Swindon CIO Return 2021 - 2022

Activities
The Trustees, the elders of the Church of God in Swindon, with the church members, aim to achieve the objects through a variety of activities requiring personal, social and spiritual skills. Our aim is to reach out, engage with and support those who live in the community. We do this by offering to the community, services that manifest our Christian faith, together with a variety of innovative activities and events. As we share with the local community, we also provide financial support to those in need by working together with local charities.

The previous year our programme was affected by COVID-19 and the UK government restrictions. We were able to benefit from last year's programme where we gained from technology as well as keeping our members, friends and contacts safe. We learned from this experience - adapting, being flexible - as well as making some tough decisions. As we began to plan for April 2021 onwards, COVID-19 was still with us and we anticipated correctly that national guidelines could vary through the year. As before we made plans with the possibility for adaption and change over the horizon.

Whenever possible, we would welcome the local community to join our countryside church activities at **Christmas**, as well as the **Craft Fayre** and **Bonfire night**, and **Quiz Nights** and **BBQs** through the year. Alongside these, the use of on-line links, that have broadened our activities and welcomed friends who could not be with us in person, offer exciting prospects. Our youth work – at our pre-recorded Sunday Morning Services (**SVS**), which follows our Church Communion service, and Kids Club on Thursdays, when possible, would run as normal, and we would look ahead to our SE district Youth Camps **(SEYC)** in August.

Visitors of all ages are welcome to SMS as they are to the **Wednesday Prayer & Teaching** time. The **Thursday** evening **Youth Club** invites young people to join in sports, crafts, games and a Christian discussion. It enables friendships to develop - between young people and between youth workers and young people - in a safe and secure environment.

Live streaming the Remembrance of Bread & Wine is important to those who have not been able to attend prior to Covid and the technology required will be put in place.***

We determined in March 2021 that we should be more aware of the wellbeing of those who form the church and their families. Lockdown had been tough during the previous year. We agreed that when possible we must share more of our concerns and of our time with each other. Activities together will be even more important – open air events, picnics, walks & sport. consideration was given to the use of technology during a time of government restrictions, giant steps were made.

Reaching out to local people in need is now an important aspect of our role in the community and we wanted to build on what we do. Increasing our support for Julia's house, our local Children hospice is important, and being a Samaritan's Purse collection point will be established. Other occasions to benefit friends and visitors should be considered and added to our community activities.

We recorded last year that “the purchase of the Piggery and surrounding land by the church was completed and an established Phase 2 Working Group began pursuing the provision of an additional building.”

The church, led by the Phase 2 group, will continue looking at the possible building arrangements that will improve the provision for ourselves, our neighbours and the community.

Achievements

The continuing challenges this year firstly due to the effects of COVID-19 on ourselves and our community, and then the changing government restriction have been met full on and we have endeavoured to fulfil our core aims and specific goals. In the main this has happened.

Even when restrictions have lifted we have in some cases remained with our alternative arrangements.

SVS (Sunday Virtual Service), previously SMS, continued while restrictions were in place. Over time the viewing numbers reduced and by the time we were able to meet in person, in mid-July, it was appropriate that SMS was restored. The successful use of Youtube proved to be a learning experience for many of us, one that developed personal and collective abilities across the age range.

Our **Wednesday Prayer & Teaching** slot also reverted back to an in-person time. As with the **Remembrance** - our communion service - we were able to live-stream both activities. They continued to give more people the opportunity to be part of the activity – those caring for children or housebound adults and those unable to travel.

Our Sunday evening **Honeycomb**, introduced during the time of the Remembrance lockdown, continued as it had proved beneficial for many people. As well as the broad prayer focus and short talk, it has enabled all present, including those from members of 3 churches, to have an increasingly broad and deeper appreciation of each other.
Our monthly **Bible Studies** and our **Thursday morning prayer** time also remained on-line.

We noted last year that lockdown and isolation could have negative effects and this was still evident. Care for everyone remains essential and common interests have always been natural starting points. There has been evidence of greater awareness and looking out for each. Age and natural interest were seen as less defining boundaries. This is encouraging although more progress can be made.

Some indoor events were cancelled, including, Quiz Nights, Light Lunches and Carols by Candlelight, and the Christmas Charity Craft Fayre, although we held a similar event towards the end of March 2022, with an encouraging attendance.

