

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
1 JANUARY 2020 – 31 DECEMBER 2020

To the Charity Commission.

Aim and Purpose

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Bedford, is a branch of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. As noted in our branch church Constitution and By-Laws our purpose is to promote the understanding and demonstration of truth as set forth in *The Bible* and interpreted in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science.

Activities

The activities listed below are free of charge and open to the general public:

Church services

Testimony meetings

Sunday School

Reading Room

Saturday Morning Reading Group

Public lectures on Christian Science.

All our services are focused on healing and include Scriptural readings, prayer and hymns. We plan our activities bearing in mind the guidance on Public Benefit given by the Charity Commission under the heading “Advancement of Religion”. These activities are also in line with guidance given in the *Manual of The Mother Church*, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Fundraising

Our activities are funded through church collections and individual donations. We do not employ professional fundraising organisations to raise funds for us. Since March 2020 collections have not taken place because the Church

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, BEDFORD
CHARITY NO: 1064225

premises have been closed but individual donations have continued to be made.

How our activities achieve our purpose

Our **Sunday morning services** and **Weekly Testimony meetings** are designed to provide a reflective experience for the congregation which is conducive to healing. Readings from *The Bible* and *Science and Health* are chosen with the aim of deepening the appreciation of man's relationship to God through greater understanding of *The Bible*. There is time allotted at the Testimony meetings for those attending to speak of the benefits of this greater understanding of God gained through their own experience. Every week several people will share how they have been helped through their study of *The Bible* and *Science and Health*.

Since March 2020, respecting Government guidelines, our Church home has been closed to the public however both services and testimony meetings have continued using Zoom enabling our congregation and members of other churches to worship together, if remotely. Gratitude has been regularly expressed for the opportunity to meet online at these Services / Meetings which have continued uninterrupted throughout the year.

Our **Sunday School**, which is usually open to youngsters up to the age of 20 for Bible study and discussion has also been closed.

Our **Reading Room** on the Church premises is normally open to the general public for an average of 4 hours per week. This space offers visitors a quiet space in which to read, pray, study *The Bible* and the writings of Mary Baker Eddy. The Reading Room also operates a book shop and lending library and has a computer and lap top for online research. Healings and experiences are shared in the weekly publication *The Christian Science Sentinel*, the monthly *Christian Science Journal* and in various languages in *The Herald of Christian Science*. These magazines are published in the United States and are normally offered for sale in our Reading Room. Any profit generated by sales is returned to the Church and goes towards the upkeep of the building and to support the range of services to the public.

Despite being closed to the public since March 2020, the Reading Room continues to maintain an illuminated showcase close to the pavement at the front of the Church, which attracts much attention from passers-by. The

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display has been updated regularly throughout the year by members of the Team, mindful of Government guidelines. Scriptural texts, passages from the writings of Mary Baker Eddy and from Christian Science literature are displayed. Themed items are chosen with the intent to uplift, heal and comfort those in need. Particular attention is given to local, national and world events which need prayerful support.

The Saturday Morning Reading Group is an educational activity organised by the Reading Room. It has met regularly for many years and this year has comfortably lent itself to remote attendance, attracting participants from further afield, including Scotland, Italy and on one occasion the United States. Attendees are currently reading *Science and Health* aloud – sharing ideas, inspiration and seeking healing insights from this textbook of Christian Science.

Lecture

We have not been able to offer an in-person lecture for the general public this year. This annual gift to the community providing a platform to explain how Christian Science can help in all aspects of daily life, will be offered as soon as circumstances permit. In the meantime invitations to online Christian Science lectures which have been held all around the world, have been shared with members and friends. A link to this information is included in our website to alert the general public to these opportunities to learn more about how Christian Science can help in all aspects of daily life, maintaining wellbeing by healing physical and mental problems.

The Church has a **Care Committee** which is tasked with maintaining contact with those individuals who are temporarily unable to attend Church services.

Our **website** has been enormously helpful in providing information about our activities and also a link to sites operated by the international Christian Science movement. The aim is to highlight the potential for healing as a result of deepening one's understanding of God. www.christian-science-bedford.org.uk.

The activities of the **Bedford Council of Faiths** continue to be supported by Church and individual memberships. During this year links have been forged with other faith groups through attendance at meetings organised by Bedford Borough Council to update faith communities on the often swiftly changing Government guidelines with regard to holding services / meetings. The role of

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faith groups in protecting their members and informing their communities has been recognised by BCoF and the local Council.

Our **refurbishment project** at the Church begun in 2019 has continued throughout 2020. Workers employed at the Church premises have adhered to Government guidelines and progress has been slow but steady. The project continues and is funded through donations from members and from grants received from The Christian Science Trust in Great Britain, an organisation which exists to assist Christian Science churches to flourish by supporting projects of the above mentioned type.

