

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Chairmans report

Summary of the year – April 2021-March 2022 Houghton Regis Community Church

This year has seen significant change for the church/charity including serious consideration of whether we would continue to exist.

April 2021 began with our Easter celebrations, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, being conducted over zoom as covid restrictions continued to impact the practicalities of physical meetings. We also utilised zoom for a joint celebration with the River Network churches.

Our teaching series was continuing on Gifts of the Spirit with different church members leading and sharing– this continued through until July.

In May the first major change occurred with David announcing his stepping down from being an Elder (and latterly from his role as trustee). This led to an expansion of the church leadership team to support Peter and Ruth in their roles as Elders. In June, HRCC was represented by Rachel Wilson at the Bible Society Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast followed by zoom with Andrew Selous. In July, at the AGM, Marylyn became a trustee to take over from David.

Our Sunday gatherings continued on Zoom until the end of July when we began to meet in person again. Our first Sunday gathering was on 25th July back at Tithe Farm Primary School, we then met at Houghton Hall Park or Jewels (weather dependent) over the summer holidays. We used a different parable from Jesus each week as a focus for our time together.

During the summer the Nolans announced their plans to move on from HRCC and prompted the leadership team and church to seek God's guidance on the correct way forward for the church.

September 2021 marked 10years of HRCC and it was agreed to mark that achievement with a celebration gathering at Tithe Farm School on 5th September – this turned out to be our final meeting at the school. HRCC took a three week 'break' as we responded to what we felt God had told us about having a death and rebirth.

From 3rd October our church gatherings returned as in-person meetings at Jewels with a focus on 'gathering at Jesus' feet', sharing and growing in relationship with one another, seeking God on what and where He wanted us to be as we moved forward.

Jewels received a 'freshen up' as we further increased our presence and community outreach there. Jewels had re-opened in April, operating in line with government covid guidance and various events and activities had occurred over the months. We were able to continue to provide Food Bags to those in need following the impact of the pandemic, and this lasted until late July. Jewels housed an elephant for a few weeks whilst it was prepared for a local charity event and hosted a special NHS fundraising Cream Tea event. A number of 'Detash and Clearance' events helped to move on stock and, in March 2022, raise money for the crisis in Ukraine. Successful Craft Days were run in October and December with themes of 'No tricks only treats' and Christmas Craft. Working with the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership, Jewels became an official "safe space". When the Russian invasion in to Ukraine began in February, Jewels was able to provide space for people to pray for the

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situation and a 'Prayer for Ukraine' window evolved which engaged and supported many in the community.

Further support to the community has been made through supporting the new local counselling service, 'Pathways and Perspectives', that has been set up by Rachel H. We have continued to help fund the work of the community worker within Bidwell West and remain committed to working proactively with local churches and organisations for the benefit of our community.

Throughout the year we have continued to be part of the River Network with plans in place for April 2022 to run the weekend away event that was initially scheduled for 2020. HRCC has remained part of the Evangelical Alliance and also Houghton Regis Churches Together.

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Accounts for the Year to 5 April 2022

1. Receipts & Payments Account (General Purpose Fund)

Income Receipts	2022	2021
Covenants and Donations		
Covenanted Giving	£ 10,780	£ 13,126
General Offerings	£ 1,390	£ -
Gift Aid	£ 3,380	£ 3,804
Sundry Donations	£ -	£ -
Other Receipts		
Jewels income *	£ 10,350	£ 13,358
River Network Weekend	£ 480	£ -
Grants	£ -	£ -
Smile Amazon	£ 54	£ -
Bank Interest	£ 12	£ 8
	£ 26,446	£ 30,296
Direct Charitable Expenditure		
Specific Gifts	£ 1,495	£ 1,335
Worship Services	£ 465	£ 259
Childrens and Youth Work	£ -	£ -
Rent of Bedford Square	£ 12,090	£ 12,924
Rent of School	£ 1,000	£ 2,400
Church Equipment	£ -	£ -
Sundry Expenses	£ 72	£ 72
	£ 15,121	
Other Expenditure		
Office Stationery and equipment	£ -	£ -
General Insurances	£ 319	£ 309
Resources and Conferences	£ -	£ -
Advertising	£ -	£ -
Church Administration	£ 261	£ 720
Evangelism	£ 3,552	£ 1,702
River Network	£ 300	£ 300
Evangelical Alliance	£ 90	£ 90
CCPAS	£ 129	£ 129
River Network Weekend	£ -	£ 400
Total G&P/NPOWER	£ 755	£ 872
	£ 5,405	
Total Payments	£ 20,526	£ 21,512
Net receipts for the Year	£ 5,920	£ 8,784
Cash and Bank Balances as at 5 April 2021	£ 23,184	£ 14,400
Cash and Bank Balances as at 5 April 2022	£ 29,104	£ 23,184

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2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 5 April 2022

		2022	2021
Monetary Assets			
Bank and Cash			
Balances:	Bank Current Account - HRCC	£ 9,080	£ 8,172
	Deposit Account - HRCC	£ 20,024	£ 15,012
Total for General Purpose Fund, as above		£ 29,104	£ 23,184

Non-Monetary Assets

Permanent Endowment: None

Other Assets

(non-endowed)	- Held for functional use by the Charity		£
	Office Equipment	value	£ 100
	PA Equipment	value	£ 2,000
	Worship Equipment	value	£ 80
	Church Equipment (computers etc)	value	£ 300

Note:

* Jewels is our space in Bedford Square that acts as the official church office, the church meeting space, 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 - shown above as "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 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1050853

Set out on pages

1 to 2 (which reports cash and bank balances at 5/4/22 of £29104.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05 / 04 / 2022.

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:

16-07-2021

Name:

John Magee

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

Address:

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