

Ottery St Mary
United Reformed
Church
Annual Reports
2021

Ottery-urc.org

Charity registration number: 1165093

Church Leader's Report

Vision

The Bible's vision for the town of Ottery St Mary can be summed up in the words of the prophet:

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14

We regularly remind ourselves that God's glory is fully revealed in the person of Jesus:

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..."
Hebrews 1:3

And so, as Christians living in this town and surrounding villages, we seek to fill Ottery with the knowledge of Jesus by word and embodiment. We believe that eternal life - life in all its fullness - comes by the knowledge of God as revealed in Jesus (John 17:3).

Leadership Team

Our AGM in February saw the retirement of three long serving and faithful Elders. Lorna, John and Anne all stood down at the completion of their terms and following a period of hand-over to the current team who had begun in the summer of 2020, and Graham Harry who was newly inducted as Elder in March 2021.

We now have four serving Elders: Judith Webber (Secretary), Barbara Beamer (Treasurer), Gary Beamer, and Graham Harry. We are extremely grateful for all their service to the church, both past and present.

Sadly, Anne died soon after retiring following many years of battling cancer. Her funeral was unfortunately limited by the Coronavirus restrictions during May, but it was clear how much people near, and far love and miss her.

The year began with another 'Lockdown' and so the leadership team began to meet weekly to engage with some new church revitalisation material prepared and distributed by Partnership UK. The purpose of this was to build relationships within the team, consider the future of the church in terms of direction, leadership, outreach and how we might be able to use what God has given us to join in with the mission of God in Ottery St Mary. This material culminated in a week of prayer and reading of Ephesians in June and the Leadership Away Day on 26 June.

Following Church Meetings in July it was clear that the only realistic option to consider further was a parallel church approach to revitalisation and given our context this was specifically considered in the form of 'Messy Church'. The Church Meeting on 10 January 2022 decided to commence with this fresh expression. We look forward to seeing how this will reach and bless the community.

Sunday Worship

Our Sunday worship gatherings have continued in-and-out of various lockdowns and personal isolations. Zoom has enabled us to continue to gather regardless, and it has also proved to be a more permanent capability, allowing those who cannot join us physically in the building to still participate in collective worship.

During this year we have reintegrated the children into the beginning of the service before they leave for their groups. This was enabled as the restrictions continued to ease during the summer months.

We have also experimented with some new forms of all-age worship on Sunday afternoons. Forest Church in August at East Hill saw children, parents and grandparents gather to worship. In November Fire Church gathered at Weston Chapel and again saw multi-generational worship take place.

Some special services were also held on Sunday mornings: Youth Family service in February, Missions Sunday in April, Holiday Club celebration in August, Alpha Sunday in September, and Candles by Candlelight in December with the Brass Class.

One of the many features of Sunday worship is the teaching. This year we have covered the following passages of scripture and topics:

- Humility – a character study, based on multiple parts of scripture considering how humility is a force for good: as resistance, peace-making, worship, hope, and the like.
- Lent / Easter – a survey through Luke looking at the alternative Kingdom, one that is unexpected, unrecognised, misunderstood, etc..
- Holy Spirit – a study of the works of the Spirit of God as revealed from Genesis through to the New Testament letters.
- Colossians – seven-part series on the letter written to show what the 'New Humanity' looks like, raised by Christ.
- Trust – we studied the lives of Abraham and Sarah and how they were shown that God can be trusted in all circumstances – even when we don't understand, or it seems impossible.
- Character of God – we made use of the Bible Project's video series on God's self-revelation of His character to Moses at Mount Sinai in Exodus.
- Getting ready for God – our advent preparation saw us follow some Lectionary readings as we sought to be ready for the arrival of God in Jesus.

We are especially grateful to Ivan, for his ministry on the piano/ organ/ sound/ vision/ Zoom almost every week of the year. We are struggling with a lack of musicians currently and it is something we need to pray about. But we are also encouraged that Joel and more recently Jaydon have both taken a keen and capable interest in running 'the desk'. This continues to be a focus of our efforts – encouraging and equipping multiple, all-age participation in worship services.

