

ST ANDREW'S CANTERBURY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

England & Wales · Charity number 1178344

Details

Other names	ST ANDREW'S, ST ANDREW'S CANTERBURY, ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CANTERBURY, ST ANDREW'S URC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2018-05-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE 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.

Activities: RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES HELPING GENERAL PUBLIC/MANKIND

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£147,528	£152,364	-	-
2023-12-31	£138,452	£128,751	-	-
2022-12-31	£164,341	£138,239	-	-
2021-12-31	£119,428	£134,205	-	-
2020-12-31	£99,157	£106,367	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Bernard Fidler	Chair	2018-09-15
Cheryl Jeanette Faulds		2024-03-19
Chi Fun Alice Wong		2024-03-19
Jonathan David Hollander		2020-07-21
PETER HOLLANDER		2017-11-07
VALERIE MARGARET CANNON		2021-03-16

Accounts



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

18 March 2025



Book of Reports

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Office Holders, Leaders and Team Coordinators March 2025

Minister:	Rev Bernard Fidler	
Serving Elders:	Jonathan Hollander (2020) Cheryl Faulds (2023) Peter Hollander (2024)	Val Cannon (2021) Alice Wong (2024)
Church Secretary:	Val Cannon	
Minute Secretary	Caroline Camp	
Treasurer:	Peter Hollander	
Gift Aid:	Janet Wilson-Sharp	
Administrator:	Alice Wilson-Sharp	
Safeguarding:	Sue Wenham	Deputy: Rev Bernard Fidler
Authorised for Weddings:	Linda Cawsey	
DBS verifiers:	Malcolm McIntyre	Val Cannon
Church Flowers:	Mark Camp	Catriona McIntyre

Fabric Team

David Spires	Robert Deakin	Hugh Marsh	Peter Hollander
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Church Representatives

Synod	Val Cannon
Christians Together in Canterbury	Cheryl Faulds
Food Bank	Kate Bassett
Street Pastors	Andrew Pantling
World Day of Prayer	Cheryl Faulds

Small Group Leaders

Life Groups Val Cannon (in church, Tuesday afternoons)
Caroline Camp (on Zoom, Wednesday evenings)

Men's Group: Mark Camp Malcolm McIntyre Jonathan Hollander

Women's Groups: Cheryl Faulds Patricia Hollander

Church and worship rotas: Chris Wilson-Sharp

Preaching rota: Val Cannon

Sound desk and projector: Jonathan Hollander Ryan Konkolewski
Adriana Fidler-Boutkan Janet Wilson-Sharp

Prayer Ministry Team

Leader: Revd Bernard Fidler

Church Website

Coordinators: Alice Wilson-Sharp Jonathan Hollander
Facebook: Cheryl Faulds

Oasis Café Team

Leaders: Patricia Hollander Sue Wenham

Church Cleaning

Coordinator: Sue Wenham

Stewarding Groups

Group 1 Dina Beukes
Group 2 Margaret Ashdown
Group 3 David Spires
Group 4 Peter Hollander

Littlebourne chapel: Peter Hollander Jonathan Hollander

MINISTER'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

2025 has started differently this year than other years. I think that if you are not a Christian life is very uncertain at the moment. And even for us as Christians, knowing where our hope is, it is also uncomfortable.

With the change in government in the USA international politics seems to change very dramatically. We still have a war in Ukraine, there is no tentative cease fire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. Sudan has become a hotspot for war. The USA is threatening to increase tariffs on Europe and the UK and threatening not to support Ukraine financially any more. The UK and the EU are speaking about increasing defence spending, whilst most economies are struggling with a higher inflation, cost of living and if government spending is going up, taxes are probably also needing to be raised as well. And that will affect us all. The question many people are thinking, but not asking, will there be another war? So what is God saying to the Churches in these uncertain times?

In 2025, we have also started our year with listening to God what he has for St Andrews specifically. During this time, we heard that He wanted us to step up in our relationship with him, and also in order for us to listen to him, we may need to surrender something. So as I write this at the beginning of Lent, we are about to start with an early hour of prayer every Wednesday in Lent and to surrender a bit how we do our services on Sunday morning. By the time you read this you may have experienced one or both of these things, so it would be good to have feedback. Not only on what you think of it, but also how God has been speaking to you during these times.

This year we continued with our Friday afternoon Prayer Ministry sessions. In the middle of the year we did not have many people who wanted to receive prayer ministry, but late 2024 and early 2025 we have been quite busy. And it is really good to see that people have been really helped in their lives and their relationship with God as a result of these sessions. Due to confidentiality, we cannot share any of this, but we have had a few testimonies during Sunday services that you may have heard. So if you do have something that is bothering you in your life, or if you find that you are not as close to God as you used to be, or as you want to be, please contact me, and I am quite happy to talk about that a bit more.

We also carried on with the Communion and Prayer Ministry Services, where we invite the congregation to bring things before our Lord for healing, forgiveness and restoration. We may need to rethink that, as I found that during the recent services the take-up has not been as good as I had hoped. So, please also let me know what you think of these services and how we can improve them, or if they fulfil a need for you personally.

Every month I continued to lead an assembly at Littlebourne School. This has been good to

do, fun as well as a bit of trepidation each time. I believe the children and teachers are enjoying it as well. But it has been good to bring something from God or the Bible to the school.

Last year we had the first two events of the Dunamis track at St Andrews, one in April and one in November. These have been two really good events. I know that this is quite an investment in time and energy for people, as they run from Wednesday morning to Sunday morning. And your first inclination may be that you do not really have time for this. My experience is though, that once people have attended, they want to come again and make the time for it. It is sound Biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit, together with practising in small groups, but also making new friends and good times of worship. The next one is in April (9-13) and you can still sign up.

In the context of Christians together in Canterbury I have continued organising monthly leaders' lunches. We are now coming together in different churches/locations in Canterbury and these have been times when leaders can share what is going on with their churches and helping us to discuss what we can do together. It has also been a great support for those who were able to attend. As part of Christians Together in Canterbury, we hosted a night of prayer by the National Day of Prayer organisation led by Pastor Jonathan Oloyede on the Friday before Pentecost, and then there was a celebration in the Baptist Church on Pentecost Sunday evening. Following this there was an outreach day in Dane John Park planned, but because it was raining all day, everyone moved into St Andrew's. This was an excellent day of worship, evangelism and getting to know each other better.

In the wider URC, last year was the year that East Kent Synod Area (EKSA) and the West Kent and East Sussex Synod Area (WKESSA) joined together to become the Kent and Sussex Synod Area (KESSA). John Ellis and I were co-leading this year, but by the end of the year I stepped down as Co-leader so that John Ellis is now the KESSA Leader. This also means that I have stepped down from being on the Synod Council, but I carried on being a member of the KESSA Pastoral Committee (together with Val Cannon), and I am still a member of the Synod Trust.

The other work I do for the KESSA is that I have been supporting Broomfield URC (now very small), with leading a monthly Sunday afternoon café style service.

So 2025 turned out to be as busy as any other year. But my hope and prayer for St Andrews in 2025 is that Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, will equip us further to reach out to people who do not yet know Christ, beyond our church walls and activities. And that through that we continue to bring glory to our Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father.

Blessings – 5 March 2025 – **Revd Bernard Fidler**

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have been pleased to review and assemble the reports on the past year, and also to see signs of new growth in the congregation in the early months of 2025. We are very blessed with our church building in the centre of Canterbury, with Bernard supported by Adriana leading our ministry and fellowship and with Alice as our wonderful Administrator, who contributes so much to the spiritual life of the church and the pastoral wellbeing of the fellowship as well as liaising with all our outside contacts for booking enquires and ensuring that everything in the building runs smoothly. Our Treasurer Peter and Fabric Team leader David keep us fully informed and take good care of what needs doing both now and in the coming months.

Jonathan has now completed his 5-year term on the eldership, and it has been good to see him grow spiritually in that time and increase his contribution to preaching and leadership, including shared responsibility for Littlebourne. It has been a great joy for us to welcome Chelsea to our fellowship and to celebrate their wedding in May 2024, followed just 2 days ago by the birth of baby Charlotte. We have also greatly appreciated the willingness of Ryan to assist on the sound desk, which means that Jonathan can have more freedom to enjoy and build his new family.

Most of the regular activities and outstanding events of the year are covered in the annual reports and in Bernard's Minister's Report, and you will also be interested to read in the last four reports about the other flourishing ministries that use our building to the glory of God. However, the priority in my mind at the moment is for us to build up a sense of "every member ministry" in our fellowship. That has already started through the "two-minute testimony" time in our morning services and the freedom to contribute, pray and share together in the simplified format of the Lent services that have just begun. It is good that those who are currently joining us on Zoom have also been able to add their contributions.

We have been encouraged to welcome new people to our congregation in the last year or so, including Nomena, Josephine, Ryan, Valeria, Deli and more recently Hannah, as well as Joyce who has been on placement with us as part of her training and has been accompanied by her father Charles and son Lee. We will soon be organising a meeting over coffee after church to encourage more people to take up church membership as part of their Christian commitment to our fellowship.

We have been inspired by our Day of Prayer in November and our New Year Prayer in January to think of new ways in which we can reach out with the Good News of Jesus to the people around us and to introduce them to faith and discipleship. We have an exciting year ahead, and look forward to what God will do as we follow in His ways.

Val Cannon

PRAYER MINISTRY

This year we continued with our Friday afternoon Prayer Ministry sessions. In addition to providing prayer ministry sessions, we have been training each other by reading a book together: "Deep Wounds, Deep Healing" by Charles Craft. We are now nearly at the end of this book. We also have practical training sessions where we engage in prayer ministry for members of the team. But this allows others in the team to practise the different roles in prayer ministry.

In the middle of the year, we did not have many people who wanted to receive prayer ministry, but in late 2024 and early 2025 we have been quite busy.

