

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORTS 2022-23

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year life at Bridport United Church has been gradually returning to normal, although inevitably some things have changed after the lockdowns. Some of our longstanding groups, such as Toddlers and the Friendship circle have not restarted in part because people have aged during the pandemic and no longer feel able to run these things. People are returning to services though and to things like the coffee mornings but these didn't really return to pre-pandemic levels til the end of the year. The alternate form of worship "Soul Space" which happens in the afternoon of the first Sunday of the month is now coming live from the church with a congregation but is still available on YouTube. The circuit Sunday Zoom service continued for the first half of the year but was then discontinued as people returned to their own churches. The written weekly service is still being distributed to those who want it. The regular Wednesday prayer group relocated online remained there until this April, 2023.

The Superintendent Minister, the Rev. John Yarrien looked after Bridport United Church from September last year until a new Minister – the Rev. Jane Wilson -was appointed and came to us in September this year. We welcomed her with a service and BUC hospitality of tea and cake.

John was thanked for his ministry and pastoral care which very much appreciated, as was his gentle encouragement of everything which members wanted to do.

Churches Together in Bridport began having live meetings again in February and under their auspices the Rest Tent at the Melplash Agricultural Show was again running, organised by Peter Jenner, a part-time youth-worker in the circuit, and was very successful. The Christmas Day Lunch was again run by the team assembled to run last year's lunch at the United Church; without the covid restrictions it was much easier and was a really enjoyable occasion with carols being sung and food provided for nearly 90 people, including sending food back to those unable to come.

The Church Council team at the 2022 AGM were: Melanie Buckland; Gill Bumphrey; John Darwood; Sue Herman; Ros Hilliard; Peter Kershaw; Richard Plummer; Alison and Robert White. At the AGM Melanie Buckland, Gill Bumphrey; and Alison White retired, although Alison has remained as safeguarding officer. We were delighted to welcome three new Church Councillors: Jane Clinton, Wendy Plummer and Lyn Wells.

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

Our Christmas Tree Festival was again the centre of Bridport Christmas. The committee decided to keep to fewer trees to give more space for people and also to restrict the opening hours as they were conscious that covid hadn't gone away and we have an elderly membership.

In the summer a party was organised by a group of members to celebrate the United Church's 50th Anniversary. It was held in the church and open to all and was a great success.

The Big Breakfast once a month has continued to grow in popularity and is a wonderful social event with people coming from all over to attend; our brilliant hostess and cook Ros with her helpers cook up to 90 breakfasts in two and a half hours! The lunch club started after the pandemic and is a great social occasion once a month with a wonderful 2 course home cooked meal for up to 60 people. The price is £5 but if anyone comes unable to pay then they are not turned away. "Warm Space" was also started every Wednesday from 12 -4 with home-made soup and toasties – no charge but donation if people could afford it. This was started in the new year in conjunction with the Town Council who were co-ordinating Warm Space initiatives in the face of fuel and food poverty.

Once a month the "Thursday Club" takes place – an afternoon for anyone to come and have a chat, enjoy some crafts, play board games, do a puzzle, knit – and have cake and sandwiches. This also has seen an increase in numbers and there is a real buzz there.

All our hospitality events are open to everyone in the area and it is very good to note that many people who come regularly to our weekly Wednesday and Saturday coffee mornings become involved in other aspects of the church's life, whether as volunteers or as members. There is a great deal of loneliness particularly, but not exclusively, among older people and we give special thanks to those who are willing to give up so much of their own lives and hobbies to be part of the hospitality team. A big thank you to all who make up the various teams and who are willing to be called on at short notice.

The preschool functioned fully throughout the year and under Sarah continued to give children a really good start in education.

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 at Bridport United Church in spite of the loss of income during the pandemic. The finances are now improving as Lettings return. We are so grateful to Peter for continuing with his work in spite of serious health concerns.

Finally so many thanks again to Rev. John Yarien who in spite of his already heavy workload as Superintendent of a large circuit of 13 churches spent so much time with this church, attended all our outreach activities, offered encouragement and help and was taken to the heart of the congregation with his pastoral care and kindness. We hope that he will be able to spend some time with us in the future and we wish him well during his sabbatical.

And we hope, that under Jane's leadership and enthusiasm and with her new ideas, our church will go forward and flourish and continue to hold a special place in Bridport.

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

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BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

INCOME & EXPENDITURE @ BUC for 2022

2022

Budget

YEAR ENDING 31st December 2022

INCOME	£	£	£	£
Collections - Standing Orders and Envelopes	25,120			
- Loose	6,798			
		31,917		32,000
Donations to General Fund		1,070		500
Lettings and Car Park 2021		21,570		10,000
Coffee Mornings		7,751		5,000
Investment Interest		80		75
Special Events: Gift Day & Fayres		1,605		2,000
Christmas Tree Festival		2,015		1,200
Individual Donations to Modernisation Fund		5,600		1,000
HMRC Gift Aid - Tax Rebate		7,663		7,000
Gift from South Street Properties: BUC building maintenance				10,000
		79,272		68,775
EXPENDITURE				
URC M&M + Methodist Assessment		32,861		32,000
Visiting Preachers		45		200
Choir & Organist		1,804		1,200
Church Administration, excluding Insurance		6,676		7,000
Insurance		4,733		4,700
Heating & Lighting		7,059		7,500
Cleaning		3,242		3,000
General Repairs & Maintenance		9,157		10,000
Sundries		2,980		1,000
Printing & Stationery		1,813		500
Donations: CCTIB, YP & Bridge		1,900		3,000
Outreach Events: CTF, etc		1,214		1,500
Contribution to Essential Reserves		1,500		1,500
		74,983		73,100
Temporary Difference between CHURCH income & expenditure			4,288	-4,325