Outreach and Discipleship

Beginning in April we hosted a prayer course (24/7 Prayer) online via Zoom. This was held on Monday evenings for eight weeks and was well attended by people from our church and those in other churches and the wider community. The plan is to host the follow-up course in 2022. The prayer course, like all courses, had mixed responses from the guests – some very positive, others critical. It demonstrated a way of working with the Churches Together in Ottery (CTiO) that was well supported, whereby we as a church hosted a course and invited all to participate in various ways from other churches.

We also took a leading role in hosting and enabling the CTiO Alpha Online course which commenced in September for 12 weeks. This was a jointly led effort, seeing leaders from multiple churches involved and a devoted prayer team. The most encouraging aspect of this course was the inter-church participation, the shared enthusiasm for helping those new and experienced in the faith to grow through the delivery of the material. The feedback of this course was excellent, and we intend to host this again in the Autumn of 2022 either physically or online.

Summary

Having reflected on 2021 we look forward to the opportunities of 2022 and the fresh chance to place our trust in the Lord Jesus who continues to establish his Kingdom on Earth, in Ottery St Mary, so that his will is done.

"Don't overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change."

2 Peter 3:8-9 MSG

Robert Marshall

Secretary's Report

2021 started as 2020 ended in another Lockdown and all services being held on zoom. However, as the year progressed, we were eventually able to meet in person whilst still staying on zoom for those who wished to.

As soon as the church was open, a young lady called Maria came to practice on the organ on a Sunday morning – before the service. This was lovely to hear for those who were there early enough to hear it, this stopped in the Autumn when Maria went off to boarding school.

Graham joined the team of Elders and was ordained and inducted in March. Unfortunately, we couldn't share the hand of fellowship with Graham, as Rob and Graham were on their own in the church that morning due to restrictions. It has been great to have Graham's fellowship and input at the leadership meetings.

Sadly, Anne passed away in April after a brave battle with cancer and I still miss her when we try a descant – I always used to look across at Anne and we shared a smile as we both attempted to sing it! Then in August, Shirley Collins passed away. Shirley had been faithful in coming back to worship when lockdown initially finished. Connie Whitfield's family asked if they could scatter Connie's ashes in the front garden and place a memorial stone – this took place in October.

Work on the Church building has continued with carpentry work by Rob Johns (east porch shelves and remodeling the cabinet in the south corner so useful for items for the young ones); new doors fitted upstairs by the carpenter and painted by Martin and David; plumbing hot water in the small toilet and various touching up of paintwork. Upstairs has also been cleared of various items of unnecessary furniture, toys have been re-homed and there is still the ongoing need to tidy and empty cupboards and shelves.

Rob and family have been with us for nearly 2 years and his contract will be renewed at the beginning of 2022 to a 12-month rolling contract.

There is so much work that is done behind the scenes and I would like to thank all of those who prepare flowers, look after the maintenance of the building and grounds, set up and prepare the tech side; submit the monthly article to the Gazette; send birthday cards; take Minutes; look after our Health and Safety and have prepared various iterations of Covid-19 procedures and risk assessments, together with ensuring the church is warm and anything else I may have forgotten. And lastly, but certainly not least, a big thank you to Rob for all his help in leading the church through the last year and for guiding the meetings of the Leadership team.

Judith Webber

Youth Team Report

Youth Church

So, 2021 began just as we spent a lot of 2020 in lockdown. This meant that we were unable to meet in person. However, we did meet online again and we had great attendance most weeks. Online sessions involved a lot of the youth team leaders – some doing stories, crafts, and games. For the craft we took around a craft pack each week to each of our families' homes. This contained all they needed for the craft – also it often included a little treat. We started the year looking at Jonah and then following that session we began a four-week series on the nature of God – looking at Grace, Friend, Holy and Just. This took us all the way up until half-term when I did an all-age service. Following half-term, we then looked at some of the parables in the New Testament. On the 23rd March we were very pleased to start back meeting physically. To start with we met fortnightly and then from the 15th May we started to meet weekly. Over the term we looked at 'God in the Psalms' and Colossians. You will notice that some of the themes are similar, if not the same, as the church. This is because we feel that it would be good, where we can, to follow the themes of the church. This will mean that all the family are looking at the same scriptures and will enable whole family discussions. It would be great for everyone to listen to each other and see what they learnt from Church.

At Easter we had a Children's Easter Service on the grass at the back of the church. This was a lot of fun and the children really enjoyed it. We played games, had an interactive story and also did pebble painting. Each child received an Easter Egg. Also, Michaela ran a competition to design a face mask which some of the children entered. Again, there were lots of goodies as prizes.

