	337
		7,779	67	7,846	8,615
	Total Mission	27,577	1,027	28,604	36,218
	OTHER				
	Other donations	0	6,112	6,112	8,530
	-	0	6,112	6,112	8,530
	TOTAL MISSION GIVING	27,577	7,139	34,716	44,748

Note: Mission giving was set at 14% of General Gifts in 2022 (2021: 14%)

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS, AND ORNAMENTS OF CHRIST CHURCH BEDFORD AND BUILDINGS IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Membership: Pat Davies, James Roe (QI co-ordinator), Helen Ryan (Priorities Programme co-ordinator), Vandon Grimley (Site Manager), Martin Hamilton (Sec), Andrew Russell (Church Warden), David Thomas (Vicar) and Rachel Bennett (Chair).

The Buildings Impact Group has achieved much during 2022/23 Routine Activities:

- BIG's responsibility is to carry out routine maintenance, statutory building and grounds related tasks.
 There are a diverse set of tasks, from organ tuning, electrical and boiler inspections, plumbing, lightning conductor checks through to ensuring we are adhering to Health and Safety legislation.
- We have a Priorities Planning document which helps us identify/price the short/long term tasks.

Archdeacon's Inspection:

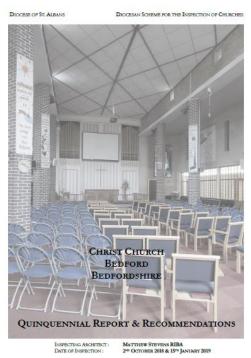
Our annual inspection was carried out by Father Paul Messam, Assistant Area Dean, in September 2022. He was most complimentary regarding; the management of CCB during the Vacancy, that the congregation's opinions had informed our church profile and the efficiency of the interview day, in which he had played a part. Fr Paul was impressed that we had managed to appoint a new Vicar within just 5 months, it would appear that most churches are in vacancy for over a year.

He thought that, having a new incumbent, our decision to review our MAP and share our new Vision Statement at our Church Weekend Away was wise.

We were commended for the work done by our Children's and Youth Ministers and in particular the development of 'Wild Church' a Fresh Expression for families.

Regarding the Quinquennial Inspection Fr Paul was pleased that work had largely been completed on the curate's house. He encouraged us to progress the required work on the church as soon as practicable, in readiness for our next Quinquennial Inspection in autumn 2023.

Quinquennial Inspection (QI)



Last carried out Autumn 2018

The QI report covers both the main Church Buildings/grounds and 161 Dudley Street. As the halls were new, they were not included in the inspection.

 Required and recommended actions from the inspection are part of BIG's Annual Maintenance Programme and BIG seeks to ensure tasks are carried out, subject to resources, within the recommended time span.

- The remaining work to be completed on the church will be very costly due to major work needed on the church roof and will run into five figures. BIG and RIG have been in discussions. We are in the process of seeking tenders for companies to carry out the work through MDP Architects (our Quinquennial Architects) with whom we have worked on the specification. James Roe is our BIG co-ordinator for QI work. Thank you!

Next QI Inspection: Autumn 2023.

Insurance: Trinitas. BIG/RIG work to ensure that all aspects, within our insurance policy, are in good order.

Policies:

BIG ensures the following polices /inspections are kept up to date:

1. Health and Safety: Our Fire Risk Assessment has been brought up to date.

2. Fire/Emergency Evacuation: where/when necessary, we continue to refine this. The plan is on display around the church and hall site.

- 3. Food Environmental Health use of kitchens.
- 4. Electrical safety and PAT testing
- 5. Lettings Policy

Additional BIG matters:

- Site Manager: Vandon Grimley is in post and BIG works closely with him. Thank you!
- Cleaners: Richard Heathfield and Wendy Pegg ensure the site is kept clean. Thank you!
- Gardens: Various church members assist with caring for the north and west side gardens. Adrian Thompson, a Dudley Street neighbour, continues to care for our east gardens. Our thanks go to all helpers!
- Storage: Laura Turpie is our BIG co-ordinator of all items stored on site, ensuring they are kept in good order and in their agreed spaces. Thank you!
- **PV panels**: These continue to prove to be a source of income.
- Kitchens: Gillian Lindley is our BIG co-ordinator for kitchens and the pantry. She ensures all food spaces are kept clean, orderly and healthy. Thank you!
- Hall Redevelopment: There are still a few snagging jobs to be completed. Steve Ashton continues to give us assistance with this matter. Thank you!
- Noise control for rooms 2 and 3: Reverberations have been significantly reduced, much improving user experience. Martin Hamilton has been working on this. Thank you!



Sustainability: BIG having identified that the Church Buildings' carbon footprint is a tiny fraction of the Church Family carbon footprint, the PCC is now pioneering on sustainability. PCC was in the process of building a benchmark of the PCC carbon footprint to identify first-hand how this can be taken forward as a Church Family as part of our mission. However, this was delayed by the interregnum and has yet to be re-started.

- Cost control: We have saved over £1000 by not replacing a fire detector which our contractors had decided was faulty. It was demonstrated that it was not faulty.
- Helping Hands Days: These always prove to be good fun with many practical tasks being completed both inside and outside the buildings. We look forward to the next one in late Spring. Thanks to everyone who comes!