Conclusion

We are a lay church with officers elected annually and serving on a strict rotational basis. The Trustees appreciate the work of all our Church family who contribute so much to the smooth running of the Church and its activities.

Christian Science is a non-medical religious healing system whose adherents rely on prayer for healing all conditions, but all those who practise it remain free at any time to choose medical treatment should they so wish.

The Trustees are deeply grateful for progress made in all our activities this year despite the prevailing conditions.

15.10.21

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

READING ROOM ACCOUNT

2019		INCOME	2020	
£	£		£	£
		Income from sales:		
331.40		Audio materials	43.00	
170.55		Books	40.30	
1746.50		Periodicals including Quarterlies	1331.60	
18.00		Goods & miscellaneous	0.00	
2266.45		Total sales		1414.90
4.20		Donations	11.00	
		Postage from sales reimbursed	0.00	
4.20		Total non-sale receipts		11.00
		Items paid for from Church funds:		
14.50		CDs of solos for Readers	0.00	
269.03		Gift subscriptions to periodicals	276.42	
477.18		Journal card	446.23	
291.54		JSH Online for Reading Room (4 months in 2020)	0.00	
0.00		New hymnal CDs, church and Sunday School	0.00	
415.68		Quarterlies	0.00	
0.00		Miscellaneous: shipping, Reader's words hymnal	0.00	
200.45		License fee for Cross & Crown	0.00	
1668.38		Total paid from Church funds		722.65
3939.03		Total income		2148.55
EXPENDITURE				
		CS Publishing Society		
0.00		Audio materials		
0.00		Books		
477.18		Journal card	446.23	
315.15		JSH Online for Reading Room (3 months in 2020)	73.02	
200.45		Miscellaneous (Cross & Crown license)	0.00	
1731.12		Periodicals including Quarterlies	2022.79	
269.03		Gift subs to HMP Woodhill and Univ Beds	347.25	
0.00		Currency adjustment		
2992.93		Total CS Publishing Society		2889.29
		Non-CSPS expenditure		
0.00		Internet	0.00	
0.00		Purchases, other Reading Rooms and internet	9.50	
0.00		Display materials	0.00	
0.00		Sundries: postage, free lit. box, stationery	0.00	
326.05		Total non-CSPS		9.50
3318.98		Total expenditure		2898.79
620.05		Excess (deficit) of income over expenditure		(750.24)
1156.04		Opening balance brought forward		1776.09
1776.09		Closing balance carried forward		1025.85

for T Wood FCA 31/06/2021

Signed:

Margaret

June 28 2021

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD

BALANCE SHEET AND ASSETS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

2019		2020
24,322	Permanent Land & Buildings at cost	24,322
21,145	Fixtures & Fittings at Cost	21,145
3,558	Organ at Cost	3,558
49,056	Total of Fixed Assets	49,056
	Replacemnt Insurance cover at 31 December 2019	
	Building 526,072	
	Contents 34,828	
	560,900	
34,431	General Fund	49,930
3,335	Reserve Fund	0
<u>37,766</u>	Church Funds	<u>49,930</u>
1,776	Reading Room Funds	1,026
39,542	Total Funds	50,956
88,598	Funds and Fixed Assets	100,012
2,594	Closing Stock: Reading Room	2,531
<u>91,192</u>	Total Assets	<u>102,543</u>
	CASH AND BANK BALANCES	
	<u>Church</u>	
34,371	Barclays Current Account	49,930
3,335	Leeds Building Society Charity Line Maturity	0
60	Cash in Hand	0
37,766		49,930
	<u>Reading Room</u>	
1,736	Barlcays Current account	1,018
40	Cash in Hand	8
1,776		1,026
<u>39,542</u>	Total Funds	<u>50,956</u>

Signed B. T. Wood FCA Date: 31/06/2021

Signed W. Lay Date: 28/06/2021
Treasurer

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD
INCOME FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

GENERAL FUND (PAGE 1 OF 2)

2019		2020
	Collections	
0	Church and Sunday school collections	
4,115.00	Small Donation Scheme (GASDS)	2,664.00
7,430.00	Gift Aid (G) donations (collection envelopes or direct to bank	8,845.00
-	Income Tax Refund (Note 1)	<u>10,707.19</u>
11,545	Total Gift Aid from SDS collections, GA donations	22,216
85.00	The Aid Fund (Note 2)	20.00
85.50	Hawthorne Trust (Charton Manor)	55.00
105.00	Mountlans Trust (Lime Tree House)	25.00
<u>92.50</u>	CS Prins Chaplains' Committee (2)	<u>76.00</u>
368	Collections at Business Meetings for above specified charities	176
	Other Income	
1,154.00	Non-Gift Aid donations	254.00
-	Insurance Claim	-
-	Refund from E-on over charge Electricity Bill	149.85
114.00	Refund of over payment of BT Telephone acc	-
228.00	Refund of overpayment to Planning Portal	-
4,250.00	Building Fund	2,300.00
	Westminster Fund Gift	5,000.00
<u>13,050.00</u>	CSGrants	<u>11,766.07</u>
18,796	Total other income	19,470
10,000.00	Transfer(s) from Reserve Funds	
21,597.00	Leeds Building Society (3)	3,336.00
	Cambridge & Counties Bank	-
31,597	Total Transfers from Reserve Fund	<u>3,336</u>
<u>62,306</u>	Total Income	<u>45,198</u>