Following our Summer break, we looked at a number of series including 'School', a continuing of 'The Nature of God' and Advent. During the year we were also part of 'Forest Church' and 'Fire Church'. The children really enjoyed doing church outside in a different way. Who would have thought that den making, picnics, toasting marshmallows and going on scavenger hunts could be church!

During the year our numbers sadly went down when the Randall Family left. This also meant we lost a teacher and leader. In this report I would like to say a massive thank you to Iain for all the work that he did for the youth in church. He was extremely passionate about sharing the gospel with the young people and he had a big heart for them. I know he is missed. Because the numbers went down in the older group for a variety of reasons, we decided that we would stop the older group. This meant that the older ones would stay in

church if they came. It has been great to see both Joel and Jaydon looking after the sound and visual desk.

At Christmas an advent calendar was given out to all the children of the church including FiSH.

FiSH

Again, due to COVID we did begin the year meeting online for FiSH twice a month. We did various things including games, quizzes, crafts, worship and discussions. Two highlights for me included Michaela showing the young people how to journal in the bible. Very generously she supplied a kit for each of the young people. The other highlight was a Valentines Escape Room. This is where the young people split into three teams to solve various clues to find a code. All the clues were based on God's love. It was a great session, even if it was quite challenging. We also welcomed Michaela and Rob onto the FiSH team when Iain left. Since we have met in person, Rob has continued to support the group. A massive thank you goes to both Rob and Michaela for stepping in. We have now started using the hall in church to meet for FiSH. We meet regularly once a month now with a second session each month where we can. Some of the sessions that we have done in person have included a Treasure hunt in Sidmouth; a train timetable quiz, a town scavenger hunt; an Easter Who Dunnit and a joint Christmas Quiz Night with the young people of Newton Poppleford. We also did 'Board game Roulette' which involved six types of board games and a time limit.

Superhero Academy Holiday Club

This year again we were also part of TheO6 Holiday Club, this year called 'Superhero Academy'. A lot of our youth leaders volunteered to take part. Thankfully too we were able to do it physically rather than being online. This year it was held at our church, making use of a marquee on the grass at the back, a few gazebos and the church hall. It was held over four days with over 48 registering. Each session saw us with great numbers – the highest being 38 children. It was slightly different this year in that there was a carousel of activities for the children to do along with the normal fun, games, worship stories and challenges that Batman and Superman offered (a.k.a Graham and Iain). The culmination of the week was a Holiday Club Celebration in the church on the following Sunday and a family BBQ on the lawn afterwards. An encouraging number of children and their families attended.

As I conclude I would like to thank every member of the youth team for all they do. God has certainly given you all great gifts and talents that we are so lucky to have at our church. Thank you for your time commitment in not only delivering the work but also planning it. I would also like to thank the wider church for your support and prayers. The Youth and Children's work is not just the responsibility of the youth team. The responsibility also lies within the whole church. Your prayers, monetary gifts and support mean so much and help the team do all that they need to do. Here's to a great 2022.

Graham Harry

Housegroups

West Hill Homegroup

This year we have completed studies on Images of God, James, Parables and Spiritual Warfare.

We are currently working through a 12-part study of Jonah, Joel and Amos. We have completed Jonah and Joel and are now on Amos - Not the most uplifting book of the Bible but it does give plenty of fuel for discussion.

We are a small group at present, 8-10 people each session. We welcome all who wish to attend and are happy to accommodate those who cannot manage every session. We also include, on Zoom, those who cannot come to the session. Tea, Coffee or a soft drink and biscuits open each session.

David Briden

Ottery Homegroup

We are a very small group and would love to see others join us this year – even just occasionally. Since September we have been meeting fortnightly in each other's homes on Thursdays at 8.00. We take it in turns to either lead or host the sessions (but you are welcome to just turn up!)

We usually start the evening with a chat and a hot drink and biscuits. We have been using the Bible Society's Lyfe materials which are based around six themes: Prayer, the Holy Spirit, Scripture, Authenticity, Compassion and Everyday Life. Each session includes a short video, a bible-reading, a weekly challenge and prayer. We have completed the introductions to each of the themes, and plan to continue by studying each theme in more depth – starting with Prayer.

