



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From

Period start date

Day 01 Month 01 Year 2020

To

Period end date

Day 31 Month 12 Year 2020

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name Church of Christ

Other names charity is known by N/A

Registered charity number (if any) 1169423

Charity's principal address

Commercial Road,

Tunbridge Wells,

Kent

Postcode

TN1 2RR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Chris Dare		13/09/2020 onwards	
2	Ann Marjorie Mason			
3	Jonathan Robert Daniell			
4	Jack Ingle			
5	Lynn Allen			
6	Leo Harvey		13/09/2020 onwards	

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser

Name

Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed by, elected by)	<p>Appointment of charity trustees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the first annual general meeting of the members of the CIO all the charity trustees shall retire from office; 2. At every [subsequent] annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire; 3. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot; 4. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (5) of this clause; 5. The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause [15] (Retirement and removal of charity trustees), or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified in clause [12(3)] on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded; 6. A person so appointed by the members of the CIO shall retire in accordance with the provisions of sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting. <p>12. Charity trustees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Number of charity trustees <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) There must be at least five charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees or appoint a new charity trustee.

b. The maximum number of charity trustees is 12. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.

15. Retirement and removal of charity trustees

1. A charity trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:

a) retires by notifying the CIO in writing (but only if enough charity trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings);

b) is absent without the permission of the charity trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;

c) dies;

d) in the written opinion, given to the company, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;

e) [is removed by the members of the CIO in accordance with sub-clause (2) of this clause;] or

f) is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of section 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).

2. A charity trustee shall be removed from office if a resolution to remove that trustee is proposed at a general meeting of the members called for that purpose and properly convened in accordance with clause [11], and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the meeting.

3. A resolution to remove a charity trustee in accordance with this clause shall not take effect unless the individual concerned has been given at least 14 clear days' notice in writing that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify removal from office, and has been given a reasonable opportunity of making oral and/or written representations to the members of the CIO.]

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Church of Christ is committed to the following policies, which are maintained in accordance with guidelines, in consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage these risks:

Safeguarding Child protection
Safeguarding Vulnerable adults
Anti-Bullying
Data protection
Acceptable use of IT
Health and Safety
Privacy Notice
Lone Working
Investment
Social Media
Equal opportunities and diversity
Complaints
Anti-bribery
Risk Assessments

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the CIO are:

The principal purpose of the CIO is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the principles of the Fellowship of Churches of Christ (FCC).

The advancement of the Christian faith religion, mainly but not exclusively, by means of broadcasting messages of an evangelistic and teaching nature.

To advance the Christian faith in Tunbridge Wells for the benefit of the public through the holding of prayer meetings, talks, events, public celebration of religious festivals, producing and/or distributing literature to enlighten others about the Christian faith.

The church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world, including feeding the poor, working with children and young people, visiting the sick and elderly, supporting the homeless and those in need...

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Church of Christ is a growing family friendly, community Church, welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds, and race. Without Covid restrictions, we would normally hold cafe style services weekly, with the aim of providing engaging and relaxed times of worship.

Sunday Services, online during Covid times, include lively and varied worship, prayers, Bible based and relevant preaching and the sharing of Communion. Services are informal and inspirational and combine both new and traditional ways of Celebrating God.

Weekly 'Sunday Special' groups take place during our services for children/youth aged 3-16. Due to Covid restrictions these were held for only a small portion of the year.

YouTube videos and activity sheets were sent to parents during those months we could not hold Sunday Special. These groups and online activities seek to teach our youngsters about Christ, his life and the benefits of a relationship with him through age-related fun Bible learning sessions run by a team of creative, caring and dedicated teachers.

Due to Covid Restrictions our children's outreach this year has been limited. Our annual summer holiday camp for children and youth aged 7-16 was cancelled, and apart from Jan, Feb, March, our monthly 'Exhilarate' club for primary children aged 4-11 was also cancelled. Our Youth Group which would normally meet at least once a month, was limited to online Zoom sessions for 3-4 months from April – June. Due to Covid restrictions all our Halloween, Christmas and other Children's parties were cancelled.