If you are interested in prayer ministry or want to be part of the team, please come talk to me. This is an area where we can really help each other and members of the congregation as well as people from other churches in Canterbury or outside Canterbury. I would love for some more men to be involved, or for some younger people to be involved.

Bernard Fidler, 5 March 2025

LIFE GROUPS

This year the two Life Groups have continued. Val's group meets in person in church on Tuesday afternoons and the Zoom Life Group meets virtually on Wednesday evenings.

The meetings are based on the Bible reading and also the sermon of the preceding Sunday and I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Val for providing the questions for our Life Group meetings.

Life Group meetings normally open with prayer and begin with an ice breaker – something more light hearted to try and get people talking. This is usually then followed by a worship song on YouTube. The question sheet is normally sent out in advance, so that participants have had time to think about the questions posed. A time of discussion takes place in response to the questions given. There is then a time of prayer for the concerns which people have raised and the meeting closes with the Grace.

If you are not yet part of a Life Group and would like to join one, either on Tuesday afternoons in person or virtually on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, we shall be very pleased to welcome you.

Caroline Camp

SONBEAMS TODDLER GROUP

Sonbeams is a mothers and toddlers group that meets on Thursday mornings in term time at St Andrew's. We have been blessed by committed volunteers so that we are able to provide the right mix of service and activities to the mothers and children. There are of course not just mothers, but grandparents, fathers and carers who bring children - and children's ages range from a few months to almost five. Feedback from adults is that they enjoy the refreshments for them at the start, the space and toys and snacks, the story time and singing at the end. Numbers have been steady this year so that we are not too full or noisy and there is just the right atmosphere for a happy time together. However, with better sunny weather in March, there were 20 parents and over 20 children recently which makes it a bit busy. We have had paediatric first aid training for helpers this year, but praise the Lord we haven't had to use these skills. Please continue to pray for Sonbeams and consider being able to spare some of your time on Thursday mornings.

Dorothy Namata and Peter Hollander

LITTLEBOURNE CHAPEL

We continue to pray for growth. We thank the faithful few who come each week. The chapel is used by the Stay and Play toddlers group on Mondays. It has also been hired out (mostly on Saturdays) for children's birthday parties. The monthly "Church & Village" newsheet delivered to every home in the village has been a wonderful way to communicate a Gospel message on the front page.

Over the past three years we've been through Mark's Gospel, Acts of the Apostles, Psalms of Ascent, Zechariah chapter by chapter and verse by verse and now we're going through Paul's letter to Timothy. We've looked at the Bible in far more detail than is usually done elsewhere. There have been challenging passages but delving deeper has its own reward.

We have two faithful keyboard players and we thank those who are willing to preach on Sunday afternoons so that Peter and Jonathan can be relieved now and again. Our Tuesday village prayer time on Zoom is a blessing and thanks go to all who support the chapel with their prayers.

Peter, Patricia and Jonathan Hollander

NEW YEAR PRAYER

The theme for the week of prayer 29.12.24 – 5.1.25 was 'amen' - meaning assent, ratify, approve, conclude, true, truly.

We had a guide for our personal devotions each day and, on the Saturday, more than a dozen of us met together in the Gallery Lounge to worship and seek the Lord's word to us as a fellowship, at this time.

After worship and waiting on the Lord we shared our thoughts which encouraged us to be expectant because something good is coming, to be patient and persistent in intercession and wait on Him. There are things only He can do. We are to 'take a step up -it is time to take this seriously.' We are challenged to hold things lightly, so that if He wants us to change what we do or how we do things, we are willing. We are to be bold and strong and know He is with us. We are to abide in him, know He is our security and identity, and see what He will do. We are to remain in Him because, apart from him, we can do nothing. Jesus is Lord!

Chris Wilson-Sharp (from Kathryn's notes)

OASIS CAFÉ

'We need a bigger kitchen!' 'We need more space!!' Thus the cry went up from the cafe staff as they juggled with bacon, eggs, baked beans, sandwiches, paninis, teapots, milkshakes and blenders, desperately trying to fulfil the ever-increasing orders from hungry customers. Nobody disagreed with the need for more kitchen space, the problem was how to achieve this with minimal disruption and cost. Expanding out into the Garden Room was not a realistic proposition, but with a little lateral thinking all became clear. Because a lateral expansion, into what was essentially a bit of a dead space in the area where the largely unused children's toilets were situated, seemed to offer a solution. There was, in the end, no need to apply to Synod for a grant or a loan, because, once we had convinced David Spires of the feasibility of doing away with the old toilets and relocating the sink and dishwasher, it was all systems go! The bulk of the work was completed in October, when the cafe was closed for the week of the Dunamis conference, but fortunately we were still able to produce lunches for the delegates. We have made a few adjustments in the following months, and had to get used to things being in different places - most of us still turn round to put things in the sink, where a new worktop stands - but we are all delighted with the improved facilities, which have provided us with much needed space, and made life a lot easier for everyone. Reading this, I'm sure you will have realised that the extension was needed because of the increased popularity of Oasis Cafe and our ever-growing clientele. Our aim is to provide good quality food and drink at affordable prices so that all may enjoy eating out every now and again without breaking the bank. Many of our regular customers come to meet up with friends or just to enjoy a quiet drink in a social setting, all knowing that they are welcome, and will not be hurried on their way. We

make the most of any opportunity to share the love of Jesus in a non-threatening or intrusive way, and always start each day with prayer when we ask for a blessing on staff and customers, and commit the day to the Lord, for everything we do at Oasis is in His name and for His glory.

2024 has seen an increase in the use of card payments over cash. We took £11,923.27 in card transactions and £4,812.22 in cash. In total St Andrew's has received £16,735.49. Many thanks go to all our volunteer staff for all the hours they have worked at Oasis Café. Please continue to pray for Oasis Café staff that we will have God given appointments with people that are pleasing to the Lord.

Patricia Hollander and Sue Wenham

MEN'S GROUPS: SOCIAL and BIBLE STUDY

The year began in January with a Bible based quiz together with men from Favour House church and St. Vincent's church in Littlebourne. We enjoyed a second quiz in February, as the Men's Group entered a team in the Dane John Residents' Quiz Night on Friday 23rd February.

The men enjoyed a Korean take away meal in the Oasis café at the end of March. After Easter we had an evening walk to Ickham, followed by a meal in the Duke William pub. In June we had another evening walk to Blean Woods.

On Saturday 20 July we were able to hold a barbeque for the church. This year the weather was almost too hot so we were able to sit both in the church garden and in the garden room, where it was cooler. The men cooked for the ladies and the barbeque was enjoyed by all.

In October we had a Chinese takeaway meal, this time in the Littlebourne chapel, and in November we enjoyed a film night watching 'Big George Foreman'. The year concluded with an evening of indoor board games just after Christmas.

In addition to the social activities, our regular monthly Bible study takes place on the second Friday of the month, ably led by Jonathan.

Mark Camp

WOMEN'S GROUPS: SOCIAL - BIBLE STUDY - ENTANGLE

Last year some of us ladies thought we would like to meet up together for some social events and Bible studies. We visited a few different garden centres and enjoyed a cream tea or coffee and cake. During November and December, we thought that going through Alice's book *Treasures in the Darkness* as I noticed she had written a study guide do go alongside it. So since the end of January we have been meeting, every two weeks to discuss what we have received from each chapter and share with each other. Future plans in the short term are to re-visit the garden centres for shopping and cream teas. Also it would be good to keep up with Bible studies as it is really good to read God's word together. If we would like to continue to meet twice a month, maybe one could be a social visit to garden centre or games and one would be the Bible Study.

Cheryl Faulds

ENTANGLE is a craft group that meets once a month in the garden room. We meet together with our own craft projects to craft and chat and help each other when the need arises. The crafts range from crochet, knitting, embroidery, patchwork, quilting and general sewing projects. We meet from 2.30 to 4.30 with a hot drink and a biscuit half way through, being very careful not to spill anything on any of the craft work, especially since some projects are months in the making! All crafters are welcome speak to Patricia Hollander for details. Posters for meeting dates are on the notice boards.

Patricia Hollander

THE CHOSEN

The Chosen is a dramatized version of the life of Jesus and those who met Him. We are screening this in the church once a month.

There are four seasons of the Chosen with eight episodes per season. We have shown season one during the autumn and we are now showing season two.

We show two episodes a month with a tea break between episodes.

Everyone is welcome. If you know someone who is not yet a believer in Jesus, invite them along.

The people Jesus meets in the Chosen found their lives transformed by knowing Him. Please pray that anyone that comes along will have their lives transformed as well. Posters on the notice boards have the meeting dates - also speak to Patricia Hollander if you have any questions.

Patricia Hollander

GLOBAL CAFÉ (FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL)

As a church we support the work of Friends International, who work among the international student community in Canterbury, by hosting a Global café on our premises every Saturday night. Every Saturday during term time at the Global Café we offer drinks and snacks for students, and we also offer board games, table tennis, pool and badminton. It has been fantastic to see the café flourish this year and we regularly get about 40-50 international students, asylum seekers and international professionals visiting every Saturday. Each evening has a theme - for example a Malaysian night, Pancake night, table tennis tournament just to name a few. At the end of the evening, we would read a Bible passage and have a short discussion around the tables on the theme of the passage.

