

**Houghton Regis Community Church**  
**AGM 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021**  
**Summary of the year - April 2020-March 2021**

This financial year will be remembered by most for the impact the coronavirus pandemic had on our world.

Our most recent in-person meeting had occurred in March 2020 and so by April 2020 we had moved to online Zoom meetings for our Sunday Gatherings, Midweek Small Groups, Prayer Meetings and leaders Meetings. As the pandemic evolved we realised this change was not likely to be short term – and it turned out we didn't meet in person for a church meeting for the whole of the April 2020 – March 2021 year.

The other main impact of the coronavirus restrictions came on our work at Jewels. Over the year Jewels has opened when able, in line with government guidance and regulations, understandably at reduced opening hours given our reliance on volunteer staffing to open and the widespread impact everyone was having on their lives. Our prayer tree enabled visitors to write a simple prayer or concern and pin it to the season of their choice – with members of the Jewels team, and wider church being able to pray for these concerns.

We were blessed to be able to be a blessing to the community by using Jewels as a base from which to provide Food Bags to those in need. Generosity from within the church and from the wider community ensured a regular flow of donations and our enthusiastic volunteers ensured those in need could not only come to collect food bags but also facilitated home deliveries. This continued to grow our excellent relationship with the town council and Morrisons.

Our links with the council also saw Jewels become a collection point for the Town's 'Family Fun Activity Packs' during the summer holidays.

With the country being told to "Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save lives" we enjoyed some virtual social events to keep the church connected and boost moral – including some challenging, and enjoyable, quiz afternoons/evenings. We joined in with the millions of people creating rainbows as a show of solidarity with front line workers – and paused small group meetings to join in the 8pm Thursday #clapforheroes.

Regular prayer meetings took place over the year to pray and unite – including joint prayer meetings with the wider River Network Churches. Our planned River Network Weekend for April 2020 had been cancelled, and initial considerations to move it to 2021 were changed in favour of 2022 and more time for the world to recover from the impact of the pandemic.

Teaching in our Sunday Gatherings focused on a chapter by chapter study of Acts – each week David posted a video explain the chapter, this included discussion questions that were used in small groups or for individual consideration. On the Sunday Zoom meetings, we looked more closely at one particular part of the chapter with various people taking turns to lead.

We found the Sunday Gatherings on Zoom were challenging for the young people to fully engage with, so a separate bi-weekly Monday Night Kids Zoom was introduced which helped them keep in touch with one another and explore biblical themes and teachings through interactive activities and songs.

Due to the restrictions our regular Christmas Celebration also became an online event. 'Wise Men Seek Him Still' went out live on YouTube and Facebook as well as our Zoom Gathering.

In December we also offered 'Need a Listening Ear?' drop in sessions at Jewels for people to seek support during the mounting challenges.

In January 2021 we started a new teaching series on the gifts of the Spirit and also introduced a new approach to our teaching delivery; with a pre-recorded message going out mid-week for people to watch and explore (often together in small group) followed by facilitated discussions on the topic at the Sunday Gatherings.

Also during early 2021 we agreed to participate in an exciting PhD research project looking at church leadership – the lead researcher has since been observing and participating in our church gatherings and also having one:one interviews with consenting members of the church.

As March 2021 drew to a close the UK was on a roadmap to 'reopening' but there was no clear guidance on when we would be likely to be able to meet again in person without significant restrictions.

# HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Accounts for the Year to 5 April 2021

### 1. Receipts & Payments Account (General Purpose Fund)

| Income Receipts                                  | 2021            | 2020            |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Covenants and Donations                          |                 |                 |
| Covenanted Giving                                | £ 13,126        | £ 11,484        |
| General Offerings                                | £ -             | £ 1,811         |
| Gift Aid   | £ 3,804         | £ 11,789        |
| Sundry Donations                                 | £ -             | £ -             |
| Other Receipts                                   |                 |                 |
| Jewels income                                    | £ 13,358        | £ 9,324         |
| River Network Weekend                            | £ -             | £ 1,450         |
| Grants   | £ -             | £ -             |
| Bank Interest                                    | £ 8             | £ 4             |
|  | <b>£ 30,296</b> | <b>£ 35,863</b> |
| Direct Charitable Expenditure                    |                 |                 |
| Specific Gifts                                   | £ 1,335         | £ 400           |
| Worship Services                                 | £ 259           | £ 176           |
| Childrens and Youth Work                         | £ -             | £ -             |
| Rent of Bedford Square                           | £ 12,924        | £ 16,719        |
| Rent of School                                   | £ 2,400         | £ 4,400         |
| Church Equipment                                 | £ -             | £ 502           |
| Sundry Expenses                                  | £ 72            | £ 72            |
|  | £ 16,990        |                 |
| Other Expenditure                                |                 |                 |
| Office Stationery and equipment                  | £ -             | £ 60            |
| General Insurances                               | £ 309           | £ 307           |
| Resources and Conferences                        | £ -             | £ -             |
| Advertising                                      | £ -             | £ 20            |
| Church Administration                            | £ 720           | £ 693           |
| Evangelism                                       | £ 1,702         | £ 1,017         |
| River Network                                    | £ 300           | £ 300           |
| Evangelical Alliance                             | £ 90            | £ 90            |
| Thirtyone:eight (CCPAS)                          | £ 129           | £ 120           |
| River Network Weekend                            | £ 400           | £ -             |
| Total Gas & Power                                | £ 872           | £ 971           |
| Jewels Net Costs                                 |                 | £ 507           |
|  | £ 4,522         |                 |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                            | <b>£ 21,512</b> | <b>£ 26,354</b> |
| <b>Net receipts for the Year</b>                 | <b>£ 8,784</b>  | <b>£ 9,509</b>  |
| Cash and Bank Balances as at 5 April 2020        | £ 14,400        | £ 4,891         |
| <b>Cash and Bank Balances as at 5 April 2021</b> | <b>£ 23,184</b> | <b>£ 14,400</b> |

# HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

## 2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 5 April 2020

|  |  | 2021            | 2020            |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Monetary Assets</b>                   |  |                 |                 |
| Bank and Cash                            |  |                 |                 |
| Balances:                                | Bank Current Account - HRCC                | £ 8,172         | £ 8,954         |
|  | Deposit Account - HRCC                     | £ 15,012        | £ 5,004         |
|  | Bank Current Account - Jewels Co-Operative | £ -             | £ 442           |
| <hr/>                                    |  |                 |                 |
| Total for General Purpose Fund, as above |  | <b>£ 23,184</b> | <b>£ 14,400</b> |

## Non-Monetary Assets

**Permanent Endowment:** None

## Other Assets

|                      |  |       |         |
|----------------------|--|-------|---------|
| <b>(non-endowed)</b> | - Held for functional use by the Charity |       | £       |
|                      | Office Equipment                         | value | £ 150   |
|                      | PA Equipment                             | value | £ 3,000 |
|                      | Worship Equipment                        | value | £ 100   |
|                      | Church Equipment (computers etc)         | value | £ 500   |

## Jewels

Jewels is our space in Bedford Square that acts as both the official church office and also functions as our point of contact with the local community. The shop is officially run as a fund-raising venture of the church and transfers surplus funds to HRCC to cover the costs of the space - "Jewels Income". The receipts and payments for the Jewels shop do not form part of these accounts.



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Houghton Regis Community Church

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

5 April 2021

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1050853

**Set out on pages**

1 to 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05 / 04 / 2020.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

**Signed:**

*John C. Magee*

**Date:**

11-07-2021

**Name:**

John Magee

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

**Address:**

24 The Heath

Leighton Buzzard

Beds LU7 3HL