

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

**1 JANUARY 2022 – 31 DECEMBER 2022**

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.

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

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*.

At the end of January 2022 we were delighted to reopen our church doors and hold our services and meetings in our newly refurbished church. The new AV system has meant we could continue to welcome attendees online and we are very grateful to be able to continue this outreach.

Our newly refurbished and colourful **Sunday School**, which is open to youngsters up to the age of 20 for Bible study and discussion, reopened at the same time.

Our **Reading Room** on the church premises is 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 magazine *The 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.

Our showcase had continued to be updated and refreshed throughout 2022 by our team of Reading Room Assistants. 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

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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. Gift subscriptions to some of our periodicals were accepted by the Library at HMP Woodhill and The University of Bedford Faith Department.

**The Saturday Morning Reading Group** is an educational activity organised by the Reading Room. It has met regularly for many years and comfortably lends itself to in-person and 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**

On Sunday 11 September 2022 the church held a lecture open to the public entitled Finding Trust in a Changing World. It was a joy to welcome members, friends and visitors to hear the message that God's loving, divine presence can bring reliable stability and support to each and every one of us. The church also financially supported a public lecture given by Christian Science Society Leamington Spa during the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

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](http://www.christian-science-bedford.org.uk).

The activities of the **Bedford Council of Faiths** continue to be supported by our church and individual memberships. During the year links continued to be forged with other faith groups. In September, alongside members of these faith groups, individuals from the church represented Bedford Council of Faiths at a Thanksgiving Service for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

**The Refurbishment Project** continued 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. We are so

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grateful that the new, fresh look has resulted in renewed energy in focussing on our support for our community and each other.

**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.

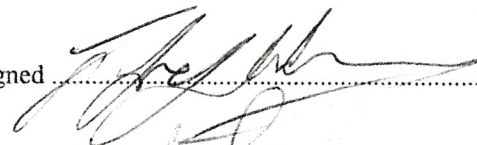
Christian Science is a non-medical religious healing system whose adherents rely on prayer for healing all conditions, but all those who practise it remain free at any time to choose medical treatment should they so wish.

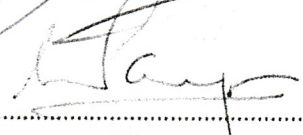
The Trustees are deeply grateful for progress made in all our activities this year.

# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD

## BALANCE SHEET AND ASSETS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022

2021		2022
24,322	Permanent Land & Buildings at cost	24,322
21,145	Fixtures & Fittings at Cost	21,145
3,588	Organ at Cost	3,588
<b>49,056</b>	<b>Total of Fixed Assets</b>	<b>49,056</b>
	Replace Insurance cover at 31 Dec 2022	
	Building 647,646	
	Contents 39,713	
	<b>657,359</b>	
38,149	General Fund	15,449
0	Reserve Fund	20,014
<u>38,149</u>	Church Funds	<u>35,463</u>
1,558	<u>Reading Room Funds</u>	<u>1,180</u>
<b>39,707</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>36,643</b>
88,763	Funds and Fixed Assets	<b>85,699</b>
2,479	Closing Stock: Reading Room	2,569
<u><b>91,242</b></u>	<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>88,268</b></u>
	<b>CASH AND BANK BALANCES</b>	
	<u>Church</u>	
38,149	Barclays Current Account	15,449
0	Barclays Savings Account	20,014
0	Cash in Hand	0
<u><b>38,149</b></u>		<u><b>35,463</b></u>
	<u>Reading Room</u>	
1,520	Barclays Current account	1,157
38	Cash in Hand	23
<u><b>1,558</b></u>		<u><b>1,180</b></u>
<b>39,707</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>36,643</b>

Signed  Date: 19/10/2023

Signed  Date: 19/10/2023

Treasurer

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD  
INCOME FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**GENERAL FUND (PAGE 1 OF 2)**