All the events we run during the week like volleyball, English club, Global cafe and walks help us build relationships and to invite students to our weekly meal and a Bible study that we run on Thursday nights where they can learn more about Jesus. This year we have seen many Japanese, Chinese and Indian and Iranian students hear the gospel for the first time. We have seen many students visiting local churches and Christian Union events. We have seen students from India, Iran, China, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands, Costa Rica, Myanmar, South Korea, Spain, Thailand and many other places. Thank you for your support and for providing such a fantastic venue for us! If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer at one of our events or support the international ministry by prayer or by hosting students for a meal, please, contact our staff worker Baiba.Strause-Kalmere@friendsinternational.uk

Thanksgiving:

- We thank God for 6 students who have come to faith
- We with local churches hosted 48 students for Christmas meals in a British home
- We have shared the gospel with more than 400 students, with more than 20 seekers attending Bible studies each week
- We thank God for good partnership with churches and Christian Unions and the university Missions week that happened last week. Pray that the seeds sown will bear fruit in due course.
- We thank God for providing us with New Staff worker Barath Soundappan (from India) and a Reach volunteer Emi Yoshinaga (from Japan) this year

Please pray for:

- Recruitment of intern for academic year beginning in September 2025 for Reach discipleship year
- Pray for our weekly events and especially weekly evangelistic Bible study called "Open House"

- Planning for annual Canterbury Summer International Outreach based at SMB premises from 29th June- 6 July 2025! We are currently recruiting local volunteers who could provide B & B for week for outreach team members, people to bake cakes, lend bikes or sponsor a team member.
- Pray for more churches and volunteers to get involved in reaching thousands of international students in this city - harvest is plentiful and this is the most strategic mission of modern days.

Thank you for your continuous and generous support! We could not do this ministry without you!

In Christ,
Baiba Strause-Kalmere Centre Team Leader,
Canterbury
Mobile: 07999556555
Friends International
Website: <http://canterburyfi.org.uk/>

CANTERBURY CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH(CCCC)

UPDATES FROM APRIL 2024 to MARCH 2025

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:19-20 ESV)."

We thank God for His guidance and leading throughout the past year. Over the course of the year, there have been some changes in our committee. The terms of office for two trustees, Brother Dominic and Sister Huiqing Li, expired last June. They will temporarily step down as trustees and hope to return after taking a one-year break. We are grateful for God's provision, as three sisters have joined our leadership team as new trustees: Grace Wang, Yiling Shen, and Yuxia Chen. May God honor their dedication and bless us to be united in Christ.

Sunday worship

Over the past year, the number of attendees at our Sunday service has steadily increased. The average attendance ranges from 55 to 65, including children. Additionally, more young people have started joining our Sunday service, and two sisters have become involved in serving in the PA system.

We held four evangelical Sunday services for special festivals and events last year: Christmas, Chinese New Year, the Mid-Autumn Festival, and a special summer gathering. Before or after each service, we share a meal together. We actively encourage brothers and sisters to invite unbelievers to join our services. Each time, more than 100 people, including both adults and children, attend these gatherings.

Children Ministry

Over the past year, more children have been attending our Sunday school, with an average of 20 students each week. As a result, we need more volunteers to serve in the ministry, and we encourage some parents to join our team.

This year, we plan to invite 4–5 youth pastors or ministers to share their testimonies in Sunday school, inspiring our youth and children to dedicate themselves to God.

Family ministry

Our church has more sisters than brothers because, in most families, the husbands are unbelievers and do not attend church with their wives.

Thanks be to God! In the past year, two families have joined our church and have been attending Sunday services consistently.

However, some families are still facing challenges, and some couples are experiencing serious relationship difficulties. We need to pray for them and provide counseling and support. May God grant us wisdom to help these families in managing their households.

Last July, we encouraged more families to attend the COCM Summer Family Camp.

Attend COCM family camp

Discipleship ministry

This year, we launched our online adult Sunday school program, offering a total of three courses:

- "Introduction to the Old Testament" (February 5 – April 1, 2024)
- "Development History of the Chinese Church" (May 6 – June 24, 2024)
- "Introduction to the New Testament" (September 16 – November 11, 2024)

Classes are held every Monday evening from 8:30 to 9:30 PM, as some families in the restaurant industry only have Mondays off.

Outreach events

Since 2022, we have organized three to four evangelical services each year. We have welcomed some new immigrants, some of whom have begun attending our church's Sunday worship. In September of last year, we launched a new Bible study group specifically for these newcomers. We guided them through the Alpha Course, with approximately 6-7 participants attending each session. We meet monthly, and during our most recent gathering, two seekers made the decision to become Christians.

Visa student Ministry

In September 2024, we began welcoming new students to the university once again. Nearly twenty students now attend our student fellowship, and most of them are unbelievers. We teach them using the Alpha Course and encourage them to participate in the COCM year-end student camp at the end of 2024. Last month, five students made the decision to become Christians after attending fellowship. Praise the Lord!

Grace Liu

COCM missionaries ministering in CCCC

FAVOUR HOUSE CHURCH 2024 Activities held at St Andrews URC Venue

-

In His Presence Meetings

Favour House Church holds a monthly worship and prayer meeting on the first Saturday of each month, 4 pm to 6 pm. This meeting provides churches in Canterbury the opportunity to gather and worship together as the body of Christ.

Dwelling In His Presence Prayers

There is an opportunity for anyone to come and join the weekly prayers on Thursdays from noon to 1 pm where worship and prayers are done in unity. King James (Senior Pastor FHC) mainly leads the prayers but in his absence, Peter Hollander leads.

Kings Summit Business Conference

In October 2024, Kings Summit Business Conference was held at URC venue. This is a conference for business owners who would like their businesses to scale-up by gaining the needed insights to apply to their businesses and enhance growth.

Chizzy James

CANTERBURY STREET PASTORS

Canterbury Street Pastors is an award-winning ministry dedicated to supporting individuals in the night time economy. We are part of the Safer Streets Project, the Community Safety Partnership, and the Purple Flag Scheme. Our efforts have been recognized by the Best Bar None Scheme, which evaluates the safety of venues, promotes well-being, and emphasizes zero tolerance training among other initiatives.

Notably, Canterbury has received the Purple Flag Award for 13 consecutive years, making it the only city in the country to achieve this distinction! Canterbury continues to lead the way in safety initiatives, with Canterbury Street Pastors playing a crucial role in this effort. It is not a coincidence that we are celebrating our 13th year of operations, during which we have focused on maintaining peace in the city while keeping Christ at the centre of our mission.

In February 2024, we welcomed 4 new Street Pastors, along with 3 from the Whitstable team.

September was designated as a month of prayer for the work of Street Pastors. During this time, our team and supporters gathered an hour earlier on Saturday nights to pray together. Since then, we have seen a significant increase in requests for application forms, and we are excited to welcome 14 new volunteers to our team. Looking ahead to 2025, we plan to increase the frequency of our patrols. We have observed that the need for flip-flops has decreased as the dynamics of the night time economy evolve. Our door is always open, if you would like to know more or join the prayer support group.

Andrew Pantling, Coordinator for Canterbury.

Notes to the Accounts - Year ended 31st December 2024**1 Accounting policies**

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 using the accruals method..

2 Income

Freewill offerings were over budget as were Oasis café receipts.

Premises lettings were St Andrew's £21,889, Flat £7,200, Littlebourne £717 = £29,921

The café contributed £16,035 to the church funds, after card charges of £650. 47.33% of the takings were card payments (last year 43.6%).

Other Receipts - Welfare contributions £3,580, Graham Watkins £300 funeral donation, City church wedding £400, Scone School £680, Chinese church contribution to screens £500 (cost £616), First Aid course £150, Birthday gift £150 (paid out £150), Watling Street charity (received £2,416, £1,416 carried forward) £1,000, copies £8 = £6,768

URC Grants - There was a grant for the Garden room doors&windows £8,370 and provision for repairs £2,000 receivable in 2025

Donations for specific purposes - Vaughn & Au Goodchild £1,010 , Amy & Kody Friesen £915, Great Kenya Mission (Daniel Gitau) £2,162, Canterbury Christian Schools work Trust £465 = £4,552

3 Expenditure

Furniture & Fittings - Garden room £16,995, Café plumbing, wiring, shelves, table £2,002, Screens (£500 rec'd) £616, other small items (flip chart, rack & mugs) £239 = £19,852

Manse expenses - Council Tax £3,645, Water £872, Gas Maintenance & certificate £831, Insurance £662, Gutter clean £230, Fence £395 small repairs £30 = £6,665

Regular Payments to Christian Workers - Goodchild £125/mo; Friesen £125/mo; Sch Work Trust £100/mo. Times 12 = £4,200
Vaughan Goodchild's bank account in Canterbury Nat West was cancelled, so we have to pay by transfer to Philippines half yearly to reduce the bank charges of £42.50 for each transaction. NatWest won't send bank cards or statements abroad anymore.

Notes to the Accounts - Year ended 31st December 2024**3 Expenditure - continued**

Church Repairs - Flat Gas Maintce £178, Fire & Burglar Alarm maintce £3,314 (replacement equipment), Lift Maintenance £867, Water heater £211, Hall & foyer lights £1,372, Toilet £175, café blinds £320, Café lights £323, small other repairs £217 =£6,977

Other Expenses - Bank Charges £620, Scone School £680, Petty cash £100, Christians Together £30, Birthday Gift £150, British Legion £50, Piano tuner £60, Find church £44, Wedding Fees £100 = £1,834

Donations paid out - Vaughn & Au Goodchild £1,010, Amy & Kody Friesen £915, Great Kenya Mission £2,162, CCSWT £465 = £4,552

4 Result

There was a deficit of £4,836 for the year, against budget of £5,470. There was a surplus of £9,710 last year.