In conclusion:

We praise God for how our buildings are being used, by so many different groups of people both the local community as well as our church family members. We are grateful to many of the church family who give of their time, energy and skills to help maintain the halls and church site. God willing, we look forward to our buildings being used even more fully. Our prayer is that our buildings continue to be used for the extension of the Lord's kingdom.

Kay Berrington and Andrew Russell, Churchwardens; Rachel Bennett, Chair of Buildings Impact Group

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The Safeguarding team for CCB is comprised of Pauline Carter (PSO), Helen Ryan (Deputy), Pauline Grimley (Office Manager), Vikki Thomas (Vicar's PA and Safeguarding Administrator), Ruth Hulme (Children's minister), AJ Hutchinson-Wade (Interim Youth Minister). We meet and communicate regularly throughout the year to ensure compliance of the church membership for DBS checks, training and to discuss concerns or incidents.



We submit all DBS and identity checks using the 'ebulk at thirtyone:eight' system. which is easy to navigate, and the staff are helpful if there are any queries. The team has worked to ensure that all persons working in recognised roles with both vulnerable adults and

children, have the required DBS checks in place. All PCC members are charity trustees and, because Christ Church runs children's and youth work and sometimes works with adults with care and support needs, all of our trustees are DBS checked.

The training requirements for church posts will vary according to role. People that have taken on a new role within the church since this framework has been implemented will be advised and contacted by someone from the safeguarding team if there are online modules which will need to be completed. These requirements often change with role and so you may need guidance on what level of training is required. This can be viewed on www.churchofengland.org.

We maintain the Church Safeguarding dashboard in order to monitor compliance in all areas of the church. We have now reached Level 3 on the Dashboard Standard, and the role of maintaining this dashboard has recently changed to a shared team responsibility. We send a report to the PCC once a quarter along with a dashboard report to feedback our current status at CCB.



Pauline Carter, Parish Safeguarding Lead

OUTREACH IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Membership: Cheryl Grint [chair], Sarah Walker [secretary] David Thomas, Helen and Andrew Russell, Sue Templeman, Kay Berrington, Judy Miller, Kathy Priddin, Pat Mathias, Margaret Baron, Penny Gilham.

The Outreach Impact Group [OIG] has continued to meet throughout the year. Some of our large events were paused due to developments in church, the appointment of a new vicar and working on a new vision for Christ Church. We remain committed to reaching out to the community and to offer opportunities to come into contact with Christ Church, to explore questions about faith and to build new relationships. We continue to liaise with the Fellowship Impact Group.



Alpha

The Alpha course was attended by more folk than in the past and it was made up of a wide age range. It is heartening to note that church members have, and continue to, connect with the guests.

Grow

Various themes were studied and attended by enthusiastic guests.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Delicious cake and bubbles in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee.

Carols on the Church Lawn

Christmas Eve About 130 people attended the Carols. More than last year! The majority were non CCB folk. Local people brought their family and friends along too!

Cheryl Grint, Chair of Outreach Impact Group



MISSION IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Current membership: Steve Gardner (Chair), Sidney Miller, Gillian Lindley, Mary Shaw, Rosemary Phillips, Paul Templeman & Jon Day.

The Mission Impact Group (MIG) seeks to support Christ Church Mission Partners through the provision of financial resources allocated to it by the PCC. It also seeks to encourage prayer for them and to inform the wider church about mission and charitable work through short monthly mission slot talks or videos, shown at Sunday morning services.

During the summer of 2022 it was wonderful to meet several of our Mission Partners in person again, after two years of Covid disruption. YP & Jude and Hilary, with their respective families, were able to attend Christ Church services and visit some homes to share about their work and mission experiences.

A common thread when listening to all our mission partners is always their passion for serving Christ and the love of the people they meet.

Hilary, based in France, is training with SIM to become a Bible translation consultant who will be able to share the knowledge and skills she learnt when helping translate the Old Testament into the Monkole language in Benin, Africa.

YP & Jude live in Nivelles, Belgium, and work with youth and home churches in the area.

Beth & Jordan are now settled In North Africa, progressing with learning the local language, and building friendships within their community.

John & Jenny live in South Africa. John teaches at the Johannesburg Bible College and we financially contribute to a bursary for students who otherwise can't afford to attend.

We help support the Home of Hope in Malawi, which teaches 700 children, most of whom are orphans and live on site. Plans are in place for a Christ Church adult group visit to recommence in the summer of 2023. In



January the Church hosted a lunch to raise additional funds. This was extremely well supported.

On the home front, we support IMPACT, a Bedford based Christian charity which works in local schools, taking assemblies, organizing lunch clubs and study packs. IMPACT also organizes Christmas and Easter experiences where, over a week, upwards of 500 children in small school groups see dramatisations of the Christmas and Easter stories enacted by volunteers from many Bedford churches. Trish, Hayley and Becky (pictured I to r) work for Impact in Bedfordshire schools.

Steve Gardner, Chair of Mission Impact Group

YOUNG PEOPLE'S IMPACT GROUP REPORT

YPIG Members: Ruth Hulme, Ellie Ryan-Johnson, Martin Sweet, Martin Hamilton, Megan Oliver, Tom Rees. Chair(s) - Rev John Bell (Feb-July), Rev David Thomas (July onwards).