2021		2022
	<b>Collections</b>	
	Church and Sunday school collections	
1,265.00	Small Donation Scheme (GASDS)	2,864
9,510.00	Gift Aid (G) donations (collection envelopes or direct to bank	7,610
<u>2,911.00</u>	Income Tax Gift Aid Refund (Note 1)	<u>-</u>
<b>13,686</b>	<b>Total Gift Aid from SDS collections, GA donations</b>	<b>10,474</b>
110.00	The Aid Fund	30
145.00	Hawthorne Trust ( Charton Manor)	90
200.00	Mountlans Trust (Lime Tree House)	-
225.00	CS Prins Chaplains' Committee	65
<u>259.00</u>	CS Mother Church Boston USA	<u>-</u>
	<b>939 Donations &amp; Collections at Business Meetings for above specified Charities</b>	<b>185</b>
	<b>Other Income</b>	
	Non-Gift Aid donations	500.00
10.00	Refund from E-On overcharge on Electricity bill	
	Parking	150.00
<u>23,556.00</u>	CS Grants	<u>13,240</u>
<b>23,566</b>	<b>Total other income</b>	<b>13,890</b>
		<u>24,549</u>
	Transfer to Reserve -Barclays Savings Account	20,000.00
	Interest Received	14.00
	<b>Total Transfer to Reserve Fund</b>	<b>20,014</b>
<u><b>38,191</b></u>	<b>Total Income</b>	<u><b>44,563</b></u>

Notes:

(1) Gift Aid tax refund for 2021-2022 Tax Year has not been claimed yet

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD**  
**EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

2021	GENERAL FUND (page 2 of 2)		2022
	72	Advertising (Web site)	86
	108	Audit, Legal & Professional	358
	-	Care Disbursements	
	1,361	Cleaner (net)	1488
	510	Committee on Publication pro rate (Note 3)	480
	539	Donations from collections (Note 4)	1085
	400	Donations from church	500
	600	Donation to Joint CS Reading Room	600
	420	Electricity	817
	665	Gardener	2465
	127	PAYE Tax ( Note 5)	0
	1,238	Insurance	1230
	180	JCSRR Internet New Website	120
	144	Internet Zoom annual charge	144
	272	Internet Service Provider- Zen	398
	-	Donation for Lecture elsewhere	500
		Lecture Fees	1,330
		Publicity charges	464
		Refreshments and Train Fare	114
			<b>12179</b>
		<b>Maintenance &amp; Repairs</b>	
		Safety & Security (Chubb Security)	86
		Monitoring Crack	850
16		Halogen Tubes and Globes	54
		Window Cleaning	85
	16	Total Maintenance & Repairs	<b>1,075</b>
14	14	Postage Printing & Stationery	75
			<b>75</b>
		<b>Reading Room Costs (Church)</b>	
	474	Quarterlies etc	721
	431	Journal Card	500
	163	Gift Subscriptions for periodicals	337
	<b>1,068</b>	Total General Fund Transfers to Reading Room	<b>1,558</b>
		<b>Refurbishment</b>	
41,415		As per Attached schedule	10,401
	<b>41,415</b>	Total Refurbishment costs in year	<b>10,401</b>
353		Sundries - As per attached schedule	490
343		Telephone	282
127	823	Water	174
		Capital Expenditure Chairs and Projector	1,014
			<b>1,960</b>
			<b>27,248</b>
		Transfer to Barclays Savings Account	20,000
	<b>49,972</b>		<b>47,248</b>
-	11,781	Excess (Deficit) of income over expenditure	- 2,699
	34,431	Opening Balance Brought Forward	22,650
	<b>22,650</b>	<b>Closing Balance carried forward</b>	<b>19,951</b>

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2021	RESERVE FUND	2022
	INCOME	
-	Barclays Savings Account	20,000
-	Interest on Savings Account	14
-	<b>Total income</b>	<b>20,014</b>
	EXPENDITURE	
-	Transfer to General Fund	-
-	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>
	Excess (deficit) of income over expenditure	
	Opening balance brought forward	
-	<b>Closing balance carried forward</b>	<b>20,014</b>