Without Covid Restrictions, our community outreach and pastoral care would normally include holding an open service on Easter Morning, providing a meeting space for local groups, and running a twice weekly soup bowl. We have given out packed lunches from the door of the church and signposted to agencies for support, and at times allowed one support group has been able to meet.

Thankfully, we have been able to continue financial support for overseas initiatives: Geon Christian Children's Home in South Korea, Brian Jennings (with wife, Comfort) is a Church of Christ missionary in Ghana, West Africa, Unsung Heroes (formerly Pro-Vision International - PVI) - a Southern Africa based Christian missions serving agency, and the wider The Persecuted Church. Locally and nationally, we have supported Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors and Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ, as well as our national Fellowship of Churches of Christ.

In planning the activities for Church of Christ during the reporting year the trustees have considered and had regard for the commission's guidance on public benefit with

decisions made to further advance the Christian faith in Tunbridge Wells. Specifically, that through these activities to advance the Christian faith, to further educate and to carry out charitable work, this will be for the benefit of the public in accordance with the principles of the Fellowship of Churches of Christ (FCC).

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Worship and Prayer

Sermons in 2020 included Lent teaching on how our worship of God transforms every aspect of our life and journey of faith. We taught on being an 'unleashed people' using our gifts and passion for serving others in our community and world. We had a series on the miracles of Jesus in John's gospel encouraging us to live in the power of Jesus in our daily lives. We also dipped back into the book of Acts to see its relevance for our daily living. At Christmas, our teaching centred around the names of Jesus given in Isaiah and how they apply to our life and world. From Sunday 22 March 2020, the outset of the first lockdown, all our services have either been livestreamed on the internet or pre-recorded and available on YouTube for the congregation and others to watch. When we have been allowed in the Church building, we have provided a place for those living on their own or with no internet to come and watch the service together – socially distanced and masked, following Government Covid secure guidelines. However, positively our online worship has enabled us to engage with a greater number of people than would have been possible otherwise. We have had people viewing from Brazil, USA, Portugal, Czech Republic and varying places around the UK, as well as seeking to involve as many of our fellowship in taking an active part in our online worship times.

We would normally provide prayer support at the end of each service for any who would avail themselves of it. However, because of Covid restrictions, our prayer ministry has seen a healthy engagement and involvement from many church members via a WhatsApp group that was set up shortly after the first lockdown. This has also provided opportunity for smaller prayer groups to meet online and share together providing care, support, and comfort with words, compassion, and sensitivity.

During Covid our regular midweek groups gathering for fellowship, prayer and Bible study, designed to encourage and equip people in their faith, have taken place via Zoom and have included studies on the books of Exodus and Ruth – both very relevant to our times of lockdown. We have also engaged in material called 'the Story Formed Way' which gave an overview of the major themes of the Bible so each person could feel more confident in their own understanding of the Bible.

We have many regular attendees at Church of Christ with varying disabilities, the nature of which can frequently be of great discomfort. Our care and teachings can provide support and comfort from having a fellowship within Church of Christ, and from sharing God's love and compassion through prayer and conversation. During these Covid times, we have been able to offer online meetings to everyone in our church fellowship and have endeavoured to make sure individual needs were made known and met.

Sunday Special for 3-11s was disrupted due to Covid from the 22nd of March. Up until that time we had an attendance average of 10 children. Since Covid restrictions our teaching has included weekly links sent out to parents with YouTube videos and activity sheets; lessons prepared by our Sunday School teachers and sent to parents to do with their own children. We were able to hold 1 socially distanced Covid secure Sunday School in October with our children in the building. Advent materials were delivered to all homes with activities and lessons for the children to engage with.

Sunday Special for older children of secondary school age has been more difficult to maintain during the Covid period. There was a period of Zoom sessions run by two of our volunteers that attracted a few of our youth. However, it became apparent that many of our young people found Zoom difficult and so opted out. As a result, parents have been encouraged to engage with their young people in watching the online services and with relevant materials sent out. Towards the end of the year, one of our teens, along with her mum and with the permission of parents, has been ringing some of the young people, engaging them in prayer and discussion and Bible reading – something that has been greatly valued by those who have taken part.

The baptism pool at Church of Christ enables a fully immersive commitment of faith. This reporting year we have held one baptism within the church.

