

WELCOME...

It's been an exciting year of re-imagining. We've sought to follow Jesus by putting our vision statement into practice and embraced energetically the change and unexpected growth and development that followed.

Vision Statement....

...Living life to the full by showing and sharing Jesus to transform our neighbourhood.

活出豐盛生命，傳揚耶穌，讓福音改變社區

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

• Worship:

Sundays –

- 9.30am and 11am worship gatherings gained momentum and began developing their own characters and family feel, with refreshments in-between.
- Really committed teams organising, shaping and leading both.
- Numerical growth by the end of the year (at 11am several young families and Hong Kongers).
- Building sense of openness to the Holy Spirit and sharing with one another.

Mid-week –

- Wednesday Worship quickly established as a quiet reflective time for worship, prayer and discussion.
- Mini-Messy Church for pre-schoolers and parents/carers continued to take root.

• Teaching:

○ Included:

- God making something new in the wasteland (Isaiah 43:18-19) and re-imagining.
- Series on Isaiah and early Church re-imagining itself after Jesus' ascension.

• HongKongers Ministry:

神愛滔滔，無盡感恩

- On Easter Sunday, a new, exciting and significant relationship started with 250-300 newly arrived HK migrants and their 100+ children/youth. Big thanks to The Salvation Army for extra space provided.
- Hosted a UKHK Welcome course for about 30 newly arrived HKers.
- On 16th October, 1 youth and 8 adults were baptised.
- About 10+ people accepted Jesus at our evangelistic outreach on 12th November.

• Team:

- New operations team (Anna/Lisa), and new lay Associate Pastor with responsibility for youth and young adults (Sam) contributed to developing a strong sense of team.
- Added to during the year by the senior Hong Kong Pastor (Siew Yin) and Pastor Petrus and the recruitment of a Hong Kong Administrator (Shirley)
- The Hong Kongers worked hard to develop a team for their large congregation.
- Leadership Team, Church Council and trustees reflect a strong sense of team and unity where love, care for each other and fun underpin a determination to follow God and His Spirit as closely as possible with wisdom and courage.

• A welcoming and busy building:

- Continued our commitment to be open as much as we can (usually Mon-Fri and alternate Sat am) and provide a warm welcome to anyone coming in.
- In Autumn, with a grant from The Oxford Diocese we took part in the national Warm Spaces project.
- We completed refurbishing the 'lounge' and 'rainbow room', the chapel, a work counter in the corridor by the kitchen.
- Following pigeon damage the solar panels were repaired and pigeon-proofed.

• Earley Help Hub(EHH)/Torch Earley Hub(TEH):

- EHH became part of a new greater Reading-wide network of help hubs in 2022, and Trinity continued to play a very active part in forging its gradual development.

• Refresh Café and Community lunch:

- We continued to run a weekly well-being café derived from the EHH/TEH project. We started running monthly community lunches before the first café of the month – attracting 50+ guests.

• International Café (ICAF):

- Following the Welcome Course, we began a weekly (term-time) ICAF for internationals wanting to practice English in an informal fun way. This has remained popular.

• Toddlers:

- A weekly toddler term-time group continues to be popular, with over 40 children each time.

- **Who Let the Dads Out:**
 - Continued monthly on first Saturday morning.
- **Youth:**
 - Key activities: alternate Sunday morning and evenings at Trinity.
 - Love Thursday at Brookside – approx. 70 mainly unchurched youth.
 - Fridays in Maiden Erlegh School.
 - Youth provision post-Covid is a universal challenge.
- **Young Adults (25-40 ish):**
 - Began to see some young adults coming to 11am and committing. Potential for development.
- **ECO-Church:**
 - Awarded Bronze and want to work for Silver.
 - Work underway developing a wildlife garden on the bank (ASDA end).
- **Mission Support:**
 - We gave away £16,137.60 (10% of our tithable income) to a variety of charities and appeals, including:– Christian Aid, Water Aid and the DEC Ukraine; nationally - A, The Children's Society; and locally, CIRDIC, TORCH and REinspired.