5 Debtors and Prepayments

HMRC gift aid £4000 provision, Tenancy Deposit Scheme £500, Lili Waste pd Dec for Jan £111, provision for Synod Repair Grant receivable in 2025 £2,000 = £6,611

6 Creditors

Blythwood £20, Gas & Electricity 1,519, Water £540, NEST £135, Bank charges £54, Samaritans key deposit £15, Goodchild not yet paid over £645, cleaners £1290 = £4,218

7 Staff Costs

Salary costs were £ 11,145 plus Employer's Pension Contributions to a Defined Benefit Scheme (NEST) £335

8 Watling Street Charity funds of £2416 were transferred to St Andrew's for welfare purposes and £1416 is unspent.

9 We expect to receive a £5,000 from the estate of John Clarke in 2025

St Andrew's URC, Canterbury
Registered Charity no. 1178344

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2024

	Note	Results for the year ended 31st December 2024	Variance	Budget Projection 2024	Results for the year ended 31st December 2023
INCOME					
Freewill Offerings		57,006	2,006	55,000	61,019
Covenant/Gift Aid Tax Recovery -due		10,079	79	10,000	10,031
Hall & Premises Lettings (incl Flat £3600 & L'bme £405)		29,806	4,806	25,000	24,842
Oasis Cafe Receipts	2	25,071	1,071	24,000	23,553
Littlebourne Offerings		2,742	742	2,000	2,121
Other Receipts	2	6,768	5,768	1,000	1,269
Grants due from URC	2	10,370	(5,630)	16,000	7,420
Capital Reserve Account & URC Interest		1,136	136	1,000	1,363
Donations for Specific purposes	2	4,552	(1,448)	6,000	6,834
Total Income		£ 147,528	£ 7,528	£ 140,000	£ 138,452
EXPENDITURE					
Ministry and Mission		45,180	0	45,180	41,076
Ministerial & Preaching Expenses		3,239	761	4,000	4,109
Welfare Fund -		4,530	(3,530)	1,000	940
Church Cleaning		5,476	(1,476)	4,000	4,344
Electricity Gas & Water		17,004	(2,004)	15,000	12,274
Administration and Office Expenses		14,503	(503)	14,000	13,380
Church Insurance		6,289	1	6,290	6,514
Furniture & Fittings -	3	19,852	(1,852)	18,000	5,325
Manse Expenses - Council Tax, water & repairs	3	6,665	335	7,000	10,575
Payments To Christian Workers	3	4,200	800	5,000	4,200
Courses, Teaching Aids & CCL Licence		1,935	(935)	1,000	760
Catering Supplies		790	(90)	700	645
Church Repairs	3	6,977	(977)	6,000	5,986
Children's & Youth Work		352	148	500	408
Oasis Cafe Payments - stock & card charges	2	9,036	1,764	10,800	10,197
Other (Bank Charges, Scone Sch etc)	3	1,834	(834)	1,000	1,184
Donations - specific - see above donations	3	4,502	1,498	6,000	6,834
Total Expenses		£ 152,364	£ (6,894)	£ 145,470	£ 128,751
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (Normal Transactions)		£ (4,836)	£ 14,422	£ (5,470)	£ 9,701

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2024**BALANCE SHEET**

	Note	Balance Sheet At 31st December 2024	Balance Sheet At 31st December 2023	Balance Sheet At 31st December 2022
Cash at Bank		79,125	78,254	61,966
Cash in Hand		250	250	250
Investments held by Southern Synod		17,173	16,249	15,682
Epworth investment Trusts				
Creditors and Accrued charges	6	(4,218)	(3,107)	(2,788)
Rent Deposit received £500		(500)	(500)	(500)
Debtors & Prepayments	5	6,611	9,791	16,059
Total Assets		£ 98,442	£ 100,937	£ 90,670
Represented by				
General Fund brought forward		84,688	74,987	49,030
Surplus / (Deficit) for year		(4,836)	9,701	25,957
General Fund carried forward		£ 79,852	£ 84,688	£ 74,987
Funds held by Southern Province		£ 17,173	£ 16,249	£ 15,682
Welfare Fund		£ 1,416		
Total Funds		£ 98,442	£ 100,937	£ 90,670

BUDGET and past results
St Andrew's URC Canterbury

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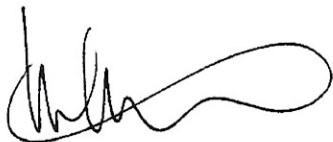
Budget for 2025 Income and Expenditure Account

	Budget Projection 2025	Results for Year ended 31/12/2024	Results for Year ended 31/12/2023	Results for Year ended 31/12/2022
INCOME				
Freewill Offerings	55,000	57,006	61,019	57,550
Covenant/Gift Aid Tax Recovery	9,000	10,079	10,031	13,517
Hall & Premises Lettings (Flat £7,620 p.a.)	30,000	29,806	24,842	25,093
Oasis Cafe Receipts	26,000	25,071	23,553	20,066
Littlebourne Receipts	2,500	2,742	2,121	1,570
Other Receipts	10,000	6,768	1,269	1,014
- specific gifts/interest received/other income		-	-	26,715
Insurance claim - loss of rental and café income 2020-2021		10,370	7,420	9,193
Grants from URC	4,000	1,136	1,363	144
Capital Reserve Account Interest	1,000	4,552	6,834	9,478
Donations for Specific purposes	5,000			
Total Income	£ 142,500	147,528	138,452	164,341
EXPENDITURE				
Ministry and Mission	47,436	45,180	41,076	41,076
Ministerial Expenses	3,500	3,239	4,109	2,972
Welfare of church members	3,000	4,530	940	485
Church Cleaning	5,500	5,476	4,344	3,925
Electricity Gas & Water	17,000	17,004	12,274	12,377
Administration and Office Expenses	15,000	14,503	13,380	13,143
Church Insurance	6,410	6,289	6,514	7,200
Furniture & Fittings -	4,000	19,852	5,325	17,229
Manse Expenses	7,000	6,665	10,575	4,976
Payments To Christian Workers	5,000	4,200	4,200	4,200
Courses and Teaching Aids	1,000	1,935	760	929
Catering Supplies	700	790	645	682
Church Repairs	6,000	6,977	5,986	6,617
KidzKlub	-	-	-	-
Children's & Youth Work	500	352	408	684
Oasis Cafe Payments	10,400	9,036	10,197	9,075
Other	1,000	1,834	1,184	968
Donations	5,000	4,502	6,834	9,478
Youth and Family Workers & Expenses	-	-	-	2,369
Scone School	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	£ 138,446	152,364	128,751	138,383
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (Normal Transactions)	£ 4,054	(4,836)	9,701	25,957

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CANTERBURY
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

I have carried out an independent examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 of St Andrew's United Reformed Church Canterbury. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from charity trustees concerning any such matters. No material matters have come to my attention to give me cause for concern that proper records were not kept and that the information disclosed is not correct.

I confirm that these accounts are in accordance with the books and records of the church and that they show the church's financial position at 31st December 2024

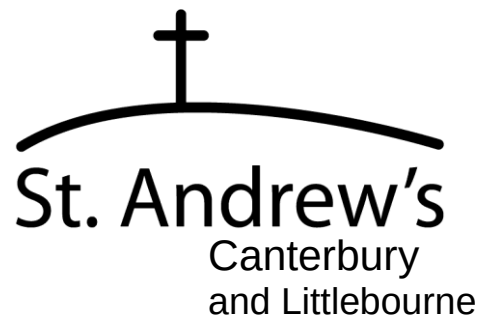


William Geering MAAT

Winterbourne
Curtis Lane
Stelling Minnis
Kent
CT4 6AD

5th May 2025

Accounts



Annual General Meeting

19th March 2024

Book of Reports



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Office Holders, Leaders and Team Coordinators 2022-23

Minister:	Rev Bernard Fidler	
Serving Elders:	Val Cannon (2021) Chris Wilson-Sharp (2019) Jonathan Hollander (2020)	Caroline Camp (2019) Janet Wilson-Sharp (2019) Cheryl Faulds (2023)
Church Secretary:	Caroline Camp (from 2020) Val Cannon (from March 2024)	
Minute Secretary	Caroline Camp	
Treasurer:	Peter Hollander	
Gift Aid:	Janet Wilson-Sharp	
Offering:	(vacant)	
Administrator:	Alice Wilson-Sharp	
Safeguarding:	Sue Wenham	Deputy Rev Bernard Fidler
Authorised for Weddings:		
DBS verifiers:	Malcolm McIntyre	Val Cannon
Church Flowers:	Mark Camp	Catriona McIntyre

Fabric Team

David Spires	Robert Deakin	Hugh Marsh	Peter Hollander
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Church Representatives

Synod	Val Cannon
Christians Together in Canterbury	Vacant
Christian Aid	Vacant
Food Bank	Kate Bassett
Street Pastors	Andrew Pantling
World Day of Prayer	Caroline Camp

Small Group Leaders

Life Groups Val Cannon (in church, Tuesday afternoons)
Bernard Fidler (on Zoom, Wednesday evenings)

Men's Group: Mark Camp Malcolm McIntyre Jonathan Hollander

Church and worship rotas: Chris Wilson-Sharp

Preaching rota: Val Cannon

Sound desk and technical support: Jonathan Hollander with Adriana Fidler-Boutkan,
Janet Wilson-Sharp

Prayer Ministry Team

Leader: Chris Wilson-Sharp

Church Website

Coordinators: Alice Wilson-Sharp Jonathan Hollander

Oasis Café Team

Leaders: Patricia Hollander Sue Wenham

Church Cleaning

Team led by Sue Wenham

Stewarding Groups

Group 1 Dina Beukes
Group 2 Margaret Ashdown
Group 3 David Spires
Group 4 Peter Hollander

Littlebourne chapel Peter Hollander Jonathan Hollander

MINISTER'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

Last year I started my report on the conflict in Ukraine. Now we are used to the news that there is a conflict in the Ukraine, and now the conflict in Israel and Gaza is taking much of the headlines. Fortunately, the Pandemic is now truly behind us, but the fallout of that shaped the political scene dramatically and we saw a coming and going of governments.

Fortunately, life at St Andrews has not been so dramatic, and we seem to have arrived perhaps in some steadier waters. It has been good to see new people joining our congregation, while we also had to say goodbye to some as well. Service attendance has been quite steady, with still quite a group joining us via Zoom.

But that does not mean that things have not been uneventful last year.