All who attend our services at Church of Christ (in the building or online) benefit from our teachings and worship, learning how Christ may be working in each of our lives and through us into the wider community. We seek to encourage the practise of Christian principles within the lives of those who attend our services. Recognising there will always be differences in belief and practices we uphold the value of the Church as a missional community and seek to work to fulfil the great commission of Jesus. As God calls us into partnership with Himself, so we seek to express this value in our working together with our community so all may have a relationship with Christ.

Children's Outreach

During the first 3 months of 2020, approximately 30 children aged between 4-11 attended our monthly children's club, 'Exhilarate'. Many children in the local area are in need or disadvantaged in some way whether it is financially or of a social mobility nature; by opening our doors to these children they receive teachings, games, and other activities that they would otherwise not experience, in an enjoyable and lively atmosphere, where they are able to freely socialise with peers, learn and for some to grow in faith from this interaction. Due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to continue providing this activity, but hope to resume at some point in 2021, when restrictions allow.

Due to the loss of our youth group leader and Covid restrictions, our youth group met sporadically and was forced to Zoom sessions which were led by one of our 18+ teens and another volunteer which enabled those who wanted to engage online with one another to do so. A variety of discussion, Bible teachings, social activities and games took place online.

Due to Covid Restrictions, all of our normal youth and children's activities were cancelled including a social action project in the Easter Holidays called the NOISE; our annual children's summer camp called 'Heroes in Training'; our outreach to the local community offering an alternative Halloween event called a Light Party, and our Christmas parties and Carol Service.

Community Outreach /Pastoral Care

We believe in helping those in need and letting our light shine before others so that they may see the good work we do in Christ's name. At Church of Christ, we do this by serving the community around us, particularly those in great hardship and need. We meet the needs of the local homeless community through our soup kitchen which runs every Tuesday and Thursday. Not only do these provide food, warmth, and nourishment for those in need, but they also provide an opportunity for conversation and friendship benefiting those who are lonely and in need of companionship. Since Covid lockdown and restrictions we have given out packed lunches from the door of the church, engaging in conversation where possible, assessing needs of those who accessed the food and signposted them to other agencies who could help. From April to July, we provided lunches 5 days a week from the building (Tue, Wed, Thur, Sat, Sun), and from August to December, due to the assessed need, we reduced this provision to 3 days per week (Tues, Wed, Thurs).

Due to the changing nature of homelessness and great response of our local borough council, the Tunbridge Wells Churches Winter Shelter was not needed this year. However, our minister is on a planning committee working to establish a resource centre in the town which will house the Soup Bowl, but also provide a holistic approach to the individual's health and welfare in body, mind and spirit. Church of Christ has been involved with building community bridges with the diverse local area especially with the nearby mosque. Through lockdown, our minister and his wife have maintained contact with various people in the mosque via phone and text and the occasional social distanced walk, including the Mosque's Imam and his wife.

During Covid restrictions we have been unable to reach out to our local community in ways we would have normally including; a Good Friday Witness in our town centre joining Christians from other churches as an act of witness to Jesus death and resurrection, a 'Sunrise Easter Service' in the public space of Grosvenor Recreation Ground in Tunbridge Wells, sharing in our worship and praise for the benefit of knowing that in Jesus dying on the cross all may be saved through a relationship with Christ.

However, throughout Covid, each person in our Church fellowship has been encouraged to find ways to connect meaningfully with neighbours, work colleagues and others on their 'frontlines' (those places they regularly go and rub shoulders people who are not yet Christians). This has resulted in a variety of organic activity taking place including Christmas carols being sung outside on one road; the organisation of VE day celebrations for a local road; the delivery of Advent candles to children in our church and children who do not attend our church; Christmas cards being delivered to those in close proximity to our church building, the offer of prayer to neighbours; litter picking on various roads; prayer walking in different neighbourhoods; establishing local neighbourhood WhatsApp groups to keep neighbours connected and needs known; providing an online Christmas Carol service; joining with other local churches to provide a 'Nativity Trail' in a local park on Christmas Eve – an event that saw over 250 people take part.