We have found the material provided by the Bible Society refreshingly different from many bible studies, and it has led to some interesting and thought-provoking discussions - and perhaps some practical ideas of how we can and should be living out our faith.

If you would like to join us, please feel free to just turn up on the night. The venue should be advertised in the weekly newsletter and Rob's update emails, but if you're not sure please ask Barbara or one of the elders.

Barbara Beamer

The Church Library

The Church Library will shortly be reviewed, dusted and sorted, in expectation of a return to normal living soon.

David Briden

Foodbank

The last 12 months have been different and difficult but also encouraging. The Covid crisis meant that we had to adapt to a system of delivering food to clients, with the help of a team of drivers provided through the Ottery Covid help scheme. Over the course of the lockdown, including 2020 and beyond, the team delivered more than 650 food parcels providing 11,400 meals for 1267 people.

In 2021 up to the end of November the Foodbank has issued 307 parcels providing 6030 meals to 670 people. We have also issued £2760 worth of Greengrocery vouchers and re-started the Fuel top-up scheme which had to be suspended during the lockdown period.

We aim to provide three days food to cover three meals a day giving a balanced diet of largely tinned or long-life foods. In addition, we also give vouchers for fresh greengrocery from Rabbit & Co. the greengrocer in the Square, and £10 worth of gas/electricity per month for those on the smart key' system.

We are very grateful to all our donors; the generosity of everyone around us continues to exceed expectations. Particular thanks to our loyal donors who give by Bankers Order each month. Our thanks also to Rabbit & Co. who manage the voucher scheme and also give to the Foodbank.

The Ottery St Mary Parish Church, West Hill Parish Church, Feniton Parish Church, Ottery URC and Sainsburys and McColls keep collection boxes for food donations and we thank them and also the people who empty the boxes and deliver the foodstuffs to us regularly.

We are also very grateful to our volunteers who all give their time generously and without remuneration. No expenses are paid or expected by anyone associated with the Foodbank.

As the generosity of our donors of both food and money has also increased our income in 2021 has once again exceeded our expenditure and we begin the New Year in a very good position to continue to help those most in need.

David Briden

Community Market

We re-started the Community Market in June 2021 after having no markets for 16 months during the several lockdowns. (One of the stallholders had very helpfully organised virtual markets during the lockdown.)

When we re-started, we had all the national and The Institute requirements in place – no café, masks, one way system, sanitiser, far fewer tables so that they could be spaced out, social distancing. The WI café has been held for the last four months. The markets have been smaller than those previously held and footfall has been less but all the stallholders are enthusiastic about the market continuing and we will be continuing the market in 2022.

The market is organised as part of the church's wider witness and work in the community. (This is the heading on the stallholders' Terms and Conditions.) We offer local crafters, growers, bakers, those with something to sell or a charity or project to promote a space. There

is a friendly atmosphere and the social aspect is enjoyed as well as the buying/ selling. We pray that we can make good contacts with local people.

Huge thanks to Gary, John, Martin, Ali and Barbara who have supported the market with putting out tables, publicity and doing the accounts. Also thank you for the prayer support. The surplus for the year is £500.71.

Penny Hounslow

Fabric Report

Church

Maintenance and repairs to the fabric of the church and hall continued during the year, arranged as necessary.

Manse

The employed Church Worker and his family have continued in occupation.

Maintenance and repairs have been undertaken as necessary.

The damaged front wall is expected to be repaired in the New Year.

Quinquennial Inspections

Inspections of both the church buildings and The Manse are in progress.

George Moon

Missionary Report

The mission group of Judith Webber, Tim Beard and John Nash has met twice this year in December 2021 and January 2022. We wish to thank Anne Brinton for all her contributions in previous years and she is sadly missed now.

In the last month Nesia Derby-McCabe has started to work in the group.

The results from the most recent meeting plus subsequent discussions are attached below.

Recommendations for Home and Overseas Missionary Giving in 2022 for consideration by the Annual general meeting.

Financial support for Mission in 2022 from the general fund, should be increased slightly. So, the total mission giving in 2021 should be £4400.00

This year the support for the Persecuted church and refugees will be through Open Doors.

Local Evangelism

The O6 Project is making a valuable contribution in Ottery, so it is recommended that the annual contribution from the church is increased from £1500 to £2000.

Ottery Christian Youth Pastor (O6)

£2000

Proposed Overseas support for 2021

The division of mission spends overseas would remain similar to last year.