We continued the youth club for younger children and hoped that some might be old enough to attend summer camp, held locally. However, as in the previous year, it was decided that **CAMP** for younger ones would not be wise in the circumstances, but **ELEVATE,** for teens and twenties, would run at Flaxlands. The campers – 30 maximum – operated as a ‘bubble’. Despite deciding not to receive any visitors and to stay on site, a safe and profitable time was enjoyed.

Our local community contacts were maintained and some progress was made, with the wellbeing of our members and families remaining a priority for us. Some of our members provided personal, valuable help for individual people and we will return to this. Helpful conversations with Royal Wootton Bassett's community link officer. We have established a greater involvement with Julia's House, a local Christian Hospice, as well as Operation Christmas Child.

With the purchase of the Piggery and surrounding land by the church completed, the Phase 2 Working Group continued their work. Resources from central church funds are being pursued in order to enhance and improve the provision for future growth in all areas of church activities.

THE CHURCH OF GOD IN SWINDON **Charity Registration Number 1156833**

Receipts and Payments Accounts
for the period 6 April 2021 to 5 April 2022

SECTION A Receipts and Payments

A1 Receipts	**Unrestricted funds £**	**Restricted funds £**	**Endowment funds £**	**Total funds £**	**Last year £**
General expenses	5,218	-	-	5,218	5,118
Lord's servants	-	16,058	-	16,058	19,653
Youth work	-	825	-	825	1,010
Local outreach	-	980	-	980.	1,401
Property costs	-	14,626	-	14,626	5,634
District funds	-	1,032	-	1,032	902
Fellowship funds	-	2,380	-	2,380	2,778
Care fund	-	406	-	406	-
Faith Welfare Trust	-	2,330	-	2,330	1,165
Local Charity	-	-	-	-	170
S.E.England District	-	6,632	-	6,632	15,570
	5,218	45,269	-	50,487	53,401
Gift received from Central Gifts Fund of Churches of God	-	-	-	-	200,000
	5,218	45,269	-	50,487	253,401
A2 Asset and Investment Sales					
Sale of minibus	-	-	-	-	6,200
Total receipts	5,218	45,269	-	50,487	259,601
A3 Payments					
General expenses	7,515	-	-	7,515	7,585
Lord's servants	-	17,000	-	17,000	18,500
Youth work	-	353	-	353	630
Local outreach.	-	1,211	-	1,211	546
Property costs	-	2,634	-	2,634	8,262
District funds	-	1,092	-	.1,092	1,192
Fellowship funds	-	2,300	-	2,300	2,818
Care fund	-	540	-	540	-
Faith Welfare Trust	-	2,645	-	2,645	-
Local Charity	-	-	-	-	170
S.E.England District	-	3,068	-	3,068	1,620
	7,515	30,843	-	38,358	41,323

	Unrestricted funds £	**Restricted funds £**	**Endowment funds £**	**Total funds £**	**Last year £**
A4 Asset and Investment Purchases					
Acquisition of 'Flaxlands'.	-	-	-	-	200,000
Total payments	7,515	30,843	-	38,358	241,323
Net of receipts, payments	(2,297)	14,426	-	12,129	18,278
A5 Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
A6. Cash funds last year end	9,192	33,688	-	42,880	24,602
Cash funds this year end	6,895	48,114	-	55,009	42,880

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

	Unrestricted funds £	**Restricted funds £**	**Endowment funds £**
B1 Cash funds			
Cash at bank and in hand	6,895	48,114	-
B2 Other monetary assets	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the Charity's own use			
'Flaxlands' property	200,000	-	-
B5 Liabilities	-	-	-

Signed by :		Print name	Date
C G Jarvis	Trustee	COLIN GEOFFREY JARVIS	10/10/2022
R I Shaw	Trustee	ROBERT IAN SHAW	31/7/2022
A B Scott	Independent Examiner	ALISTAIR BRIAN SCOTT	25/7/2022

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of: THE CHURCH OF GOD IN SWINDON

On accounts for the year ended: 5th APRIL 2022 | Charity no (if any): 1156833

Set out on pages: 1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 5th APRIL 2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [ ] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~ *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: A B Scott | Date: 25/7/2022

Name: ALISTAIR BRIAN SCOTT

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: BA (HONS) Accounting & Adv. Dip. M.A.

Oct 2018

IER

(if any):

Address: 39 TAMWORTH, ALBANY PARK
BRACKNELL RG12 0TU