Modernisation Project Receipts to 31st December 2022

Modernisation Fund Donations	5,600	
BUC Grants & VAT Refund	0	
	5,600	5,600

Modernisation Project Costs to 31st December 2022 (paid) 0

Net Cash at Bank (31.12.2022)	30,762
BUC chqs not yet cleared on 31.12.2022	-1,653
Value of other convertible assets	11,761

40,870

Grants & VAT refunds payable to BUC in 2023: estimated 3,000

Net Value @ 31.12.22 YE 43,870

BUC Investments

M&G Investments	4,890
Methodist Chapel Aid	1,811
Central Finance Board	5,060
	11,761

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH: BALANCE SHEET as at 31.12.2022

			2022
HSBC a/c 01473565			13,041
less:			
Less Uncleared cheques	100789	162.00	
	100795	150.00	
	100790	498.95	
	100793	95.00	
	100792	558.00	
	100775	189.26	-1,653
			<hr/>
			11,388
HSBC a/c 41439782			<hr/>
			17,721
			<hr/>
			29,109
Deposit accounts			
MCA			1,811
CFB			5,060
Investments			
M & G			4,890
Total Assets			<div>40,870</div>
being:			
General			
Building			
Total Movement in Year			<div></div>

	Not @ HSBC
M & G Investments	3,439
Methodist Chapel Aid	1,798
Central Finance Board	5,001
	<hr/>
	10,238

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

BANK ACCOUNTS

31-Dec-22

BALANCE at HSBC

BUC First Account	£17,720.78	
BUC Administration Account	£13,041.42	
<i>Plus receipts not yet banked or credited</i>	<i>£0.00</i>	
	£30,762.20	
<i>Less cheques not yet presented</i>	<i>-£1,653.21</i>	
NET:	£29,108.99	£29,108.99

ALLOCATION of RESOURCES

Combined General & Building Funds

Invoices due for payment £0.00

Future Building Works & Equipment Supplies

None at present £0.00

Estimated remaining cost of recommended works: £0.00

£0.00

Cash Balance remaining: **£29,108.99**

Methodist Chapel Aid £1,811.00

M&G Growth fund £4,890.00

Central Finance Board (Reserve for BUC operating costs) £5,060.00

£11,761.00

TOTAL: £40,869.99

Average receipts: collection or donations direct to bank per month: £4,000

Less 6 months BUC Operating Costs (Estimate) -£36,000.00

-£36,000.00

Estimated funds available after meeting all known BUC operating costs:

£4,869.99

NB: The figures provided above do not include any additional URC Grants:

the estimated value of these sums being around: **£0.00** **£4,869.99**

BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Y/E 2023

Y/E 2024

Y/E 2022

INCOME

£

£

31,917	Collections based on 2022	33,000	34,000
1,070	Misc. Donations to General Fund	1,000	1,000
21,570	Lettings and Car Park	17,500	20,000
7,751	Coffee Mornings	11,000	12,000
80	Investment Interest	100	240
1,605	Special Events: Fayres, Gift Day	2,000	3,000
2,015	Christmas Tree Festival	2,000	2,500
5,600	Individual Donations to Modernisation Fund	3,000	3,000
7,663	Tax Rebate on combined Gift Aided giving	9,000	10,000
0	Gift from South Street Properties: BUC building maintenance	10,000	10,000

79,272

£88,600

£95,740

Y/E 2022

EXPENDITURE

32,861	URC M&M + Methodist Assessment	39,304	39,304
45	Visiting Preachers	200	200
1,804	Church Music incl CCLI	1,500	1,700
6,676	Church Administration	7,500	8,000
4,733	Insurance	5,000	5,300
7,059	Heating & Lighting	10,000	12,000
3,242	Cleaning	4,500	5,000
9,157	General Building maintenance (incl VAT)	5,000	5,000
2,980	Sundries	1,500	1,500
1,813	Printing & Stationery	2,000	2,200
1,900	Donations: CCTiB, YP & Bridge	3,000	3,000
1,500	Contribution to Essential Reserves	3,600	3,600
1,214	Outreach Events: CTF, etc	3,000	3,000

74,983

£86,104

£89,804

£4,288

Estimated Difference of Income to Expenditure

£2,496

£5,936

Cash at Bank 31st December 2022 29,109

Value of other convertible assets 11,761

40,870

Grants & VAT refunds payable in 2023 to BUC, estimated

3,000

43,870

NB: a reserve of 6 months basic operating costs =

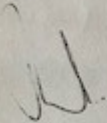
-36,000

Balance in Reserves

£7,870

TO THE TRUSREES OF BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH

I have examined all the papers and documents submitted to me, relating to the account of the above, and confirm that they reflect accurately the financial position as at December 31 2022.



Denys Hood. BSc (Econ)

10 February, 2023