MANAGEMENT/LEADERSHIP

- Church Council and Trustees met as required and worked well together.
- Sought to focus increasingly on our mission with effective and efficient management/leadership supporting this rather than dominating.
- Joint Church Meetings/worship continued - model developing.
- Congregational teams worked hard. Need to develop sustainable leadership given signs of growth.
- Safeguarding managed effectively, including many HK volunteer DBSs.
- Denominational links maintained – challenge is to provide enough reps.
- Jon and others involved in leadership of TEH/Torch and Transform Reading.

FINANCE

2022 was challenging, but exciting...

- Total income (not including any HK income): **£177,896**
- **72%** of this came from donations – we have generous people, and we need to celebrate them, even though donations had dropped from the previous year.
- Total expenditure (again without any HK expenses):
- **£190,306**
- **67%** of this went on parent church assessments and staffing costs.
- **HOWEVER** – we'd budgeted for a deficit of £24k in the year to August 2022, but ended with this only being £12.4k (despite some unexpected expenses).
- Lots of uncertainties, but we believe God is leading us and will provide for our needs.
- Let's encourage and celebrate our generous givers and go forward in faith!
- Key verses:
 - Isaiah 7:4 - Be careful, keep calm and don't lose heart....
 - James 1:2-3 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.
 - 2 Cor 9:6-8 - Whoever sows generously will also reap generously... God loves a cheerful giver.
 - Malachi 3:10 - Bring the whole tithe in.... Test me in this, and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.
 - Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you!

NEXT YEAR...2023

- **Continue:**
 - re-imagining on all fronts – trusting in God's timing and in His way.
 - listening and obeying.
 - keeping our vision statement central to have impact.
 - balancing wise management and leadership with stepping out courageously in faith.
 - pursuing partnership with local neighbourhood churches – seeking 'one' church.
 - Exploring LICC frontlines and 'whole life discipleship.'
 - Developing integration with HKers.
 - Nurturing 'family'.
 - Remembering to do a few things well!
 - NURTURING LOVE, GRACE, PEACE, FUN.

www.trinityyearley.org.uk

0118 931 3124

This document was presented to and accepted by the church AGM held on 14th May 2023

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Red Eades', written over a horizontal line.

Red Eades. Chair Church Council and Trustees



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trinity Church Lower Earley

1147501

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/09/21

To

31/08/22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Offerings and associated Gift Aid	141,491	11,958	-	153,449	156,362
Interest and investment income	361	-	-	361	111
Lettings	23,171	-	-	23,171	4,883
Other receipts	23,300	15,052	-	38,352	32,489
An additional £3,029.00 was raised	-	-	-	-	-
for specific charities and passed through the church bank account	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	188,322	27,011	-	215,332	193,845
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	180
Sub total	-	-	-	-	180
Total receipts	188,322	27,011	-	215,332	194,025
A3 Payments					
Parent church assessments	66,102	-	-	66,102	67,498
Mission giving	16,138	-	-	16,138	17,092
Repairs and maintenance	26,183	-	-	26,183	12,718
Utilities including building insurance	6,103	-	-	6,103	4,891
Other payments inc salaries	70,638	22,463	-	93,101	59,935
An additional £3,029,000 was paid to	-	-	-	-	-
specific charities having passed through the church bank account	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	185,164	22,463	-	207,627	162,135
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	2,664	-	-	2,664	13,016
Sub total	2,664	-	-	2,664	13,016
Total payments	187,828	22,463	-	210,291	175,150
Net of receipts/(payments)	493	4,548	-	5,041	18,874
A5 Transfers between funds	- 8,900	8,900	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	88,177	17,287	-	105,464	86,590
Cash funds this year end	79,770	30,735	-	110,505	105,464

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	14,012	8,735	-
	Deposit account	65,758	22,000	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	79,770	30,735	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			


	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	R. EADES	16/10/2022

TRINITY CHURCH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Accounts for Church Financial Year September 2021 to August 2022

Summary

The church's accounts are in good order. Scrutiny of the payments showed that all were appropriate to the activities of the church¹. Almost all the payments are now done and recorded online, and incoming paper invoices are also recorded in the computer files.