Summary of Overseas Mission activities supported

Ethiopia EKC Self-help Project	Support to Tear Fund will be continued but a decision needs to be made about whether support to Ethiopia in particular is practical at this time.
Open Doors	Persecuted Christians/ refugees
Thai Pocket Testament League	Evangelism/ Teaching/ Poor relief
Kunhar Christian Hospital, Pakistan	Support building of new infrastructure in remote area
El Shaddai Children's Home, Chennai	Running costs of orphanage/ old people's care.
Orphanage in Grenada	If suitable arrangements can be made with a church in Grenada

Suggested support

TEAR Fund	£400
Open Doors	£400
Thai PTL	£400
Kunhar Hospital	£400
El Shaddai	£400
Grenada	£400
TOTAL	£2400

John Nash

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORM CHURCH

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of URC and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissions under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

have not been met; or

- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

M A Griffiths FCCA (Director)

Date 21/7/2022

Lentells Limited

Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors

50 Fore Street

Seaton

Devon, EX12 2AD

Ottery St Mary

URC Charity

Registered Charity Number: 1165093

Financial Report

2021

OTTERY ST MARY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2021

This report includes information required by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting by Charities 2005 as applicable to charities entitled to prepare accounts on the receipts and payments basis.

Administrative information

The Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is a local church of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain, and is a member church of the South West Synod of the Church.

Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church is situated at Jesu Street, Ottery St Mary. The correspondence address is 1 St Mary's Park, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1HZ.

The members of the Elders' Meeting for the time being are recognised as the charity trustees. The elected elders of the church during 2021 were:

Mrs B Beamer	Elder and Treasurer
Mr G Beamer	Elder
Mr G Harry	Elder
Miss J Webber	Elder and Secretary

The employees of the church during 2021 were:

Mr Robert Marshall ~ Church Leader
Mrs Carol Connett ~ Cleaner

The church building and the manse at 27 Butts Road, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1EL are vested in The Trustees, The United Reformed Church (South Western Synod) Incorporated as trustees and held for the benefit of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC properties.

Structure, governance and management

The activities of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church are overseen by the Elders' Meeting of the church in accordance with the provisions of The Structure of the United Reformed Church determined by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, in accordance with the normal practice of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church.

The Elders' Meeting is responsible for the financial administration of the church, and the care and maintenance of church premises and the manse. The Church Meeting (of all members wishing to attend) gives general guidance on the life and work of the church.

The members of the Elders' Meeting are the Church Leader and up to nine members of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church nominated and elected by the members of Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church in Church Meeting. To be eligible for election, a person must have been worshipping in the church regularly for over one year and either be a member, or indicate that they are prepared to seek membership and be accepted, before being ordained as an Elder. Elders serve for three years, retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. There is no limit to the number of consecutive periods of service.

The Elders' Meeting met 12 times during the year and also had a day away to discuss, pray about and seek the Lord's will concerning the future of the church. The Elders' Meeting is assisted in the administration of the church and its property by teams established for Mission, Youth Work, Worship, Finance and Fabric. The Church Meeting met 6 times during the year (including the AGM). Due to the COVID crisis, the church meetings took place online.

Objectives and activities

As a local congregation of the United Reformed Church, Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church seeks to advance the Christian religion through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its building. The object of the Ottery St Mary United Reformed Church Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Scheme of Union of the United Reformed Church.

The church's vision is to be a spiritually strong, loving, bible-based family church where

- as individuals we take a personal daily walk with God
- we meet to learn together and encourage each other in the Christian life
- we work together to reach out and communicate the good news of Jesus Christ both locally and beyond in a bold, enthusiastic and effective manner

The Elders' Meeting is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and has regard to it in the administration of the church.

The Elders' Meeting believes that the church provides benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the church offers;
- promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community, for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Achievements and performance

Wednesday and Thursday evening housegroups meet regularly, giving opportunities for Bible study and prayer. Weekly prayer meetings have taken place seeking the Lord's help and guidance for the future of the church.

Sunday morning meetings provide opportunities for worship, teaching and fellowship. At the start of the year, all meetings were taking place online, but as restrictions have eased we have been able to return to the church buildings and both the children and adults have been able to meet together in the church since Easter. Internet links continue to be provided to enable the vulnerable to join the meetings from home.