We started off with New Year prayers in collaboration with Favour House Church, and we had mid-day prayer meetings during the week. Pastor King James and I felt that we don't want to lose the momentum of these meetings, and so the Thursday lunch time "Dwelling in His presence" prayer and worship meetings were born. A small but dedicated group, and not only from St Andrews or Favour House are still meeting every Thursday at 12noon. Please join them if you can!

In 2022 we started with opening the worship area for people to sit in quietly, and we had a volunteer being present at this time, to have a chat or a prayer with the guests. Initially the focus was to offer something to the shop workers in the Whitefriars Shopping Centre, but over time this did not seem to provide a need. As most of the conversations the volunteers had was with Oasis patrons visiting the toilets, this group shifted its focus and towards the end of 2023 renamed itself to be the Oasis Companions. So now on Wednesdays a volunteer is present in Oasis Café and is available for people to have a chat with. This seems to be going quite well, and the volunteers have had a number of encouraging encounters.

This year we also continued with our Friday afternoon Prayer Ministry sessions, and we started a quarterly Communion and Prayer Ministry Services, where we invite the congregation to bring things before our Lord for healing, forgiveness and restoration. Members of the congregation can also receive prayer ministry if there is something that they need further help with.

On Sunday afternoons we continue to have services at the Littlebourne Chapel supported by Tuesday evening prayer meetings on Zoom. A thank you to Peter, Jonathan and Patricia who have faithfully ensured there was a service in Littlebourne every week. This gave me the surprising opportunity to be invited to the Littlebourne School for leading their assembly once a month. This has been much more fun than I expected, and I hope that the children at the school enjoy it as much as I do.

One big thread this year for me has been the Dunamis events. As you may know, I am a

member of the Dunamis Fellowship of Britain and Ireland (DFBI), with the aim to equip people to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. I was part of the teaching team of the East Anglia Dunamis Project, and we had two events, one in High Leigh, with the theme of Spiritual Warfare and Kingdom Advancement and the second as at Pontins Lowestoft, with the theme of Listening Evangelism. What I was very pleased about is that the DFBI team discerned that the next Dunamis Project (a series of six events of three years) is to be held at St Andrews. You have probably seen the flyers for that in the Church. In preparation for that the DFBI team organised a training event for leaders, called Exousia, which was followed by an Ignite day (28 Sept – 30 Sept). For the Ignite day we had about 60 attendees. In January 24 this was followed by another Ignite day, which was attended by about 50 people. I feel that this is a major focus of my Ministry here at St Andrews and I do hope that you engage with it as well!

In the context of Christians together in Canterbury I have been organising monthly leaders' lunches. We are now coming together in different churches/locations in Canterbury and it has been a time where leaders can share what is going on with their churches and helping us to discuss what we can do together. It has also been a great support for those who were able to attend.

In the wider URC I was the East Kent Synod Area (EKSA) lead, and because of that member of the EKSA Pastoral Committee, who has an overseeing brief of the URCs in East Kent, as well being a member of Synod Council and Synod Trust, to help govern the activities of the whole Southern Synod. Last year it became clear to me and to the West Kent and East Sussex Synod Area (WKESSA) that there were not enough volunteers for all the necessary functions in our synod areas. So, we proposed that both synod areas should be merged into one, called Kent and East Sussex Synod Area. In 2023 we did the preparatory work for that and had agreement from both synod areas, Synod Council and finally Synod Together. The result is that from 2024 onwards St Andrew's now belongs to KESSA, and that John Ellis and I are now the co-leaders of this new area. On 3 February 2024 we had a celebratory gathering at Maidstone URC.

The other work I do for the KESSA is that I have been supporting Broomfield URC (now very small), with leading a monthly Sunday afternoon café style service. This is going well and I am pleased to say that we could receive two new members at Broomfield at the beginning of 2024.

All in all, 2023 seemed to have been a very busy year, and it looks that 2024 will not be any different. Please continue to pray that 2024 will be as fruitful as 2023 has been, because it does not mean anything if what we do does not bring glory to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revd Bernard Fidler

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year seems to have flown by and AGM 2024 will take place on March 19th. Our services are held both in the church building and on Zoom and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jonathan again for his expert technical knowledge and skills in making hybrid services possible. We now have a regular monthly praise and worship service "Healing Wings" with Favour House Church in the church building on the first Saturday of the month.

We have two Life Groups meeting: one in person, other on Zoom – see the separate report for Life Groups. The time of Listening prayer on Saturday mornings on Zoom is also continuing. During August we held a number of social events as a break from Life Groups for the month. We enjoyed fish and chips in Herne Bay, a film night, a quiz evening and a walk which Val organised.

The prayer Ministry group now meets on Friday afternoons in church. Services at Littlebourne are continuing and there is also a prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings on Zoom for the work at Littlebourne.

We were blessed with resources provided by Alice and Chris for the week of New Year prayer and you will find this in this book of reports.

Alice has been working three days a week at least as our church administrator. Many of the groups who hire our rooms have continued and there are new bookings and an unending stream of enquiries about bookings. We are very grateful to Alice for the weekly newsletter she produces with details of services and many other events both in other churches and of interest in Canterbury, and the many other administrative tasks, which she carries out.

During the year we were delighted to welcome Cicely Stone and Deborah Chalk into membership and to welcome Hugo Monk into membership through baptism. We congratulate Jonathan and Chelsea on their engagement and look forward to the occasion of their marriage in May this year. We also mourned the passing of Graham Watkins in November 2023.

So, as we look forward to what the year ahead will bring, my time serving as an Elder and as church secretary will come to an end at the AGM and I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you in this way. I want to finish by sharing with you these words of encouragement from Philippians Chapter 4: *"⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"*.

Caroline Camp

PRAYER MINISTRY

In 2023 we continued meeting as the Prayer Ministry team on Friday afternoons. Particularly at the start of 2023 we had many clients coming to us for prayer ministry. Some from St Andrews and others from other churches, even from Sandwich. Overall, we did 22 prayer ministry sessions. The times that we did not have clients we either prayed for each other, or

we continued studying books relating to healing and prayer ministry. We completed “Healing Care, Healing Prayer, helping the broken find Wholeness in Christ” by Terry Wardle, and are now studying “Deep Wounds, Deep Healing” by Charles Kraft.

The latter half of 2023 the appointments tailed off a bit, so if you do want to receive prayer ministry, do not hesitate to ask. You may say that you do not have serious issues, but Jesus wants to bless all his followers. We also bring our cars for a service or MOT for preventative maintenance. So, maybe you cannot put in words if there is anything you need prayer ministry for, but perhaps you have felt perhaps a bit more distant from the Lord, or the spark of your initial faith has gone a bit. Or we have become weary and tired from all our responsibilities at Church. Jesus said “Come to me, all who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matt 11:28). This is our aim with Prayer Ministry that we help people to come to Jesus and for him to give you true rest.

I include below a description that comes from the Dunamis Fellowship of Britain and Ireland, whose model for prayer ministry we follow, about what happens in a typical prayer ministry session. If you are interested in becoming part of the team or if you are interested in receiving prayer ministry yourself, please contact me. We would like to have some more men on the team, as men often need as much prayer ministry as women do!

Revd Bernard Fidler

What happens during a prayer ministry session

The client arrives and is welcomed by the team (usually 3 people, but sometimes husband and wife). They enable you to feel at ease.

The session begins and is wrapped in prayer as the whole session is kept under the leading of the Holy Spirit, with frequent pauses to check direction by the team. Often, the Lord has prepared the way, and there is a general understanding of the issues for prayer.

It’s important to know that you can stop the session or pause, at any time and you are welcome to bring a friend to support you if desired.

Of course, prayer ministry can involve facing painful and difficult issues and situations which can be challenging and emotional, but knowing that at all times one is surrounded by the acceptance, love and power of the Lord Jesus and our ministering brothers and sisters is enabling and comforting.

One has to put trust in those ministering, as well as the Lord, that they are addressing what is necessary to find freedom. This may include a need for prayers of repentance, forgiveness, confession, thanks or blessing. You are helped to find the right words to pray when needed.

There is much opportunity for the Holy Spirit to minister His love, mercy and healing, restoring power in this 'safe' place.

When all sense that enough has been accomplished for that session, there are final prayers of sealing and completing.

Each client is given advice about holding onto their healing as the enemy likes to steal and destroy it. It’s important to do all you can to keep every door shut to the enemy so he is unable to find easy access into your life.

Sessions are normally no more than a maximum of 2 hours. The prayer minister will usually contact you shortly after the ministry session to see if you are OK.

Source: Dunamis Fellowship of Britain and Ireland (<https://www.dunamis.org.uk/what-we-do/healing/>)

LIFE GROUPS

This year the two Life Groups have continued. Val's group meets in person in church on Tuesday afternoons and Bernard's Life Group meets virtually on Zoom on Wednesday evenings.

The meetings are based on the Bible reading of the preceding Sunday and I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Val for providing the questions for our Life Group meetings. Life Group meetings normally open with prayer and begin with an ice breaker – something more light hearted to try and get people talking. This is then followed by a worship song on U-Tube and the Bible reading is read out. The question sheet has usually been sent out in advance, so that participants have had time to think about the questions posed. A time of discussion takes place in response to the questions given. There is then a time of prayer for the concerns people raise and the meeting closes with the Grace.

If you are not yet part of a Life Group and would like to join one, either on Tuesday afternoons in person or virtually on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, we shall be pleased to welcome you.

Caroline Camp

SONBEAMS TODDLER GROUP

Sonbeams is a mother and toddler group that meets on Thursday mornings in term time at St Andrew's. We have been blessed by a few committed volunteers so that we are able to provide the right mix of service and activities to the mothers and children. There are of course not just mothers, but grandparents, fathers and carers who bring children - and children's ages range from a few months to almost five.

Feedback from adults is that they enjoy the refreshments for them at the start, the space and toys and snacks, the story time and singing at the end. Numbers recently have grown recently which may become an issue if numbers are too large. We may have to get a booking system app to limit numbers if new people keep on coming. Praise God we haven't reached that point yet because then space and the level of attention given becomes an issue.