The church's income fell from £190K in 2020/21 to £178K in 2021/22, but this was mainly due to exceptionally high one-off donations in 2020/21.

Expansion of the church's activities involved an increase in employment and correspondingly increased costs, resulting in a modest excess of expenditure over income. This used up some of the extra reserve accumulated during the Covid pandemic. The deficit of £12K was less than the £25K planned in the budget for 2021/22.

The final accounts are a fair view for the church's accounting year 2021/22 (all funds). I have found no reportable matter of material significance².

Recommendation

Earley Help Hub and Torch, and the Hong Kong activities if not amalgamated with Trinity, should make arrangements to have their own financial accounts and bank accounts, and to be responsible for their own payments. This need not stop Trinity accepting donations in support of these activities into its own account and passing them on, as it has done for many charity collections and fundraising events.

Observation

The organisation and labelling of invoice and payment files have been improved and they are now much easier to identify, pair up and examine. {No response required}

Nigel Holloway
34, Radstock Lane
Earley
Reading
RG6 5QL
20 January 2023

N/Holloway 20/1/23

¹ These include some activities of other organisations which the church has been supporting.

² See Reference 2 for an official interpretation of this statement.

Examination Method

The method is described in Ref.1. In line with common practice to examine at least one aspect in more depth, an examination was made of the newly associated activities of 'Torch' and the Hong Kong church.

Findings

Independent Examination Requirements

The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the church's accounting year 2021/22 and that an independent examination by an unqualified person is adequate, on the grounds that the church's gross income was less than £250,000. I confirm that the church's gross income (turnover) of £218K³ is in that range.

Treasurer's Summary of Accounts

This is a fair summary for the financial year. The accounts have been prepared using payments and receipts, as is appropriate to the church's turnover. The use of more complex accrual accounting would not alter my view on the accounts. Although the finances of the associated activities are included in the turnover stated above, the accounts clearly identify them under separate headings.

Payments

All expenditure was properly incurred in the church's activities (including associated activities – see below) or as donations to charities. In addition, money collected directly for charities was passed on without deductions and, in many cases, supplemented from the church's 'Mission Giving' fund.

The organisation and labelling of invoice and payment files has been improved and they are now much easier to identify, pair up and examine. {Observation – no response required.}

Receipts

Inspection of the income records showed that all income had been transferred to the appropriate accounts and 'restricted' where donors specified this. The former youth worker was re-employed as an associate pastor and the restricted 'youth worker' funding has been re-allocated to that role with the consent of the donors. The new role largely includes the previous youth worker role.

Most of the income from church members now comes through regular standing orders or through the new Parish Giving Scheme. Both enable the church to recover an additional 25% tax rebate on donations from standard rate taxpayers. Over the whole year, 55% of the regular donations were made through the PGS.

Receipts from room rentals and the Manse rental have fully recovered from the Covid stoppages.

Solar Panels

This was the eighth year of operation of the solar panels. All repayments of interest-free loans were completed in this year. Solar income (feed-in tariff and export sales) at £4.8K slightly exceeded the final annual repayments (£4.45K) and will in future become an effective additional income for the church. However, it should be noted that the first major expenditure (£1.8K) on maintenance was required and that £5.3K was needed for pigeon proofing⁴.

³ This figure is the turnover and differs from the church income because £40K of income is also handled by the church for the Hong Kong church activities, Torch, the Earley Help Hub and earmarked donations.

⁴ Prevention of pigeons nesting under the panels.

Mission Giving and other Charitable Donations

The long standing policy of giving 10% of the church's 'voluntary income' has been maintained. The donations are entirely voluntary and do not create any legal obligations to make future donations.

Some special collections were made and passed on directly to charities, sometimes with supplements from the general Mission Giving funds.

The Effects of the SARS-Cov-2 ('Coronavirus') Pandemic

The finances for the previous two years were strongly affected by the pandemic although the net result was an increase in balances caused by the large reduction in activity and expenditure while the members' donations were largely maintained. In 2021/22 the residual pandemic effects were minimal and the church's activities have expanded relative to the pre-pandemic levels.