FISH provided opportunities for 11 year olds upwards to meet together for fun, food and some Christian teaching.

The Ottery St Mary Community Market recommenced in June, and after a slow start the numbers hiring tables have increased so that the Market made a surplus of £500.71 for the year.

We have continued our involvement with Churches Together in Ottery (now known as "Love Ottery"). Members of the church have continued to organise and assist in the Ottery Food Bank, which is housed in the church hall. In the summer we helped run (and hosted) a children's holiday club and in the autumn several members were involved in running an online Alpha Course.

During the year the church continued its membership of the Evangelical Alliance and of Partnership UK.

From September several organisations have started to use the church facilities - some for the first time. The building is now being used regularly by Brownies, Table Tennis Club, Ottery Choral Society, Ottery Community Theatre and dance classes.

The refurbishment of the church was nearing completion by the end of 2021. Work completed included the provision of a new cupboard and shelving, new doors in the school rooms, decoration of those doors and replacement of the PC and monitors for use in services.

We thank the Lord for his provision for us, both financially and spiritually. We put our trust in Him as we seek to know His will and to serve Him in Ottery St Mary.

Financial Review

The church's finances are still in a healthy condition. Once again, overall giving to the church has increased slightly, with most people now giving to the church online. We have received a refund of VAT under the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme, amounting to £3,579.22.

Designated Funds: The church has set aside £250.00 each month to be used towards repairs and maintenance at the manse. At 31 December the balance held was £10,065.41.

Restricted Funds: Restricted donations of £916.12 were received. These included gifts for mission (or charity), and gifts for FISH, towards the costs of our Zoom subscription and Messy Church.

Unrestricted Funds: After taking into account designated and restricted funds, there remains a balance of £64,028.60 in general funds (as compared with £66,185.44 in 2020). Ideally, the Elders' Meeting would wish to have in hand an amount equal to at least 6 months regular expenditure (approximately £20,000) on unrestricted funds as "free" reserves, to meet future shortfalls in income or unexpected expense. The balance of £64,028.60 at 31 December represents more than this. However, we are shortly to receive the results of a recent quinquennial inspection of the church buildings, with a similar inspection of the manse soon to take place. It is likely that work will need to be carried out which will deplete our reserves. Having said this, we are doing considerably better than anticipated and have a lot to be grateful for.

The annual financial report has been prepared on the basis of a Receipts and Payments Account together with relevant notes and will be subject to an Independent Examination in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Declaration

Approved at a meeting of the church members on 21st February 2022
and signed on their behalf by



Mr Robert Marshall (Pastor)



Miss Judith Webber (Secretary)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
RECEIPTS					
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>					
Cash donations	1,952.45			1,952.45	1,799.10
Weekly envelopes	1,600.00			1,600.00	2,357.50
Payments direct to bank	19,350.00	6,800.00		26,150.00	21,953.00
Tax refund	5,884.74			5,884.74	6,123.22
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>					
Missionary & related objects			726.12	726.12	1,140.00
Legacies				-	9,291.19
Community Market	716.00			716.00	116.00
Building Fund					
Grants	3,579.22			3,579.22	23,675.64
Sundry income	227.39		190.00	417.39	832.70
<i>Income from investments</i>					
Investment income	573.27			573.27	576.77
Use of hall	484.00			484.00	774.00
Rental income from manse				-	1,946.82
Total receipts	34,367.07	6,800.00	916.12	42,083.19	70,585.94
PAYMENTS					
<i>Church activities</i>					
Ministry & mission	6,260.00			6,260.00	3,296.50
Missionary & related objects		4,730.00	881.12	5,611.12	5,761.00
Church Leader & manse	13,515.96	465.29		13,981.25	16,224.26
Community Market	215.29			215.29	267.07
Church running costs	8,816.60			8,816.60	10,933.68
Refurbishment	4,011.81			4,011.81	31,527.49
Worship/activity	2,076.84		100.00	2,176.84	2,823.96
<i>Church management</i>					
Administration/ sundries	1,627.41			1,627.41	966.14
Total payments	36,523.91	5,195.29	981.12	42,700.32	71,800.10
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	(2,156.84)	1,604.71	(65.00)	(617.13)	(1,214.16)
Bank current and deposit accounts at 01/01/2021	66,185.44	8,460.70	932.70	75,578.84	76,793.00
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31/12/2021	64,028.60	10,065.41	867.70	74,961.71	75,578.84