Please continue to pray for Sonbeams and consider being able to spare some of your time on Thursday mornings.

Dorothy Namata and Peter Hollander

LITTLEBOURNE CHAPEL

We continue to pray for growth. We thank the faithful few who come each week. The chapel is used by the Stay and Play toddlers group on Mondays and Pilates on Tuesdays. It has also been hired out (mostly on Saturdays) for children's birthday parties.

We've ploughed through the whole book of Acts in the last year and a half, and are now on a Lenten series, but after Easter we'll have a new theme... yet to be decided!

We have two faithful keyboard players and we thank those who are willing to preach on Sunday afternoons so that Peter and Jonathan can be relieved now and again. Our Tuesday village prayer time on Zoom is a blessing and thanks go to all who support the chapel with their prayers.

Peter, Patricia and Jonathan Hollander

NEW YEAR PRAYER

RELEASING THE STREAMS

MONDAY 1ST JANUARY 2024 GOD'S PROMISES

Praise: Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name! Ps.105:1 How many names of God can you think of? With each name you recall, give praise to God for that part of His character and proclaim it.

Scriptures Deuteronomy 8:7 and 11:10-12, 31-32 ... the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills... For the land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year. For you will cross over the Jordan and go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and you will possess it and dwell in it. And you shall be careful to observe all the statutes and judgments which I set before you today.

Respond

1. When God gives us a promise, He will bring it to pass. What promises have you been waiting on God to fulfil, either for yourself or your church? Bring to Him any sense of lost hope or disappointment that has arisen in the waiting. Lay down any assumptions of how God will bring it to pass or when it should come to pass. Ask for a renewal of the promise and for renewed hope to accompany it. Ask God what He is working out in you in preparation for receiving the promise.

2. There is a former thing, and now there is a new thing. For Israel, this involved a former land like a vegetable garden, small and contained, and the promise of a new land which was boundless rugged terrain. There is a former provision out of our own efforts and a new provision that comes from God. There is a former master and a new master. There is a former enclosed, restricted space and a new spacious place. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where you need to allow Him to provide for you. Bring to Him any areas of life where you feel constrained and in need of spaciousness. Pray Israel had to cross over into the newness that God had for them. We need to take that step from the old into the new. Pray for the Holy

Spirit to reveal to you / us the ways in which we need to take a step to leave a 'former thing' behind and step into newness. This is not about giving ourselves New Year Resolutions for self-improvement, but about asking God for His next steps for us. These are not condemning or a heavy burden, because they flow from His love and wisdom.

Activity: As you listen to God, you might like to use the stepping stones to help you jot down what you hear God say.

Prayer ministry is available if you would like to have the opportunity to seek God with the support of other believers. Please contact Bernard Fidler to arrange a time. 2. What God is showing me about the new thing: 3. God's next steps for me: 1. Where I am now ... The former things that God is showing me...

TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY 2024 REVERENCE

Praise Glory in His holy name. Ps.105:3 Spend one minute listing the things that frustrate you about human leadership (church / national / international). Then spend another minute giving glory to God for His holiness: set apart from all other created things in His perfect goodness, perfect justice, perfect mercy. Exult in who God is and exalt His holy name.

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 8:6 and 10 Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in obedience to Him and revering Him. When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you.

Respond: God wants us to be satisfied as we live life with Him. He designed and created us; therefore, He knows exactly what is best for us. As we go to Him with all that we experience in life, He provides all that we need. God knows about our physical and material needs, but He also knows the spiritual needs that we can overlook. We read in Deuteronomy 8:3 that, 'Man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.' These words were quoted by Jesus when Satan was tempting Him to supernaturally provide Himself with food in Matthew 4:4. Satan will always try to get us to provide for our own needs and to try to do God's part of making things happen because then we get overwhelmed, exhausted and lose the peace of simply doing what God calls us to do. As we seek God and His righteousness above all else, He will provide for our needs.

(Matt.6:33) Pray Allow Him access to any places of bitterness, resentment, discontent, envy or anger so that you can be free of all things that drain you of energy and peace. Ask God to fill you with His presence and with His word, so that you can be spiritually satisfied in Him.

WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2024 OBEDIENCE

Praise: Sing to Him, sing praise to Him. Ps. 105:2 Spend some time singing your praises to God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Praise Him for who He is, for the salvation we have through Him and that He will come again to make all things new.

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 8:6 and 11:13-15 Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in obedience to Him and revering Him. 'And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.'

Respond: God desires us to have a threefold response to His commands to us: that we observe them, that we walk in obedience to Him and, as we do these things, we are to revere Him.

1. Observe. Observing is a process of closely watching and studying something; of keeping a record of what we observe so that we can refer back. We are to observe God's commands: to closely study His ways, to record what we notice about them and to refer back to them. By observing something, we are showing by our behaviour that it is worth close study; that it is something of value to us that should not be lost.

2.Walk in Obedience. We have a choice about how we ‘walk’ through our lives: to walk in obedience to God or to go our own path. I notice in the Bible that judges and kings are recorded as having walked rightly before the LORD or as having done evil in His sight. Choosing to obey or act rightly before God with our whole heart and soul is transformative for us. It has eternal significance when we position ourselves rightly before our Almighty God.

3.Revere Him. As we study God’s ways and choose to act rightly before Him, we are to honour God in worship and through our attitudes. We give Him reverence as we acknowledge that His ways bring us light and direction in life, that His ways are right and good, that His ways flow from His loving desire for us to stay in close relationship with Him because that is the safest place to be.

4.Receive from Him. Spend a moment to consider the importance of the rains to the people – how their water and food depended on rain at the right time. In direct response to their obedience, God promised the rains for the land at the right times. God promised the early and the latter rains, so that they would have the food they needed for themselves and their livestock. The people still needed to work the land, but the land itself would be blessed with good growing conditions. God’s desire is for us to “eat and be filled.” Obedience is part of this process of being filled and satisfied with the things of God. Pray Ask the Holy Spirit for a whole-hearted desire to follow God’s ways, in the knowledge that all life, joy and peace flow from Him. We might not consider rain a great blessing, but God promised essential growing conditions for the community as a response to obedience. Pray for individuals and our churches to be obedient in all things and so receive the rains of God’s blessing.

Activity We have the expression of being a ‘glass half-filled or glass half-empty’ to describe whether we have an optimistic or negative approach to life. Do you feel that you are one or the other? If it changes, what factors affect your outlook on life? Take a glass as a symbol of your inner being. Bring to God the things that leave you feeling empty, dissatisfied, hopeless or depressed. For each thing, pray “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done” in all those areas. If it helps, write a list of those things and write the Scripture at the bottom – not so you can keep going over it and reactivate the negative feelings but as a means of saying that those things are now in God’s hands and being dealt with. Fill the glass at the tap and as you do so invite the Holy Spirit to fill you with all joy and peace in His presence. This might be something to repeat whenever you get a drink as a means of continually inviting God’s presence to fill you.

THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY 2024 REMEMBRANCE

Praise: Remember the wonders He has done... Ps. 105:5 Praise God for the wonders and miracles He has shown us ... Perhaps in placing vast planets in precise orbit around the sun, in positioning Earth at the right distance from the sun so that we have the right conditions to live. Or praise God for the wonder of relationship: with Him, with friends and family. Make a list so you can remember all the reasons to praise Him!

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 8:10-18 and Joshua 4:1-7. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe His commands, His laws and His decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who

gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your ancestors, as it is today. *** And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying: “Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, and command them, saying, ‘Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.’ ” Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; and Joshua said to them: “Cross over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.” Respond In the Old Testament, we often find passages that are all about the deliberate act of listing the things that God had done. For example, Psalm 104 is a detailed list of God’s act of creation and the way in which He was still active in the world. Psalm 106 recounts the time Israel spend in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. These acts of remembering reinforce key truths:

1. God’s awesomeness and majesty.
 2. God’s intervention in our lives, bringing salvation, provision and blessing.
 3. Our times of sinfulness which has led to painful separation from God, not to bring fresh condemnation but as a means of reminding us why we do not want to sin again.
- Take time to read Joshua 3 about how God enabled Israel to supernaturally cross the Jordan. Following this miracle, God told them to do something to help them remember: they were to stop and make a tangible memorial for three reasons. Firstly, so that it would activate the memories of those who witnessed the miracle for their own encouragement. Secondly, it was to activate testimony: when people saw the stones, they would be curious and ask, “what do these stones mean to you?” Thirdly, it was to activate humble thanksgiving in the people. God knew the human tendency to unjustly claim the credit and glory for themselves, thus becoming proud and hard-hearted. It was the people’s sin that kept them in the wilderness for so long; and God’s grace and glory alone brought them into the Promised Land. God did not lead them further into the land until they had built this place of remembrance. Pray It can be all too easy to remember moments of hurt, pain and shame in our lives at the expense of memories of joy and thanksgiving. Ask God for a heart that remembers and dwells in His goodness. Ask for this thankfulness to overflow, through making known His goodness and wondrous deeds.

Activity: What would help you to remember and testify to God’s wonders? Perhaps draw stones and label each one with something God has done, or use an empty glass jar and put a glass pebble in for every act of God in your life.

FRIDAY 5TH JANUARY 2024 ASKING

Praise: The people asked, and He....satisfied them. Ps. 105:40 Spend a moment of quietness to remember the privilege that we have in being able to approach God at all, let alone to come before Him and ask for things. Praise Him for His desire to be in relationship with us, as our Father as well as Almighty God.