Notes:

(1) Gift Aid tax refund has been claimed for Tax Year 2018, 2019 and 2020

(2) The R76.00 for the Prison Chaplain fund collected in 2020 will be paid over in Feb 2021

(3) Leeds Account closed in March 2020

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD
EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

2019	GENERAL FUND (page 2 of 2)	2020
97	Advertising (Web site)	72
333	Audit, Legal & Professional	283
36	Care Disbursements	27
1,460	Cleaner (net)	1,234
520	Committee on Publication pro rate (Note 3)	860
346	Donations from collections (Note 4)	176
186	Donations from church	1,000
1,224	Electricity	849
322	Gardener	530
303	PAYE Tax (Note 5)	240
1,093	Insurance	1,098
	Internet New Website	560
	Internet Zoom annual charge	144
	Internet 2 Domain Names	28
190	Internet Service Provider	261
-	Donation for Lecture elsewhere	400
	Lecture Costs	
1,375	Lecture Fee	-
-	Lecturers' Expenses	-
149	Publicity	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
1,523	Total Lecture Costs	-
	Maintenance & Repairs	
345	Safety & Security (Chubb Security)	189
200	Organ & Piano Tuning and repair	-
	Halogen Tubes and Globes	15
25	Drainage clearance	864
	<hr/>	<hr/>
570	Total Maintenance & Repairs	1,068
900	Organists and Soloists (net)	168
250	Petty Cash (6)	
55	Postage Printing & Stationery	111
	Reading Room Costs (Church)	
722	Quarterlies etc, new Hymnals	
477	Journal Card	446
269	Gift Subscriptions for periodicals	443
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1,468	Total General Fund Transfers to Reading Room	889
	Refurbishment	
5,775	Planning: Consult'cy, Plans, Travel,	2,984
260	Contractor- Westone	3,257
13,715	Contractor- Equibuild	12,820
	<hr/>	<hr/>
19,750	Total Refurbishment costs in year	19,061
95	Sundries - CCLC Licence, Flowers and Subscription	117
461	Telephone	340
250	Water	182
	<hr/>	<hr/>
31,432		29,698
	<hr/>	<hr/>
30,874	Excess (Deficit) of income over expenditure	15,499
3,557	Opening Balance Brought Forward	34,431
34,431	Closing Balance carried forward	49,930
	<hr/>	<hr/>

- Notes: 3) Second Pro Rate payment of £350 for 2019 Paid Feb 2020 Annual 2020 Pd Oct 2020
4) Collection for the Prinson Chaplain £76 was collected in 2020 but paid in 2021
5) PAYE Payments for Aug to Dec 2020 were paid in Jan 2021
6) Petty Cash Account detail attached

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

RESERVE FUND (4)		
2019		2020
INCOME		
6	Interest Leeds Building Society CharityLine Maturity a/c Closed in March 2020	1
583	Interest Cambridge & Counties Bank*	-
589	Total income	1
EXPENDITURE		
31,597	Transfer to General Fund	3,336
31,597	Total expenditure	3,365
-	Excess (deficit) of income over expenditure	-
34,343	Opening balance brought forward	3,335
3,335	Closing balance carried forward	-

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD
SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

GROSS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2019			2020	
Income	Expenditure		Income	Expenditure
62,306	31,432	General Fund	45,198	29,698
589	31,597	Reserve Fund		3,336
3,939	3,319	Reading Room	2,149	2,899
<u>66,834</u>	<u>66,348</u>		<u>47,347</u>	<u>35,933</u>
	486	Excess (deficit) of Income over Expenditure		11,414

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE NET OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

2,019			2,020	
Income	Expenditure		Income	Expenditure
30,709	29,764	General Fund	41,862	28,975
589		Reserve Fund		
2,271	3,319	Reading Room	1,426	2,899
<u>33,569</u>	<u>33,083</u>		<u>43,288</u>	<u>31,874</u>
	<u>486</u>	Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure		<u>11,414</u>

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

2,019			2,020	
39,056		Total Funds B/f 1 January	39,542	
486		Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	11,414	
<u>39,542</u>			<u>50,956</u>	

Brian E Woods FCA

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Auditors Report to the Members of

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD.

I have carried out the usual tests for the year ended 31 December 2020 and I am satisfied that the books and records show a true representation of the financial state of the Church.

Brian E Woods FCA