2022 was a strange but exciting year for our young people. Following the restrictions of 2021 we were able to begin to do lots of the in person activities which had suffered in the previous year. YPIG was a sounding board for Ruth and then latterly Ellie for different ideas to help this area of the church grow and develop. A considerable amount of time was spent in the second half of the year trying to figure out how YPIG should continue to support our Children's Worker and Youth Worker. This is an ongoing area.

David Thomas, Chair of Young People's Impact Group

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

This year we have moved our registers and contact information for all of the children's groups onto ChurchSuite which has improved communication and has enabled clearer tracking of data such as number of attendees at each group. We have also been able to put our Morning Out rota onto ChurchSuite , which will enable smoother team communication.

Mid-week groups:

Little Fishes

Little Fishes continues to meet on Wednesday afternoons and is currently run by a team of 3 volunteers. We have had 22 parents sign up to our church suite list between November' 22 - March '23 and have an average 6 attendees each week. Little Fishes parents are informed about christening services and invited to try Daring Disciples and Morning Out. We have seen a number of Little Fishes parents attending Daring Disciples and Morning Out as well. Little Fishes remains a place where new parents can find support from one another and it acts as an outreach opportunity for the church to support the community.

Morning Out

We have been able to run Morning Out every Friday of term time this year. There have been some layout and style changes to the group as a response to the popularity of the group (40+families weekly) and as a

move to keep Morning Out relevant and helpful to those who attend. We have made changes based on feedback from the children. The most positive feedback was that the children are singing the songs at home, they love playing with their friends each week and that they look forward to the variety of toys and activities. They often want to take the craft home, and it is our intention that the craft will remind them of the Christian theme of that week. We have been working through different themes about Jesus' stories, and will be moving onto a new session resource - Dot to Tot, a book which includes 39 weeks' worth of story time plans, which explore a biblical story and truth in an appropriately short and fun format. During summer we ran a session in Russell Park called Morning Outdoors and 12 families attended for songs and outdoor activities. We



will be running another Morning Outdoors after Easter and hope this will become a regular part of morning out in the future. The morning out team has been incredibly dedicated and reliable as we have a small group of committed helpers, we hope to welcome new volunteers to the coffee, set up and pack down team , so as to make for a more sustainable future.

Forge

Our register for Forge has grown in the last year. We currently have 22 children registered for the group and have a regular attendance of 14 /15 each week. During our Forge sessions we have been able to have many open discussions about good and evil, the story of Noah's ark, Jesus' teaching love your enemy through reflecting together on films that we have watched. The group was originally based around board

games, but since having feedback from the children, we have included various ideas. After a vote taken in the session before Easter, cooking, craft and outdoor activities were all rated highly as activities that the children want to do more of in the summer term. In responding to the child-led structure, we hope that they will continue to enjoy it and tell their friends about it. The children decorated the survey! See photo.



Sundays:

Wild Church

We are pursuing Wild Church as a fresh expression for those who want to worship in an interactive outdoors environment. We continue to work with Rev Catherine Wilson and Bromham Benefice to run a monthly gathering and looking ahead continue to encourage families from Forge, holiday club and the extended family of church members to come for an informal chance to meet with God. Our numbers have ranged dramatically from 3 families to 10 families and are often reflective of weather conditions!

Daring Disciples and Passports



On Sunday mornings this year we have followed through the Diddy Disciples year plan in collective worship style with families with children ranging from babies -7 year olds. The older children in the group have had the opportunity to lead the prayer and confession songs and be helpers to the younger children. Our busiest week in Daring Disciples had 22 children and each week we are regularly welcoming visitors and new families into Daring Disciples. In the Passports group (ages 7-11) we have been using Energize by Urban Saints to explore the nature of God, Jesus' life and the stories of Old Testament characters. Looking ahead, we

hope to experience more experiential worship together in our Sunday sessions and we hope to continue to inspire children to dig deeper into the Bible and all the wisdom it has for us.

Other Events:

Over the past year we have had some particularly special moments to note. Firstly, our summer holiday

club was a jam-packed week of fun, and of great conversations with children about the ups and downs of Joseph's life in Egypt. We found it especially encouraging to see many children (our busiest day had 37 children) asking questions and sharing their knowledge of where God works in our day to day lives. This coming summer we will be embarking on another holiday club with a difference - Jungle Adventure will include elements of the outdoors as the holiday club theme is God's fingerprints in our world. Another highlight of the year was partnering with IMPACT to



run *Experience Christmas*. For this, we invited Castle Newnham Year 1 classes to the church to hear about Christianity at Christmas and share how and why Christians observe Advent. Further to this, we have also

worked with IMPACT to run a values club at Castle Newnham School. We have re-built connections with teachers and children in the community through this after the COVID interruption. In the next year we hope for more opportunities to team up with IMPACT to do more assemblies and clubs.

Ruth Hulme, Children's Minister

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

In August 2022, Ellie Ryan-Johnson was appointed as Part Time Trainee Youth Minister at Christ Church, but sadly she decided to explore other employment opportunities and stepped down from this role in January 2023. In February, AJ was appointed as Interim Youth Minister.

During her time as Trainee Youth Minister, Ellie renewed strong links with Three Rivers Church and Hope Bedford Youth. She also, helped foster a real sense of community between the young people at Christ Church and Three Rivers



AJ took over running the youth work here at Christ Church in the past couple of months, and the youth have continued to have loads of fun. One of the biggest highlights was the Church Weekend Away, where we had a group of 7 young people join us as we looked at Ephesians 4:1-32 and what it means to be transformed by God and what it means to follow Christ.

