

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
1 JANUARY 2021 – 31 DECEMBER 2021

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*.

Continuing to respect Government guidelines, our church remained 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.

Mindful of continuing Government guidelines, our members decided to re-open the Reading Room to the public in October 2021. It was a joyful moment when the recently replaced doors opened for the first time and we were at

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home in our community once again. Our showcase had continued to be updated and refreshed throughout the year. 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. With our team onsite, this community service was made easier, and the ability to welcome visitors, answer questions and provide a quiet space for study, prayer and reflection has been welcomed by all.

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. 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 continued to be forged with other faith groups through attendance at meetings and in

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November First Church of Christ Scientist, Bedford, was represented at the Annual Festival of Remembrance. Faith groups were invited to share readings with those assembled, and we felt privileged to read the words of a hymn from the Christian Science hymnal focusing on brotherhood and peace.

Refurbishment project: Great strides were made throughout the year. Our auditorium has a polished floor, new chairs and an up to date audio visual system which has been carefully researched and will improve our offering to those attending services and meetings remotely. It is hoped our new-look Sunday School will soon be ready to welcome all-comers up to the age of 20.

The project continues to be 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.

20.10.22

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD
SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

GROSS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2020			2021	
Income	Expenditure		Income	Expenditure
45,198	29,698	General Fund	38,191	49,972
	3,336	Reserve Fund		
2,149	2,899	Reading Room	2,729	2,197
<u>47,347</u>	<u>35,933</u>		<u>40,920</u>	<u>52,169</u>
	11,414	Excess/(deficit) of Income over Expenditure	-	11,249

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE NET OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

2,020			2021	
Income	Expenditure		Income	Expenditure
41,862	28,975	General Fund	38,191	49,972
		Reserve Fund		
1,426	2,899	Reading Room	2,729	2,197
<u>43,288</u>	<u>31,874</u>		<u>40,920</u>	<u>52,169</u>
	<u>11,414</u>	Excess/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	-	<u>11,249</u>

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2,020		2,021
39,542	Total Funds B/f 1 January	50,956
11,414	Excess/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	- 11,249
<u>50,956</u>		<u>39,707</u>

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD
INCOME FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

GENERAL FUND (PAGE 1 OF 2)

2020		2021
	Collections	
	Church and Sunday school collections	
2,664.00	Small Donation Scheme (GASDS)	1,265
8,845.00	Gift Aid (G) donations (collection envelopes or direct to bank	9,510
<u>10,707.19</u>	Income Tax Gift Aid Refund (Note 1)	<u>2,911</u>
22,216	Total Gift Aid from SDS collections, GA donations	13,686
20.00	The Aid Fund (Note 2)	110
55.00	Hawthorne Trust (Charton Manor)	145
25.00	Mountlans Trust (Lime Tree House)	200
	CS Prins Chaplains' Committee (2)	225
<u>76.00</u>	CS Mother Church Boston USA	<u>259</u>
	176 Donations & Collections at Business Meetings for above specified Charities	939
	Other Income	
254.00	Non-Gift Aid donations	
2,300.00	Refund from E-On overcharge on Electricity bill	10
5,000.00	Westminster Fund Gift	
<u>11,766.00</u>	CS Grants	<u>23,556</u>
19,470	Total other income	23,566
3,336.00	Transfer(s) from Reserve Funds	
	Leeds Building Society (2)	-
	Cambridge & Counties Bank	-
<u>3,336</u>	Total Transfers from Reserve Fund	<u>-</u>
<u>45,198</u>	Total Income	<u>38,191</u>

Notes:

- (1) Gift Aid tax refund has been claimed for 2020-2021 Tax Year
2) Leeds Account closed in March 2020

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD
EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2020

GENERAL FUND (page 2 of 2)

2021

962	Advertising (Web site)	72
283	Audit, Legal & Professional	108
27	Care Disbursements	-
1,234	Cleaner (net)	1,361
860	Committee on Publication pro rate (Note 3)	510
176	Donations from collections (Note 4)	539
1,000	Donations from church	400
	Donation to Joint CS Reading Room	600
849	Electricity	420
530	Gardener	665
240	PAYE Tax (Note 5)	127
1,098	Insurance	1,238
560	JCSRR Internet New Website	180
159	Internet Zoom annual charge	144
261	Internet Service Provider- Zen	272
400	Donation for Lecture elsewhere	-

Maintenance & Repairs

189	Safety & Security (Chubb Security)		
15	Halogen Tubes and Globes	16	
864	Drainage clearance		
	Total Maintenance & Repairs		16

168	168	Organists and Soloists (net)	-	
		Petty Cash (6)	-	
111	111	Postage Printing & Stationery	14	14

Reading Room Costs (Church)

	Quarterlies etc, new Hymnals	474	
	Journal Card	431	
	Gift Subscriptions for periodicals	163	
1,347	Total General Fund Transfers to Reading Room		1,068