Scriptures: Judges 1:14-15 and Deuteronomy 33:13 Now it happened, when she came to him, ... she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, “What do you wish?” So, she said to him, “Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water.” And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs. About Joseph he said: “May the Lord bless his land with the precious dew from heaven above and

with the deep waters that lie below... Respond In the passage from Judges, we find another story that is based around land. Caleb's daughter had been given in marriage to Othniel, and land had been given to them. Achsah had not needed to ask for the land – it was freely given and they were able to live in it without trouble. In these verses, we find her recognising the need to own the place where the streams were located. We read this encounter between father and daughter. The daughter had a need and was confident in going to her father to ask for him to meet that need. The father recognised his position as provider for his family. Achsah was not demanding or stropky in her request. She approached her father and asked him for a blessing: the blessing of springs of water. We may not have had a good relationship with our own fathers, but we can take this as a model for ourselves. When we have a need, we can approach our God with confidence and ask Him for a blessing. As we saw with God's blessing on obedience, Achsah was seeking the blessing of water: of refreshing and life to the land, the people and the livestock. Caleb abundantly blessed her with the upper and lower springs. There is such a strong theme of God blessing His people through providing the water that is so vital: the brooks, streams and deep springs, the early and latter rains, the upper and lower springs, the precious dew from heaven above and the deep waters that lie below. Psalm 36:7-9 says; How precious is Your loving kindness, O God! Therefore, the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light. Pray for a heart and soul that drink from the river of God's pleasures and rejoice in the fountain of life. Spend some time before God in silence. Hear Him ask you, "What do you wish?" What response comes from your heart?

SATURDAY 6TH JANUARY 2024 SEEKING

Praise: He opened the rock, and water gushed out ...Ps. 105:41 Give God praise, for nothing is impossible with Him! Read through all that God did for Israel in Psalm 105, remembering that God's character does not change. He is still the keeper of His covenant and of His holy promises. Scripture Psalm 105:3-4 Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always.

Respond: It does not matter how long we have followed Jesus; we are still called to be those who seek after Him: in our decisions, in our relationships, in our attitudes. We seek Him so that we can become more like Him. We seek God because of who He is: unchanging, eternal, glorious. I originally wrote that seeking the Lord leads to rejoicing, but actually it can be a difficult process. We can feel that He has not listened to us or that He is not responding to our need. This verse is like a prayer: "Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice." As we look to God, seeking His strength and His face, we can pray that our hearts will be released to rejoice in Him. As we seek God, we can rejoice that we do not bear our circumstances alone – He is with us, in us, strengthening us from the inside out. Out of all the attributes of God mentioned in this verse, it specifically talks of God's strength. We are to look to Him when we need someone to lean on, someone to take the weight off us, someone to steady us and take the lead. Why should we seek God's face? The image of God's face being turned towards someone was used as a metaphor of God's presence and blessing upon someone. In Psalm 80, the people were seeking restoration with God and we see this refrain used three times: 'Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.' (Psalm 80:3,7 and 19) When we seek His face, we seek that closeness and interaction with Him personally. When we are face to face with Him, He can put His hands upon our heads and give us Father's blessing. God's people were led into the desert, into a place without any drinking water. They did not look at the rocks and think, Praise God! Rock did not provide fresh water. Yet, God the Rock did provide fresh water. With His abundant provision, water didn't trickle out – it gushed out. They did not have to ration this water, but each could

quench their thirst. As we read in Psalm 44:3, 'It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your face, for You loved them.' Ps. 44:3 Pray Are there circumstances in your life or church where you only see dryness and rocks? Ask God to open the rock and bring fresh water of life to revive and restore. Give thanks for God's love, His right hand, His arm and the light of His face, which bring us victory.

SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY 2024 RESPONDING

Praise: He brought out His people with joy... Ps. 105:43 God has brought us out of spiritual blindness, spiritual darkness, spiritual slavery and into the light of His presence. Give thanks for all that He has done to bring you freedom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Give thanks that we are now His precious adopted ones, His heirs. Scriptures Ephesians 3:7-11 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of His power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ... His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Respond: Paul served the Lord with his whole heart and soul. He served by the gift of God's grace and through the working of His power. Through God's grace, Paul was called to tell the Gentiles about the never-ending riches of Christ and how to live life with Him. This was a total transformation from how Paul had served God in his early life. Encountering Jesus had completely undone Saul, minister of judgement, and rebuilt him as Paul, minister of grace filled righteousness. Paul recognised his calling was to preach the Gospel and to teach righteous living, so that all believers would run the race of faith to the very end. He wanted them to know that what was coming in eternity with God was worth any amount of enduring and suffering on Earth. Paul served, suffered and endured through the grace of God for the joy set before him in Christ. In the light of that, we read his prayer for the believers of Ephesus in verses 16-19 which concludes with the prayer that they would be 'filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.' It is being filled to the brim, to overflowing, with the things of God that enable us to run the race to the end: living righteously, preaching Jesus, teaching His ways and declaring the word of God into the spiritual world around us. It is all too easy to find that we are living life without the fullness of God. It is only when we find that we are burned out and frustrated that we realise that we have been acting in our own strength. We live in a fallen world, so mankind's default position now is to do things by ourselves. God designed us to function in His fullness, so we need to keep going back to Him to be filled with His presence and strength. Pray In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (Eph. 3:12) And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. (Galatians 4:6-7) As you remember all that Jesus won for us through the Cross, wait before God with open hands. Remember that He paid for your sins... that He restored your relationship with God the Father ...that you can approach God's throne at any time, about anything...that He has given you abundant grace... In that place of remembering, ask God to give you a fresh revelation of what it is to be His child, His heir. Hold your hands open before Him and ask for His blessing upon you. Wait to see what His gift to you is. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

Alice Wilson-Sharp

Releasing the Streams Feedback

TUESDAY 2 JANUARY Unexpected flowering / blooming – the stems that Mark had spray-painted for the Christmas flower arrangements had buds on them and one stem was flowering, which was to us a sign of unexpected new life. Cf. Aaron's staff budding as a confirmation of spiritual appointment and authority. Psalm 33 given. Verse 3 sing a new song of praise; v18 Fear Him; v20 Wait for Him; v21 Rejoice in Him; trust in Him. A reminder of King James' sermon on Sunday: Desire More; don't settle for less. To know Jesus more; to have more of the Holy Spirit's power and direction; to have more influence on others and on society. Amongst songs of praise, we stood and sang Light has Dawned as a declaration and placing of God's standard in St. Andrew's and in the city.

THURSDAY 4 JANUARY Time to recall and give thanks for God's goodness in the site we were given in Canterbury and the blessings of the building we were given. The original vision is not yet fulfilled: a seven-day ministry facility. Facility has two meanings: a place, amenity, or piece of equipment provided for a particular purpose. a natural ability to do or learn something well and easily. Prayed for an ease in what we do for Christ in our facility this year. About the Gospel: "The truth is like a lion- we don't have to defend it, just let it loose and it will defend itself." Picture of a lighthouse on the church site, rising high into the sky. • The granite blocks used to build rock lighthouses need to be dovetailed together otherwise they are not strong enough to withstand the storms. Prayed for God's gift of strong relationships between us. • Lighthouse keeper role: to keep the light lit and to be watchmen. Our role in Canterbury is the same – to keep the light of Christ shining brightly and to be spiritual watchmen, alert to what is going on and responding to that. • Each lighthouse has a unique light pattern / signal so that it can be identified. Tower of Refuge in the Isle of Man – positioned so that seafarers could find a place of refuge in the storm.

FRIDAY 5 JANUARY: Prayer-Walking As we gathered in Oasis, we spotted a van parked across the road with the company name across the back doors; A lamp-post partly obscured the view, but it seemed to be: DIVINE LIGHT. Prayed around each room, around the outside of the building and our area. Feedback: • Angels stationed at each of the Worship Area doors • A jigsaw picture in the Childrens Work Office. Each jigsaw piece had the name of a church member on it. They fitted together (see dove-tailed stones of lighthouse, above) but one or two were peeling off. Rom. 12 v 10 • In the Long Thin Room, a Lost Sheep banner. • Suggestion of having a mural painted on the outside wall facing the car park. • Suggestion of having LED light illuminating the wall above the stage. Ransomed, Healed, Restored, Forgiven, the cross and the name of Jesus, would then show up for anyone looking in.

Alice Wilson-Sharp & Christine Wilson-Sharp

OASIS CAFÉ

On Tuesday 9th January 2024, almost exactly four years after it was first discussed, and agreed in principle, a shiny new chiller cabinet was delivered to Oasis Cafe. Its arrival caused a certain amount of disruption, meaning that we had to close our doors to the public some two hours after welcoming our customers back after our two week closure over Christmas, but with the components of the cabinet spread across the tables we had little choice! The total lack of instructions was an additional complication, but with the aid of a

picture of the finished article kindly provided by Mr. Google, the combined genius of Peter Hollander and Linda Baldwin (and a little help from various other members of staff) the unit was finally assembled and ready for service the following day. We are all delighted with our new addition which is more spacious and a lot quieter than its predecessor and are very grateful to the church for sanctioning the purchase.

Business has continued to flourish over the past year, and we are busier than ever, welcoming as many new customers as ‘regulars’, all of whom seem to appreciate the relaxed atmosphere as well as the good food that Oasis delivers. We have made some small adjustments to our menu, including some price increases, necessitated by the rising prices at the wholesalers and in the shops, but we have kept these as low as possible, aiming as always to give value for money and enable our customers to enjoy the experience of eating out without breaking the bank.

We have again supported students from Canterbury College, by offering work experience placements, welcoming Ridwan, Stuart and Toby. In turn we are well supported by the college, with groups of students and their tutors coming in regularly two or three days most weeks. The Garden Room is a popular choice for various small groups, who appreciate the smaller, quieter space in which to hold a meeting over coffee, or lunch. We are happy to accommodate students who attend Bemix two or three times a year when their regular venue is unavailable, and they always enjoy their time at Oasis.