While we have not been able to hold our annual men's weekend retreat, we have gathered several men together for Zoom Meetings of encouragement and prayer which are supportive and inspirational as we grow together in our faith.

CREATE Community Choir continued to use our building until mid-March but has not been able to meet due to Covid restrictions. The Drug Addicts Anonymous (DAA) group resumed the use of our building once regulations allowed and it was safe to do so. They use our building every Saturday night for their support group.

Our minister continues to be involved in supporting and developing the work of local Christian community groups and events on a regular basis:

Chairman of Street Pastors - a group who pray for and reach out to young adults out socialising in the town centre during the late/early hours at weekends.

Secretary of the Winter Shelter management committee - supporting the homeless at a critical time of need during the coldest weeks of the year.

Organising Church Leaders prayer lunches - drawing church leaders from all denominations together.

Organising annual Week of Prayer events - drawing people from various churches together for prayer.

NOTE – Most of the above were affected in some way due to Covid Restrictions, but continued to operate either in a reduced capacity, or via online activities.

Overseas Initiatives - supporting the wider Christian community

Church of Christ has supported through voluntary giving of the congregation the following overseas Initiatives through prayer and finance:

Geon Christian Children's Home in South Korea - This is run by a wonderful servant of Christ, Doctor Chae, who is acting father to hundreds of orphan children and a great man of faith. We particularly sponsor young boy, Lee Hee Sung, who was abandoned but is now greatly cared for in this visionary family.

Brian Jennings (with wife, Comfort) is a Church of Christ missionary in Ghana, West Africa - He teaches many young pastors at Ghana Christian College and preaches in remote areas. Some of his students travel far to take the gospel to unreached territories. We are supporting Brian as he begins to mentor young leaders as an extension of his work with Ghana Christian College.

The Persecuted Church is a particular focus for our church, and we support organisations such as Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Barnabas Fund, Release International and Open Doors.

Unsung Heroes (formerly Pro-vision International) is a Christian Missions Serving Agency with caring roots deeply entrenched in community development in Africa's Southern region with hearts that are invested in accomplishing the wellbeing of its peoples. The agency provides transformational mentoring, resource acquisition and management services which build capacity into leader's lives and sustainability into life-giving community projects.

Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors – a local Christian Charity with people from 20 different churches working together to patrol our streets from 10pm-4am 6 nights a month to minister to those enjoying the night-time economy. The Street Pastors are there to listen, care and help, and are supported by teams of Prayer Pastors who pray while the Street Pastors are out on patrol.

Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ – a local Christian Charity working with young people in schools through assemblies and mentoring and working in some of the more deprived areas of the town helping churches run children's and youth clubs for local communities.

Fellowship of Churches of Christ – this is the denomination to which we belong, and we are pleased to be able to support its work and ongoing mission to both support existing Churches, as well as to see new Churches planted through their church planting initiatives.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Church of Christ is a small church with an average annual income of £39,956.

£42,675 is currently held as Restricted Funds for use with approval of the Trustees. Of this amount, Reserves of £30,855 are ring fenced for specific considerations including:

Approximately four/five months' running costs to be spent at any such time a drop in income leads to the requirement to make use of reserves. Additional sums are held in reserve for emergency or ongoing building maintenance and repairs, for investment in mission outreach in our local community and to cover the amount received from the US which would cease to be paid at any time Cliff Allen's appointment at Church of Christ ends.

The Reserves Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, or at any such time as the financial position of the church changes to have a significant impact on the running of the church.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F


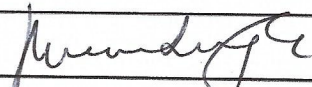
Other optional information

Section G**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

AWA MASON	VALL INAL
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Trustee	
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Date

1.9.2021



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Church of Christ Tunbridge Wells

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December, 2020

Charity no
(if any) 1169423

Set out on pages

Receipts and Payments Accounts/Statement of Assets and Liabilities (Form CC16a)

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities
of trustees and 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 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 examiner's
statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *)

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 Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

110853396. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn 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:

AMB Billingham

Date: 08/05/2021

Name:

ANNE-MARIE BILLINGHAM

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): FACCA (Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)

Address: 6 Manor Road
Rusthall
Tunbridge Wells, KENT, TN4 8UE

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.