**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**  
**READING ROOM ACCOUNT**

2021		2022	
£	£	£	£
	<b>INCOME</b>		
	<b>Income from sales:</b>		
	Audio materials	25.00	
82.30	Books	274.10	
1,412.00	Periodicals including Quarterlies	1,128.00	
-	Goods & miscellaneous	6.00	
<b>1,494.30</b>	<b>Total sales</b>	<b>1,433.10</b>	
	Donations	10.00	
	Overpayment to UKORR reimbursed	10.40	
	Postage from sales reimbursed	-	
-	<b>Total non-sale receipts</b>	<b>20.40</b>	
	<b>Items paid for from Church funds:</b>		
-	Readers supplies, chalks	4.50	
233.51	Gift subscriptions to periodicals	247.41	
430.69	Journal card	499.63	
165.29	JSH Online for Reading Room (12 months)	273.39	
389.68	Quarterlies	360.12	
	Books for Sunday School	165.60	
	Shipping for SS Books	7.00	
11.70	Textbook Donations to HMP Woodhill Chapel	-	
3.85	Postage of textbook	-	
<b>1,234.72</b>	<b>Total paid from Church funds</b>	<b>1,557.65</b>	
<b>2,729.02</b>	<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,011.15</b>	
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
	<b>CS Publishing Society</b>		
430.69	Journal card	499.63	
91.65	JSH Online for Reading Room (12 mths)	272.67	
1,511.74	Periodicals including Quarterlies	1,794.06	
162.89	Gift subs to HMP Woodhill and Univ Beds	247.41	
<b>2,196.76</b>	<b>Total CS Publishing Society</b>	<b>2,813.77</b>	
	<b>Non-CSPS expenditure</b>		
-	Purchases, UKORR(including shipping£25)	375.60	
	Sundries: detailed per attached page	199.60	
-	<b>Total non-CSPS</b>	<b>575.20</b>	
<b>2,196.76</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>3,388.97</b>	
532.26	Excess (deficit) of expenditure over income	- 377.82	
1,025.85	Opening balance brought forward	1,558.11	
<b>1,558.11</b>	Closing balance carried forward	<b>1,180.29</b>	

**Notes:**

Value of the stock (at cost) on 31 December 2022 £2569.19

Bank balance on 1 January 2022 **£1520.06**

Bank Balance on **31 December 2022 £1156.74**

Cash on hand on **31 December 2022 £23.55**

**Therefore total funds at 1.1.2023 £1156.74 +£23.55 = £1180.29**

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD  
SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**GROSS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

2021			2022	
Income	Expenditure		Income	Expenditure
38,191	49,972	General Fund	24,549	47,249
		Reserve Fund	20,000	
2,729	2,197	Reading Room	3,011	3,389
<u>40,920</u>	<u>52,169</u>		<u>47,560</u>	<u>50,638</u>
	11,249	Excess (deficit) of Expenditure over Income	-	3,078

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE NET OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS**

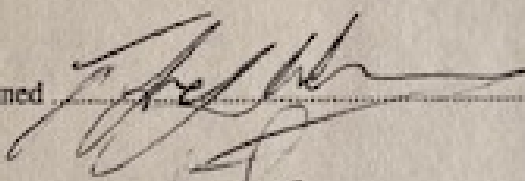
2,022			2022	
Income	Expenditure		Income	Expenditure
38,191	49,972	General Fund	24,549	47,249
		Reserve Fund	20,000	
2,729	2,197	Reading Room	3,011	3,389
<u>40,920</u>	<u>52,169</u>		<u>47,560</u>	<u>50,638</u>
	<u>11,249</u>	Excess (deficit) of Expenditure over Income	-	<u>3,078</u>

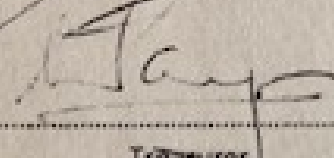
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

50,956	Total Funds B/f 1 January	39,707
- 11,249	Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	- 3,078
<u>39,707</u>		<u>36,629</u>

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST BEDFORD**  
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