J Team continues for the young people who come to church on Sunday mornings; as does Friday Night Youth with a slight change. We have introduced a 'God slot' where we create opportunities for young people to talk about God and faith. We are currently running a youth Alpha course and have seen young people engage with it.

Thank you for all your prayers for the Youth Ministry here at CCB; please continue praying for more volunteers to join us to help and lead sessions.

AJ Hutchinson-Wade Interim Youth Minister



18-30s MINISTRY REPORT

The 18-30s ministry at Christ Church has been ongoing for many years now, with various different leaders volunteering to head up the group. It has always been a challenge though to keep the momentum going with the organisation of activities and building of relationships with people in this group. I was excited to recently be appointed into the role of 18-30s Pioneer at Christ Church, and amlooking forward to dedicating my time to growing this ministry within Christ Church. I was very encouraged to see 15 attend our last Sunday lunch social, the first of this size for a

while, and am hoping to see this number grow over the coming months. I am in the process of planning regular socials for the coming months and am looking at ways in which we can help and support each other

in our spiritual growth as a group. If you are interested in finding our more, then please contact me for further information.



Laura Jewell 18-30s Pioneer

WORSHIP IMPACT GROUP

Thank you to all of the singers and musicians who have been part of our worship teams this year and have



helped to enable all of us to worship together. We continue to seek to be a team "who know ourselves to be God's beloved and, from the foundation of our relationship with God and each other, seek to worship in spirit in truth and be equipped to love and serve our congregation through sung worship". Thank you to those who have continued to serve and to those who have joined the team for the first time. Our carol service this year was led by Ben Atkins; thank you to him and to all those who contributed to bringing the service together.

Some of our musicians at the Church Weekend Away

Many thanks go to the PA team who have served the Church during the last year, Simon Platt, Vandon Grimley, William Eves and Ian Cooper. This year has held new challenges for the PA team and in particular the challenge to balance the conflicting requirements of a sound mix for the Church whilst also trying to provide a different one for the live steam continues. The current sound desk will be decommissioned shortly and will be replaced with a sound desk that will enable us to overcome some of the issues of creating a good sound balance for both uses. The new mixer along with some other enhancements will enable us to improve the sound available for everyone wherever they may be worshipping and should serve us well for another 15 years. We are also making some other changes to the Worship Area foldback which are only possible with a digital desk where some of the members of the band will be able to control their own sound mixes for the foldback. These will also be available in earpieces removing the need for some of the speakers in the worship area which will improve the visibility of the Worship Group to the congregation and on the live stream as well as being greener by reducing power consumption. The final change to the system is the re-introduction of a subwoofer so as to give a better sound at the bass end of the register, this will restore the sound in Church to the way it was before our previous subwoofers were stolen in 2019. Changes to the cabling around the Church will enable us to tidy up and hide the cabling installed at short notice to make the streaming cameras work.

Final thanks go to the AV and livestream teams whose work is so crucial in enabling us all to participate in corporate worship.

Current members of WIG are Ruth Rawes, Matt Jewell, Dominic Carter, David Currie, Simon Platt.

Carolyn Barnes, Chair Worship Impact Group

COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Current members: -

Sue Templeman, Paul Templeman, Hannah Hibbert, Rachel Day, AJ Wade and Simon Berrington (Chair)

A big thank you to: -

- Paul Templeman for his continued great support to the church in running our website and tirelessly seeking ways to improve and add to its use and content.
- Hannah Hibbert for editing the Life magazine, our Bi-monthly church magazine. Under Hannah's editorship the magazine has gone from strength to strength being both creative and well designed.
- Benjamin Hulme and AJ for their efforts to develop our use of social media within the Church.



- All those who are involved in creating any form of communications within the Church. Your use of the standard colours and fonts ensures we have a consistency to our communications.

A new communications guide was created in 2022 and will be distributed during 2023.

Simon Berrington, Chair of Communications Impact Group

FELLOWSHIP IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Members - Rachel Bennett (Acting Chair), Hannah Hibbert (Secretary), Susan Fearon, Jill Leggat, Nesta Major, June Pedzeni, Wendy Pegg, Kirsty Pirrie.

We have been pleased to be able to welcome people back to inperson events this year and to a more 'normal' year after the lockdowns. Two highlights of the year have been The Big Quiz Night in November and our Winter Fun afternoon in January 2023. The Quiz, which was well attended, was in aid of Tearfund and it raised close to £600!!! To try to overcome the winter blues we organised a Winter Fun afternoon, with activities including Skiing, Bouncy Castle, Knock the Head off, Table Tennis and plenty of hot chocolate! It was



good to see a lot of people there, and to welcome families who have attended other groups which run in the halls. I think we can say we certainly had some fun!