Manse Finances

Normal operation of the manse was restored before the start of 2021/22. The manse is managed by the Methodist church as equal partner and the costs deducted from the annual rental income are reasonable and fully documented. The Trinity half share of net income was £8.4 K and this level can reasonably be expected to continue.

Associated Activities

For many years the church has had minor associated activities, reported in previous independent examination reports under the title (Financially) Minor Activities, amounting to less than 5% of the total church finances. These activities were run by individual church members with their own mini-accounts (including some bank accounts) but reported annually to the church treasurer and occasionally donated surpluses to the church funds. Two of these minor activities, Chalfont Club and Thursday Toddlers closed in this year and transferred residual balances to the church funds. Ladies Club and Monday Toddlers remain active.

However, several new activities have been added and the scale of the associated activities is no longer financially minor. The activities at the end of 2021/22, with approximate turnovers (£K), were:

Hong Kong Ministry and Fellowship	30 (for a part year: May to August)
Torch	6
Earley Help Hub	2
Previous activities	4 (including the two recently closed)

The first three organisations are not run solely by Trinity church, although the incorporation of the Hong Kong activities with Trinity is being considered. However, the nature of Earley Help Hub and Torch is such that they will continue to be responsible to several organisations. Use of the Trinity bank account for these purpose is not sensible in the long term as Trinity payments should be under its control. Therefore it is recommended that:

Earley Help Hub and Torch, and the Hong Kong activities, if not amalgamated with Trinity, should make arrangements to have their own financial accounts and bank accounts, and to be responsible for their own payments. This need not interfere with Trinity accepting designated donations to its own account and passing them on, as it has done for many charity collections and fundraising events.

Income and Expenditure

The church's income fell from £190K in 2020/21 to £178K in 2021/22, but this was mainly due to exceptionally high one-off donations in 2020/21. Recently, though, there have been several large 'one-

off' items in both income and expenditure, so the income and expenditure for the year 2021/22 should not be presumed accurate predictors for next year.

Expansion of the church's activities involved an increase in employment and correspondingly increased costs, resulting in a modest excess of expenditure over income. This used up some of the extra reserve accumulated during the Covid pandemic. The deficit of £12K was less than the £25K planned in the budget for 2021/22. Although planning for a deficit is not normally to be recommended, the substantial increase in the reserves during the pandemic meant that the planned deficit was a reasonable way to promote the expansion in activities.

Financial Reserves

The end of year position for 2021/22 is: (£) {with last year's figures for comparison}

	31 August 2022	31 August 2021
Bank accounts	110,504	105,463
Solar project loans (owed)	(0)	(4,450)
Balance attributable to 'associates' ⁵	(19,354)	N/A
Net balance attributable to Trinity	91,150	101,013

The Trinity net balance was 48% of the annual expenditure (£190K). This is reduced from the 57% on 31 August 2021. The working reserve is the same, now that the fixed term solar loans have been repaid. The working reserve is still well above the recommended minimum of 25% and very close to the recommended 'norm' of 50% which is usually regarded as fully sufficient for all reasonable contingencies. Given that the pandemic related uncertainties have reduced in the last year, this level of reserve is very satisfactory.

Matters of Material Significance Reportable to UK Charity Regulators

In the course of my independent examination I have found no matter of material significance reportable to UK charity regulators. {See Reference 2 Section 5 for the relevant criteria}.

References

- 1 Trinity Church, Independent Examination of Accounts, FY September 2021 to August 2022. Examination Method. [Nigel Holloway, December 2021.]
- 2 Independent Examination of Charity Accounts: Directions and Guidance for Examiners. Charity Commission document CC32 (as amended).

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S FORMAL STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 proper accounting records were not kept or,
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 20/01/2023

Nigel John Holloway MMath (Cantab)

⁵ Hong Kong Ministry (£10,005), Hong Kong Fellowship (£2,763), Torch (£5,081), Earley Help Hub (£1,505).