Refurbishment

2,984	As per Attached schedule	41,415	
3,257	Contractor- Westone		
12,820	Contractor- Equibuild		
19,061	Total Refurbishment costs in year		41,415

117	Sundries - CCLC Licence, Flowers and Subscription	353	
340	Telephone	343	
182	Water	127	823

29,048		49,972
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3,557	Excess (Deficit) of income over expenditure	-	11,781
30,874	Opening Balance Brought Forward		34,431
34,431	Closing Balance carried forward		22,650

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

READING ROOM ACCOUNT

2020		INCOME	2021	
£	£		£	£
		Income from sales:		
43.00		Audio materials	0.00	
40.30		Books	77.30	
1331.60		Periodicals including Quarterlies	1412.00	
0.00		Goods & miscellaneous	0.00	
1414.90	Total sales			1494.30
11.00		Donations	0.00	
		Postage from sales reimbursed	0.00	
11.00	Total non-sale receipts			0.00
		Items paid for from Church funds:		
0.00		CDs of solos for Readers	0.00	
276.42		Gift subscriptions to periodicals	233.51	
446.23		Journal card	430.69	
0.00		JSH Online for Reading Room (4 months 2020; 3, 2021)	165.29	
0.00		Quarterlies	389.68	
		Textbook donation to HMP Woodhill Chapel	11.70	
		postage of textbook	3.85	
722.65	Total paid from Church funds			1234.72
2148.55	Total income			2729.02
EXPENDITURE				
		CS Publishing Society		
0.00		Audio materials	0.00	
0.00		Books	0.00	
446.23		Journal card	430.69	
73.02		JSH Online for Reading Room (3months 2021, Jan 22)	91.65	
2022.79		Periodicals including Quarterlies	1511.74	
347.25		Gift subs to HMP Woodhill and Univ Beds	162.68	
2889.29	Total CS Publishing Society			2196.76
		Non-CSPS expenditure		
9.50		Purchases, other Reading Rooms	0.00	
0.00		Display materials	0.00	
0.00		Sundries	0.00	
9.50	Total non-CSPS			0.00
2898.79	Total expenditure			2196.76
(750.24)	Excess (deficit) of income over expenditure			532.26
1776.09	Opening balance brought forward			1025.85
1025.85	Closing balance carried forward			1558.11

Three other things I'll need to provide for another page in the accounts:

1 Value of the stock (at cost) on 31 December 2021 **£2,478.53**

2 Bank balance on 31 December 2021 **£1,520.06**

3 Cash in hand on 31 December 2021 **£38.05**

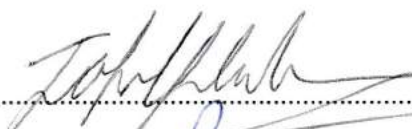
Therefore total funds at 1.1.2022 **£1,520.06 + £38.05 = £1,558.11**

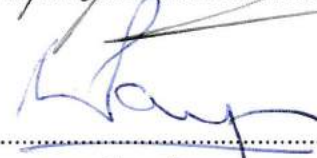
February 22, 2022 — final results

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD

BALANCE SHEET AND ASSETS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

2020		2021
24,322	Permanent Land & Buildings at cost	24,322
21,145	Fixtures & Fittings at Cost	21,145
3,588	Organ at Cost	3,588
49,056	Total of Fixed Assets	49,056
	Replace Insurance cover at 31 Dec 2021	
	Building 546,589	
	Contents 35,490	
	582,079	
49,930	General Fund	38,149
0	Reserve Fund	0
49,930	Church Funds	38,149
1,026	Reading Room Funds	1,558
50,956	Total Funds	39,707
100,012	Funds and Fixed Assets	88,763
2,531	Closing Stock: Reading Room	2,479
102,543	Total Assets	91,242
	CASH AND BANK BALANCES	
	<u>Church</u>	
49,930	Barclays Current Account	38,149
0	Leeds Building Society Charity Line	0
0	Cash in Hand	0
49,930		38,149
	<u>Reading Room</u>	
1,018	Barclays Current account	1,520
8	Cash in Hand	38
1,026		1,558
50,956	Total Funds	39,707

Signed  Date: 15/04/2022

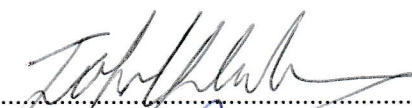
Signed  Date: 13/04/2022

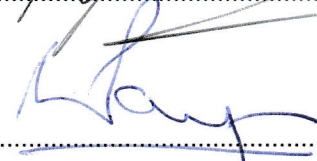
Treasurer

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD

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	<u>Church</u>	
49,930	Barclays Current Account	38,149
0	Leeds Building Society Charity Line	0
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49,930		38,149
	<u>Reading Room</u>	
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1,026		1,558
50,956	Total Funds	39,707

Signed  Date: 15/04/2022

Signed  Date: 13/04/2022
Treasurer