We continue to run the



Wow, what an evening. The team in 1st place for 7/8 rounds got pipped at the post. Wowsers! Congratulations to the Tennis Tornadoes who won, and commiserations to 5+1 who came so close. #BigQuizNight

22:14 - 19/11/2022 from Bedford, England 3 Likes 1 Retweet Q t1 © Q ± Tearfund © @Tearfund - 19/11/2022 ----Ocooch so close but so far eh1 Thank you so much to all of you for participating! © d O t1 © jul ±

Sunday walks, with good regular attendance. We supported Ruth Hulme with the It's a Boy production in December by serving refreshments. Also, we have liaised with OIG and supported each other's events throughout the year. We are pleased to welcome June as a new member of the Fellowship Impact Group. If anyone else would like to come along to a meeting to give it a try, you would be welcome. We are always open to hearing new ideas of events we could host/run here at Christ Church, Bedford. Furthermore, if you would like to

become the new Chairperson for the Fellowship Impact Group, you would be very, very welcome! (Not that we want Rachel to go, but she has been kindly filling in for quite a while).

Looking ahead we hope to be able to organise the Beach Trip again this year after the covid break. Of course, the Big Quiz will be in November and keep reading the notices for our next exciting event!



Hannah Hibbert, (Secretary of Fellowship Impact Group)

RESOURCING IMPACT GROUP REPORT

Members: Ian Brown, Ewan McAdam Keith Priddin, Chris Stevens, David Thomas and Richard Lindley

RIG's remit is to consider how to resource the work of the church. The work covers the finances of the church, but RIG also seeks to ensure best value for contracts with suppliers, and other areas where resources can be better used. RIG also seeks to encourage the members of the Church to think about giving (time, talents and treasure), and to be responsible stewards of all that God has given us, both as individuals and corporately.

Chris Stevens has acted as Treasurer for the whole of 2022. The role continues to be extremely demanding, and takes many hours each week to complete. The church should be under no illusion as to how much work this entails.

Some of RIG's roles are routine, but nonetheless very important tasks, examples being reviewing accounts and setting budgets but also ensuring that we minimise costs of regular ongoing activities eg utilities, insurance, and the photocopier. We have other ideas to access the congregation's resources, which we will be rolling out in 2023. Additionally we have been reviewing the merits of the curate's house at 161 Dudley Street.

Above all we want to support the Church in using our resources for God's glory.

Richard Lindley, Chair Resourcing Impact Group

CHRIST CHURCH HALLS REPORT

Commercial and Charitable Organisations using the Halls:

It was encouraging at the start of 2022 to see bookings for the halls start to pick up again after the disruption of the two previous years.

Most of the groups who met regularly in the halls prior to the pandemic returned. Over the year a further three new regular hirers joined us. The range of groups and organisations who use the rooms is very diverse.





Those who hire on a regular basis include Preschool, Brownies, a children's theatre group, a tuition provider, family contact centre, Pilates, a community choir, 2 counselling services, juggling club, a self-help support group and a boxing training company.

As well as the regular hall users there are many companies, groups and organisations who hire the rooms on an irregular basis or for a one off event. During 2022 several people used the downstairs halls for dance practice, rehearsals or for concerts and even tennis coaching. Rooms were hired for meetings, workshops or for training events in things like CPR, first aid etc.

Several times during the year a local jazz trio held rehearsals in the church, much to the delight of those who have been on site at the same time.

The halls were the venue for 34 party bookings in 2022, mainly for children's birthdays.

It is good to know that the halls are so well used and appreciated. Here is a quote from one of the regular groups: "Thank you again for such a lovely hall hire"

Dawn Hire, Centre Bookings Administrator



FOODBANK REPORT

Christ Church Food Bank distribution continues to operate every Tuesday afternoon – open to clients from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Sadly, the number of clients have continued to increase steadily since January 2023 – the largest number of both children and adults who were helped in 1, 2 hour session, was 73. We are seeing many new users, large families, from all walks of life.

Everyone is eternally grateful for all the monetary, and practical donations- from both church members,

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and loyal friends. Without these gifts, the parcels clients receive, would be much more basic, but nevertheless very much appreciated by all.

The exciting news since 2022 report, is that we now have 17 volunteers, who keep the CC distribution ticking over. Generally there are 8 volunteers 'on duty' every Tuesday. The work includes driving the van, heavy lifting and handling many goods, so we all have to be very aware of our physical limitations!!

The biggest change is that a member of the Citizens Advice Bureau [not a volunteer], attends FB sessions. This means we can refer clients to him/her, not only for advice re vouchers, but the clients' can discuss other needs too – in a private and confidential manner.

We have also been able to provide refreshments again, and one of our new volunteers says: 'what a pleasure it is to serve clients a hot drink and biscuit – it helps to make them feel valued'.

Facts:

January – December 2022 – 2,054 individuals 'fed' at Christ Church {In 2021 CC fed 1,398) Donations from Christ Church – 1,743.08 kgs. Distributions by Christ Church – 185,538.9 kgs. Almost 20,000 people were fed via all the Bedford Foodbank Distribution centres in 2022.

Another new volunteer 'I now really feel part of the team.....each individual client or family is given time on their own. For me, being a FB volunteer is a small way I can put my faith into practice..........'

Penny Cooper, Christ Church Foodbank Co-ordinator

PROJECT SUNFLOWER REPORT

Project Sunflower was set up in April 2022 as a response to four households in the congregation offering to host families and individuals from Ukraine. It was recognised that they would need more than just a roof over their heads and the hosts may need support as well. So a group was set up to oversee Project Sunflower and to decide how best we could support both those who came and their hosts.

One way support was offered was in providing meals and/or cakes to the hosts and their guests. A rota was set up to provide something to each household that requested it on a weekly basis. These meals and/or cakes were provided by a group of volunteers including some volunteers who provided transport.



