

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORTS 2021-22

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year has been easier for Bridport United Church with restrictions on meeting for worship lifted from Easter 2021. However it was very different with social distancing observed, masks being worn and records kept of all who attended services each week. The safe distribution of communion and how collection money was received also required constructive thought but was managed regularly. It is only now, though, that most church members are feeling safe enough to return to services and the services themselves are now returning to pre-pandemic normality. A written service is still being prepared and delivered weekly and the circuit zoom services are still happening once a month. Soul Space is now delivering its alternate form of worship live in the church one Sunday afternoon a month and this is still available on YouTube. The regular Wednesday prayer group relocated online has remained there.

In September 2021 the Rev. Peter Clark retired and after his final packed service, conducted by the superintendent minister Rev John Yarrien, there was a farewell tea in the hall

The superintendent Minister, the Rev. John Yarrien then took on the role of Minister for Bridport United Church until a new minister was appointed.

Churches Together has had no opportunity to work together at events or worship but has kept in touch electronically. They declined to run the regular Christmas Day Lunch this year because of fears about covid so a member of the United Church in conjunction with the organiser of one of the food banks took it on and hosted about 60 people on Christmas Day in the church hall.

The Church Council team serving during the year were: Melanie Buckland; Gill Bumphrey; John Darwood; Sue Herman; Ros Hilliard; Peter Kershaw; Alison and Robert White. Face to face meetings resumed in the summer.

During the year the church has been saddened by the loss of a number of members but we have also welcomed some new ones.

During the year events have slowly resumed and the Christmas Tree Festival was again the centre of Bridport Christmas. Fewer trees than usual were used to give more space and opening hours were shorter but it was an enormous success and a milestone on the path back to "normality" for the town and church.

The Big Breakfast is back once a month and is very popular and is a wonderful social event with people coming from all over to attend; our brilliant hostess, Ros and her helpers cook up to 90 breakfasts in two and a half hours! There have also been a number of new initiatives for hospitality and outreach to try and address the isolation and loneliness felt by so many people over the last few difficult years. A lunch club has started once a month and from the first one a minimum of 40 people have come, and also once a month the "Thursday Club" has taken place – an afternoon for Golden Oldies – and anyone else – to come and have a chat, enjoy some crafts, play board games, do a puzzle – and have cake and sandwiches. The first one was April 2022 where we made an Easter garden for the church foyer, some made Easter cards, easter bonnets were made and displayed and games were played. All these events are open to all, not just BUC members and they couldn't happen without the help of many of the

present Church Councillors, all of those who have been nominated to stand for election at this church AGM and many others who make up Ros' team and we owe them and of course Ros an enormous debt of gratitude.

The preschool has continued to function fully since Easter 2020 but with obvious restrictions and difficulties though now, as all restrictions have been lifted, they too are settling back to pre-pandemic working. Sarah took over as head in September 2021 and has been running the pre-school very efficiently and numbers of children are now increasing so that the school will remain viable.

Altogether this year has been easier than the last though many of our elderly members have found things very difficult and special thanks must go to all the unseen heroes of our church family who have been keeping in touch by phone, letter or in person with all those isolating or simply feeling alone. And as always thanks also must go to our treasurer, Peter Kershaw, who has had the impossible job of trying to continue to pay the bills and carry out necessary repairs in spite of the loss of income incurred by the pandemic with all lettings in abeyance for two years. He has given thanks for the amazing contributions made throughout by members. Hopefully now our income from letting out our spaces is on the up and will make life a bit easier.

Finally so many thanks to Rev. John Yarrien who inspite of his already heavy workload as Superintendent of a large circuit of 13 churches has spent so much time with this church, attends all our outreach activities, offers encouragement and help and has been taken to the heart of this congregation with his pastoral care and kindness. We hope that when we have a new Minister in the autumn he will still be able to spend time with us,

Thank you to everyone who helps to keep our church functioning as a church and as a place of hospitality and friendship; Bridport United Church is a very special place.

Sue Herman

Church Secretary and Administrator

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

2020

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

2021

2021
Budget

YEAR ENDING 31st December 2021

INCOME

Collections - Standing Orders and Envelopes
- Loose

£

25,730

7,248

£

32,978

2,508

13,705

4,258

65

798

7,001

10,000

50

71,362

71,362

57,500

Donations to General Fund

Lettings and Car Park 2021

Coffee Mornings

Investment Interest

Special Events: Gift Day, Summer Fayre & CTF

HMRC Gift Aid - Tax Rebate

Gift from South Street Properties: BUC building maintenance

Contra

EXPENDITURE

URC M&M + Methodist Assessment

Visiting Preachers

Choir & Organist

Church Administration, excl Insurance

Insurance

Heating & Lighting

Cleaning

General Repairs & Maintenance

Sundries

Printing & Stationery

Donations various: outgoing

Special Event Costs, including CTF

Contra

£
36,661
10,870
10,477
5,693
213
3,722
9,451
210
77,297

42,474
135
4,065
6,431
4,132
6,640
4,440
9,172
2,493
1,086
1,435
1,685
210
84,398

Difference -7,101

Temporary Difference between CHURCH income & expenditure

-6,876

80,204

-22,704

Building Redevelopment Project Receipts to 31st December 2021

Building Fund - Donations

BUC Grants & VAT Refund

0

7,518

7,518

Church receipts

7,518

71,362

78,880

Building Redevelopment Project Costs to 31st December 2021 (paid)

Church expenditure, excluding redevelopment expenditure:

0

78,238

78,238

Temporary Difference between ALL BUC income & ALL expenditure

642

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

Balance sheet at December 31 2021

Assets:

Bank accounts:

HSBC	1473565	22,588.53
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less:

Less unpresented cheques:

100673	290.00
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100670	182.40
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100676	847.96
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1,320.36

21,268.17

HSBC

4,845.25

Central Finance Board

5,001.13

MCA

1,798.39

M&G Investments

3,439.20

£ 36,352.14

Cumulative reserves:

Reserves at January 1, 2021

35,710

Church:

Income in year	71,362
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Expenditure in year	-78,238
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Net church outgoings	<u>-6,876</u>
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Redevelopment Project:

Income	<u>7,518</u>
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Net overall income

642

Reserves at December 31 2021

£ 36,352

TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRIDPORT URC CHURCH

I am pleased to report on my examination of the accounts for the year ended December 31 2021.

I have examined the various documents presented to me, and find that a very competent method of recording and presenting information is in operation.

I have no matters to bring to your attention.

Denys Hood B Sc(Econ)

Appointed examiner of the accounts

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