	Note	General Fund £	Endowment Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2021 £	Totals 2020 £
ASSETS	2						
Investments	3						
2022 M & G Charibond Inc.			2,450.06			2,450.06	2,537.21
360 M & G Charifund Inc.			5,602.32			5,602.32	4,941.25
2829.77 CCLA Ethical Inv Fd			8,842.18			8,842.18	7,903.83
Total Investments		<u>-</u>	<u>16,894.56</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,894.56</u>	<u>15,382.29</u>
Current Assets	4						
Co-operative current account		15,121.74				15,121.74	18,756.92
Co-operative savings account	8,9	48,906.86		10,065.41	867.70	59,839.97	56,821.92
Current Balance		<u>64,028.60</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,065.41</u>	<u>867.70</u>	<u>74,961.71</u>	<u>75,578.84</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting Policies

General

The accounts are prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis and in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

Receipts and Payments

Receipts are the total amount received by the church in offerings and donations. Expenditure is accounted for when it is paid.

Fund accounting

Separate records are kept for funds which have been designated and funds with restricted use. The church's general fund may be used by the church at its discretion to further its stated charitable objectives.

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- ~ Land and buildings ~ the church building and manse
- ~ Furnishings, fixtures and fittings and office equipment

3. Investments held by Provincial Synod on our behalf:

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2021, and are "permanent". The income only can be used for "general purposes".

4. Bank Accounts

We have two bank accounts with Co-operative Bank ~ a Community Directplus Account (current account) and a Business Select Instant Access Account (savings account). The Business Select Instant Access Account provides a small amount of interest.

All cash received is initially paid into the Co-operative current account, with a transfer being made each month of £250 to the Business Select Instant Access Account, earmarked for the Manse Repair Fund.

5. Tax Refund

A Gift Aid tax refund amounting to £5,884.74 was claimed.

6. Community Market

Receipts	£ 2021	£ 2021	£ 2020	£ 2020
Table fees		716.00		116.00
Less				
Payments				
Hire of hall	192.00		24.00	
Photocopying/printing	11.30		15.00	
Publicity	11.99	215.29	228.07	267.07
Net profit		<u>500.71</u>		<u>(151.07)</u>

7. Missionary and Related Objectives

	B/fwd £	Rec'd £	Church £	Total £	Paid £	C/fwd £
Able2Achieve (Silver Otter)		165.00		165.00	-	165.00
El Shadai			500.00	500.00	500.00	
FORCE	320.00			320.00	320.00	-
Kunhar Christian Hospital			500.00	500.00	500.00	
O6 Project		200.00	2,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	
Release			565.00	565.00	565.00	
St Petrock's		261.12		261.12	261.12	
TEAR Fund		100.00	665.00	765.00	765.00	
Thai Testament			500.00	500.00	500.00	
	<u>320.00</u>	<u>726.12</u>	<u>4730.00</u>	<u>5,776.12</u>	<u>5,611.12</u>	<u>165.00</u>

The payments shown as "Church" were agreed at the 2021 Church AGM.

8. Restricted Funds

Mission Fund	£ 165.00
Seedlings	£ 212.70
Spree	£ 400.00
FISH	£ 40.00
Messy Church	£ 50.00
	<u>£ 867.70</u>

9. Designated Funds

Manse Repair Fund	£ 10,065.41
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10. Notes

Insurance Cover

Sum insured:-	Church (buildings)	£2,230,671	“
	(contents)	£ 65,723	
	Manse (building)	£ 255,635	
	Manse (contents)	£ 20,129	

Ministry & Mission

The 2021 Assessment was calculated at £12,492 to give a monthly payment of £1,041.

Since April 2018 the payments have been reduced to 50% of that assessed in accordance with a decision of the Church Meeting as a result of the church's disagreement with the URC's stance on same sex marriage. Payments were reduced further to £215 per month in 2020 in line with the URC Synod's recommendation to make up for the loss of rental income due to the covid pandemic. In January 2021 it was noticed that these payments had been miscalculated, and £380 per month has been paid throughout 2021, with an additional back-payment of £1,700 to make up for the earlier error.

The 2022 Assessment has been calculated at £11,916 to give a monthly payment of £993, 50% of which is £496.50.

For a more detailed explanation of Ministry and Mission payments, please see the Treasurer.