Donations were also received totalling $\pm 3,105.25$ to support the 9 adults and children who were hosted by these members of the congregation. This was

used in a variety of ways and included welcome bags for everyone from Ukraine. These included many items that we expected they had not been able to bring with them, including toiletries, towels and linen, UK plug adapters, sunglasses and umbrellas including some specific items like books and footballs for the children.

Much of the money was spent on an as needed basis, and the needs of the guests varied from family to family. We also tried to support those areas where such support from other bodies was missing. Support was provided in terms of:

- clothing, including school uniform
- summer activities for the children
- household items
- technology to provide access to online UK government forms and for keeping in touch with people still in Ukraine
- as well as support for moving into their own rented accommodation when the time came.

Our Ukrainian guests were very appreciative of the financial, practical, personal moral and spiritual help provided for them by the church and local community and most have now moved on from their initial hosts.

Keith and Kathy Priddin

HOME GROUPS REPORT



Currently we have 15 Home Groups who meet weekly at various venues, mainly in members' homes or in church. We have a total of 170 members attending which is a very good percentage of our congregation.

Like all other groups there has been an impact because of the pandemic but most groups still managed to meet over Zoom and latterly have recommenced meeting in person. Each group will decide what form the study is going to

take, whether it is studying the sermon series or another form of study of their choosing.

Belonging to a Home Group not only enables members to study the bible but also to meet pastoral needs, praying for each other, socialising and of course there is always coffee/tea and cake!

If you would like to join a Home Group, please do contact me, Pauline Barber (Home Group Co Ordinator) <u>homegroups@ccbedford.org</u>. Any new members would be welcome to go along to a taster session first. Details are on our web site of the groups, leaders (some of whom are pictured above) and where and when they currently meet.

Isaiah 54 v 2: Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.

Pauline Barber Home Group Co-ordinator

PRAYER MINISTRY REPORT

Prayer is of course a central part of our life, whether on our own, in services, in the weekly Zoom and live prayer meetings as well as in prayer ministry for individuals. With the departure of John and Rebecca Bell the prayer ministry team shrank but new members blessed us by joining the team during the Church Weekend Away so we can be there with those who come for prayer as we seek the Lord's presence together, in both talking and listening to Him, about problems, needs, questions or thanks - whatever they come with. One recent recipient of prayer commented 'It's such an unsung and essential part of all we do.'



In addition <u>prayer@ccbedford.org</u> was introduced during Covid, where prayer requests are received from church family members and sent to a small group of people including the prayer ministry team, who continue to be committed to praying for all the needs presented, knowing that our Lord always answers our prayers in the way that He knows is right for those involved.

Judy Miller

LADIES' MINISTRY REPORT

Ladies' Ministry has consisted of Ladies Elevenses Time (LETs): fun, friendship, good food, plus a time of reflection have all been part of the Ladies Elevenses time in the past year.



Meeting at 10.30am on the first Saturday of every month about 50/60 ladies have met in the church hall to enjoy refreshments and chat together, followed by an inspiring talk from a variety of speakers. These have included Maryam Aduma, a senior pastor from Hope Ministries and Dr Emma Peacock, a clinical psychologist. It was also a delight to have Vikki Thomas and her mother-inlaw sharing what it means to be 'Walking together with Jesus'. We have been blessed too, with some of the Christ Church ladies who have shared their own testimonies and, at Christmas, by a group who performed a Christmas drama. We generally finish the morning with a short time of prayer and song.

In January we started the year with a joint 'Come Together' with the Men's Breakfast Group, including bacon butties(!) and a talk by Rev Tim and Julie Robb. What a blessed time it was! In all about 90 people attended the event. We hope to run this again in the not too distant future.

Thank you to all who help make our monthly gatherings such a blessing in the kitchen, setting up/down and on Welcome as well as our many speakers. All contribute to making our LETs such special times.

Planning Team: Sandra Gardner, Lesley Greenslade, Julia Lawrence, Sue Templeman, Rachel Bennett

Lesley Greenslade on behalf of the Ladies Ministry Team

MEN'S MINISTRIES REPORT

Men's breakfast runs each month from 9:00 to 10:30am, normally on the fourth Saturday of the month. The pattern for the morning is to have breakfast and chat up to approximately 10:00am and Men's then break away for a discussion about a topic relevant to men in Christ Church.

We meet at Christ Church and have tea/coffee, orange juice, cereal, croissant, toast and jam/marmalade and an egg and/or bacon bap (veggie option available on request). A new option will be available from the May meeting onwards of sausage butties.

A new joint meeting with Ladies Elevenses had



its first meeting in mid-January 2023 with another planned for 1st July. Tim and Julie Robb (Tim a previous curate at Christ Church) kindly agreed to come and speak at our January meeting. This was well attended and enjoyed by all and yes bacon butties were still available.

Men's breakfast is a valuable time to build up friendships and develop support networks.

Men's socials have been organised in the past with visits to the rugby, pub nights and also a curry night. Suggestions for new social evenings are always welcome as are topics to include in the discussion section of the breakfast.

We would love to see more men join this group. Please come along. See John Betteley for further information.

John Betteley



WALKING GROUP REPORT

The church walking group meets up twice a month (first and third Sunday) and have been walking round the embankment area starting at 2:30pm from the hub. We spilt into two main groups for an approximate one hour walk:-

- Striders for those wishing to have a good walk at a reasonable pace
- Strollers for those who enjoy a gentler stroll.

We then meet back at the hub at Christ Church for tea/coffee and cake. Going forward, now that the weather will hopefully be getting warmer and drier, we will be walking further afield around the Bedford area and meeting back at someone's

house for tea and cake. We recently walked to Clapham Woods to see the bluebells and returned for tea and cake at Sue Bradley's house. We will soon be going to Mowsbury Park and Putnoe Woods and returning to John and Fiona Betteleys' home for tea and cake. We do share lifts to the venue for those without transport. It is a great opportunity to meet and get to know other people within the church and is valued by those that attend. Not only is it good for our physical health with the exercise, but is also beneficial for our mental wellbeing as it enables us to get out and chat with others and to get to know people better. If you have not tried it yet I would strongly encourage you to join us next time.

John and Fiona Betteley

RAPID RESPONSE FREEZER REPORT

The rapid response freezer is intended to provide a meal for a friend or neighbour, whether a church member or not, who is in need of a meal to help in a situation. Such situations include, but are not limited to, moving house, a new baby and sickness of the person, their carer, or relative involved in visiting. The meals are on the bottom 3 shelves of the freezer in the kitchen, labelled with cooking instructions, and can be accessed by anyone wishing to provide one as a sign of our love and care for the recipient. Special diets are catered for. There is a folder to the right of the freezer which is filled in when meals are put in the freezer and should be completed when a meal is removed. If you aren't sure what to do ask Fiona Betteley to show you. We have a wonderful small group of cooks who provide the meals, and if you feel you could contribute in this way we would love to have you join us. Again contact Fiona about this.

Fiona Betteley

LUNCH CLUB REPORT

Christ Church Lunch Club began in April 1977 and continues to have a well-deserved reputation for a great meal, good company and a short Christian talk on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

Since resuming after COVID we have asked people to book for their meals in advance and, to make things easier for the cooks, have limited the maximum number to 36 guests, excluding helpers and staff, except for Christmas when we spread to room 2 and cooked for 80. Afterwards the Vicar accompanied carol singing on his guitar.



Last year Lunch Club was able to use some of its 'profit' to purchase more microwavable freezer containers for the Rapid Response Freezer meals alongside some new equipment for the church kitchen.

We are very grateful for the team of some 20 cooks and helpers who serve on a rota to make sure that everyone is fed, to those who help with table laying, to those who keep us in order (gavellers) and who speak and to Christ Church Pre-School and the Foodbank for accommodating us on a Tuesday lunchtime.

Penny Gilham

	20	
	Carbo	n Damage Mitigation Certificate
neno macadamia trust	Building food security through trees that sequester CO ₂	
MALAWI	Awarded to:	Go For Gold
	For:	1.20 tonnes CO ₂ sequestered by 60 macadamia trees
	From:	Highland Macadamia Cooperative Union Limited, Malawi
Carbon Sequestration	Project:	YR2P
Income Generation	Signed:	BJ
Sustainability		Andrew Emmott, Chair - Neno Macadamia Trust
	CO ₂ is sequestered over the last 12 months of tree growth by healthy macadamia trees planted and maintained by smallholder farmers. Trees are surveyed annually by NMT and HIMACUL.	
Climate Smart Macadamia Acroforostry	CDMC number.	NMT-CDMC-MW-YR2P-2302211231-4810659218426-MAC-STD-P
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Date issued.	16 ^m March 2023
www.nenomacadamiatrust.org/carbon		Registered charity number 1184896

GO4GOLD REPORT

Go4Gold now takes place every week. Two Fridays per month are socials when we gather in The Hub for drinks, cake and chat from 2.00 to 3.15. The first Friday of the month is Film Club, held in the main hall when we watch Christian films. On the third Friday each month we have different speakers. At Christmas we enjoyed singing carols and having a quiz. In April we will have a Beetle Drive and in June we'll be having afternoon tea in a lovely garden in Biddenham.

Numbers are increasing which is very encouraging. We like to ask guests for their thoughts on what they would like to do at these

events.

We praise God for our weekly gatherings and for the good mix of people who attend. We welcome all who are free on Friday afternoons and who enjoy the company of others.

Planning Team members: Susan Fearon, Pat Mathias, June Pedzeni, Rachel Bennett

Rachel Bennett

HOLIDAY AT HOME REPORT

For the third year running, planning H@H2022 proved tricky, because many attractions were either closed or taking only small parties because of nervousness following the Great Plague. But things began to relax and in the end over 50 Guests were able to enjoy our usual two In-house days and the Outing. Unfortunately, the hotel providing the Outing lunch let us down at the last moment due to staff shortages, but after frantic searching a pub in Girton did us proud instead! God is good!

Our Outing was to Cambridge's Fitzwilliam Museum, where many wanted to stay longer. Lunch was marked with an impromptu birthday celebration for one of our members, before visiting a nearby Garden Centre. Thankfully we were mostly under cover – it was roasting hot that day!

At home there were presentations about the RNLI and about Newfoundland Rescue Dogs (one huge soppy hound was very popular). We had Games to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and crafting activities. We were serenaded by singers, including the famous 2Gs (Nigel Greenslade and Stephen Grint). And, of course, wonderful Lunches were lovingly prepared by our in-house chefs and their teams!

We subsequently received many letters, emails and comments of appreciation for H@H2022 – despite all the obstacles the Committee had encountered on the way!



John Braithwaite (former Chair of the Holiday at Home Committee)

COACH HOLIDAY REPORT

2022 saw a wonderful CCB holiday, in Eastbourne, staying at The Burlington Hotel. Once again Gold Hill Travel was our coach company and as ever, we cruised along beautifully on all the journeys we took, including Battle Abbey!



Of course, a boat trip, steam train journey and a visit to Beachy Head for a Mr Whippy ice cream just had to be done!

Wandering round Brighton Royal Pavilion Palace was stunning and the ancient kitchen got our tastes buds going with the awesome methods of cooking for the posh guests, us!!

These holidays are such a blessing and we thank God we are able to run them. Our next one is to Norfolk, staying in Great Yarmouth 3rd-7th July.

Rachel Bennett

CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY REPORT

The 2023 Church Weekend Away took place in March at King's Park Centre, Northampton. 140 members of Christ Church stayed for the whole weekend and 14 visited for a day. It was a busy weekend with a whole range of things to do but more importantly it was an opportunity to draw close to God, to one another and learn more of the Vision for Christ Church. The organising group were really grateful to the many people who encouraged, prayed, supported and worked hard both before and during the weekend to help make it a brilliant Church Weekend Away for us all.





We are a people being transformed by the unconditional love of God; seeking to bless our community, and longing for others to experience the hope we have in Jesus.

There was a mix of formal sessions and times to relax, opportunities to learn new things or just to sit and chat. A time to enjoy not having to cook, wash up, tidy up or clean.

The main adult sessions were led by David Thomas explaining the thinking behind the new Christ Church vision statement and what it might mean for us going forward. There were opportunities for prayer ministry and quiet reflection, with two rooms, set aside for prayer and there were special sessions for the children and young people. A range of activities including roller skating were available on the Saturday afternoon and the evening saw the Christ Church talent show. Just before Sunday lunch there was an opportunity to see people's competitive side with *It's a Knockout.*

Some comments from attendees:

- We came away feeling better connected to our church family and with a renewed sense of the importance of meeting together with others who love, believe and trust in Jesus.
- Coffee breaks and meal times proved a good opportunity to chat and to share histories with those we found ourselves alongside, whilst those conversations and the formal sessions introduced us to the Christ Church community of established believers that is currently exploring a new vision.
- It was so good to all be together, such a wide age range, such a lot of people, all part of the family of God at Christ Church, each one valued, each one loved. It was delightful to have children of all ages present, uninhibited, trusting, enthusiastic.
- I was able to slow down, step back and freshly engage with God, through prayer, worship and conversation.
- It had the perfect mix of fun, chilled time, worship, prayer and getting to know the rest of the church family.
- It was very valuable to spend time together in worship and to reflect on how we can adopt and apply the new Christ Church vision



Pauline Grimley

SUSTAINABILITY AND SHRINKING THE FOOTPRINT

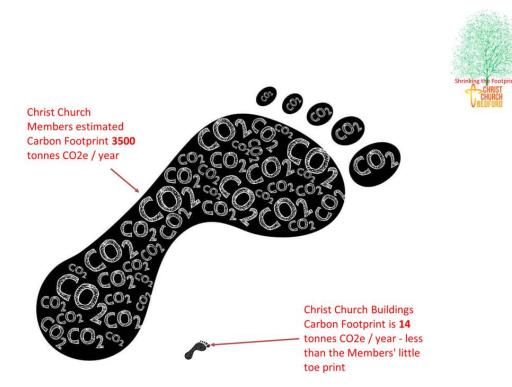
The background to this report is that the Sustainability group was disbanded in 2022 because of the following:

- The Sustainability group had recommended, and the PCC had agreed, ongoing Carbon Damage Mitigation for damage from church buildings emissions from 2021. They chose to use the excellent Neno Macademia Trust scheme which not only offsets the damage we are doing but promotes sustainable agriculture and food security amongst many other benefits in Malawi.
- 2. It had demonstrated that the Church Family Carbon Footprint dwarfs the Church Buildings Carbon Footprint (see image below).
- *3.* Since reducing the Church Family Carbon Footprint has very significant implications for all our lifestyles it is a theological and not a technical matter.
- 4. Therefore it was the Church leadership and PCC that needed to consider creatively how it would drive this urgent issue forward.

The PCC agreed in late 2021 to go forward with the first stage of what was hoped would be a pioneering project to find the tools and ambition to address our Church Family Carbon Footprint as part of our ongoing Mission engagement. The first stage was to estimate the combined carbon footprint of all PCC members and their households for 2021. The learning expected from that would be by individuals and the group and would cover not only the quantitative issues (the size of the footprint, which are the biggest sector contributors and where the group can make most difference moving forward) but also the psychological issues including where the barriers to engagement are and what it's like to think about it as a group and not just as individuals. It was hoped it would provide a benchmark for the future and help PCC to decide how they can move the whole thing forward as an integral part of our Mission and MAP.

However, owing partly to the departure of Richard Hibbert and the vacancy, there wasn't sufficient agreement within PCC that 2022 was the right time to carry on with this.

So there is currently a hiatus in activity, but the elephant is still in the room and expected to become more and more damaging with our current trajectory.



Martin Hamilton