There have been some changes to staffing over the year, and we were sorry to say ‘goodbye’ to Pat White at Christmas. Pat has been involved with the cafe at St. Andrew’s ever since it was run on a much smaller scale operating from the old church across the road and continued to work at Oasis after moving to Herne Bay. However, Pat felt it was time to retire, and we are so grateful to her for all her loyal service over many years. New recruits Susan, Valentina and Julie have ensured that we can keep going and remain open four days a week. We are grateful to the wider church for their support and ask for continued prayer for all the staff and customers, that we may be both blessed and a blessing.

Oasis Café Finance 2023

Oasis made a profit of £14,219.56 of which £10,124.95 was via card sales, all of which has gone into church funds.

During 2023 Oasis also raised £164.33 for MacMillan via a cake sale and £37.36 for the Royal British Legion via the Poppy Appeal. We also have a ‘post card box’ for used postcards which Mission Aviation Fellowship collect to raise funds. Our book cupboard in the garden room for donations of books, swapping of books and borrowing of books takes donations for the Samaritans.

We also have Bibles which are free for anyone to take [on a stand in the café]. Thanks to all of you who have donated bibles. Many people have taken a Bible. Please pray that every Bible that leaves the building is a blessing to the recipient. All donations put in the box attached to the stand will be used to purchase more Bibles so that we can keep giving them away.

Sue Wenham and Patricia Hollander

MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

We enjoyed an Easter themed evening on 31st March 2023 but, apart from our regular monthly bible study led by Jonathan, we did not meet again until the Church Garden barbeque on Sat 22nd July. As usual the men cooked for the ladies, but due to the inclement weather we all had to eat in the Garden Room. However, our enthusiasm was not dampened and was enjoyed by all.

After the summer holiday break, we restarted at the end of September by visiting our display in the chapel as part of the Littlebourne Flower Festival over that weekend. The festival theme was God's creation and Mark had put together a display depicting the "Night Sky" and a second one showing "The Garden of Eden". Afterwards we repaired to the Evenhill for a social drink.

In October we had a film night in the Sanctuary showing the "Bank of Dave" which was an interesting and challenging film about how a Burnley entrepreneur took on the banks in establishing a successful local peoples Credit Union in the face of intense opposition from the Banks' industry association and scepticism from the Bank of England and the FCA. It gave everyone a lot to think about and was entertaining as well.

Then we had the always popular take away Chinese meal in November, and another enjoyable indoor board games night in December after Christmas.

In January we enjoyed a joint Bible Quiz evening together with Favour House Church and St Vincents from Littlebourne. Against all the odds the Anglican team triumphed! Mark compiled the questions and adjudicated and Caroline kept the scores.

On Shrove Tuesday Feb 13th the men organised a Pizza and Pancakes evening meal for the Ladies and visitors from Favour House Church. Peter and Jonathan cooked the pancakes from scratch and they were delicious with a good variety of toppings provided. An excellent evening of fellowship and fun with a full tum.

Finally, we entered a Men's Team in the Dane John Residents Quiz Night on Friday 23rd Feb but could not repeat the winning result of the previous year; the Oasis Café Woman's team finished in front of us!

Going forward we have a Korean themed meal evening on the 22nd March, a Sea Shanty Singing evening in Herne Bay in April, a gentle evening ramble and meal at Duke William pub Ickham in May, a ramble through Blean Woods at the end of June and finally our usual barbeque in July, weather permitting. The regular Bible studies will also run throughout this time thanks to Jonathan and we would also like to congratulate Jonathan on his engagement and forthcoming marriage to Chelsea and I am sure that we will drink a toast to him at the Duke William Ickham. We will then restart in September/October with the 2024/25 programme tba.

Mark Camp and Malcolm McIntyre

CANTERBURY STREET PASTORS

Canterbury Street Pastors remains an award-winning ministry that helps people in the night time economy and is part of the Safer streets project, Community Safety Partnership, and the Purple Flag Scheme. We have been recognised by the Best Bar None Scheme that monitors the safety aspects of venues, wellbeing and zero tolerance training, amongst other things. We have been awarded for 'The outstanding contribution to the night time economy'.

The purple Flag is a national accreditation scheme to assess cities and towns across the country for their safety and policy procedures, based on resident feedback and adjudicated by independent judges.

Canterbury has now been awarded the Purple Flag Award, 12 consecutive years in a row. (the only city in the country to do so!)

Canterbury continues to be on the leading edge of its safety in the city schemes. and [Canterbury Street Pastors](#) continue to be amid this.

It is no coincidence that [Canterbury Street Pastors](#) are in its 12th year of operating; keeping the peace in the city and Christ at the forefront of what we do!

Engagement Officer – Helen Jones

The appointment of an engagement officer made up the largest spend from the SSF4 grant to Canterbury Street Pastors. The new role has enabled street pastors to increase the awareness of their ministry in the city, to recruit new volunteers and to raise the funds needed to make street pastors' operations sustainable.

Helen has now moved on to be an assistant Chaplain at the Living well Retreat Centre in Nonnington. She has also now been commissioned as a Street Pastor for us too.



Church and Community Visits

Our engagement officer, along with the coordinator, has spoken to congregations and had meetings with the following churches – Trinity Baptist Church, Canterbury Baptist Church, Thanington Church, City Church, Barton Church, and the Dean at Canterbury Cathedral. They have also presented to the Canterbury Rotary Club and met with local businesses such as Asda, Burgess Hodgson, Furley Page and Handelsbanken. Canterbury Street Pastors have been active in supporting the community hubs with the other SSF4 partners and attended student support events, such as freshers' fayres for the universities. The church visits and meetings with businesses have been crucial to the process of recruiting new volunteers and raising the profile of street pastors' ministry.

A mixture of church and business visits have proved a successful way of raising funds, as well as applying for grants to local trust funds. The funds raised exceed the target set by the trustees of Canterbury Street Pastors in December 2022 and will fund the salary of the coordinator to the end of 2024, cover the cost of supplies and training for the year, and potentially provide funding for some hours for a second member of staff.

Therefore, the appointment of an engagement officer has been positive for Canterbury Street Pastors' in achieving their objectives, which could not have been reached without the funding from SSF4.

Operations

For 2023

Patrol hours – 1,181

Number of patrols – 60

Flip-flops handed out – 119

Bottles of water handed out – 359

Glass picked up – 335

Plastic ponchos and foil blankets handed out – 60

Lollies handed out – 6-7kg

Encounters with people – 378 (This includes helping vulnerable people make their way home, attending call outs to bars and pubs, first aid help and helping rough sleepers, talking to those who need a listening ear).

Recent events

We have just commissioned 4 New Street Pastors along with 3 from the Whitstable team. With Visits from the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Canterbury, PS J Woodward from Kent Police and Bejoy Pal CEO, from the Ascension Trust (The umbrella body for Street Pastors) a great night was had by all.

Thank you for your Continued Support for Canterbury Street Pastors, our door is always open if you would like to know more or join the prayer support.

Andrew Pantling

Coordinator for Canterbury Street Pastors.

GLOBAL CAFÉ (FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL)

As a church we support the work of Friends International, who work among the international student community in Canterbury, by hosting a Global café on our premises every Saturday night. Every Saturday during Global Café we offer drinks and snacks for students, and we also offer board games, table tennis, pool and badminton. It has been fantastic to see the café flourish this year and we regularly get about 40-50 international students, asylum seekers and international professionals visiting every Saturday. Each evening has a theme - for example a Malaysian night, Pancake night, table tennis tournament just to name a few. At the end of the evening, we would read a Bible passage and have a short discussion around the tables on the theme of the passage.

All the events we run during the week like basketball, English club, cafe and walks help us build relationships and to invite students to our weekly meal and a Bible study where they can learn more about Jesus. This year we have seen many Japanese, Chinese and Indian students hear the gospel for the first time. We have seen many students visiting local churches and Christian Union events. We have seen students from India, Iran, China, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands, Costa Rica, Myanmar, South Korea, Spain, Thailand and many other places.

Thank you for your support and for providing such a fantastic venue for us! If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer at one of our events or support the international

student ministry by prayer or by hosting students for a meal, please, contact our staff worker Baiba.Strause-Kalmere@friendsinternational.uk

Thanksgiving: We thank God for good partnership with churches and Christian Unions and the university Missions week that happened last week. Pray that the seeds sown will bear fruit in due course.

Please pray for:

- Recruitment of a New Staff worker. Matt Archer who has been working with us for last 5 years and focussed on reaching male students - he will be moving on to work in the mission overseas. Do pray for our team and for recruitment of a new staff worker.
- Recruitment of interns for Reach discipleship year
- Pray for our weekly events and especially weekly evangelistic Bible study called "Open House"
- Planning for annual Canterbury Summer International Outreach based at SMB premises - from 1st-7th July 2024! We are currently recruiting local volunteers who could provide B & B for week for outreach team members, people to bake cakes, lend bikes or sponsor a team member.

Baiba Strause-Kalmere

Centre Team Leader, Canterbury

Mobile:07999556555

Friends International - registered charity 10



CANTERBURY CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH(CCCC)

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:19-20 ESV).”

We thank God for leading and guiding us throughout the past year. Frank and Amy were appointed by COCM to serve as our pastors, and Grace Liu continues to lead as our senior pastor.

Sunday worship

Typically, during Sunday services, we utilize YouTube for the worship segment. Over the past year, we aimed to involve the youth in our church in this aspect, allowing them to showcase their musical talents by playing piano and violin. We attempted this initiative once during the evangelical Sunday service for the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, with the goal of integrating the youth into our worship team.

Children Ministry

Over the past year, the attendance of children in Sunday school has remained steady, with a noticeable increase during major festivals such as Christmas and the Chinese New Year. We are in need of more volunteers to join our teaching team. Thanks to God's provision, starting in 2024, COCM has assigned an associate staff member, Xiangyu, a children's minister. She will assist in training our teachers to better serve these children.

Family ministry

We've identified certain challenges within some families, including conflicts between couples, navigating child-rearing, and supporting youth through their difficult developmental stages. In the past year, we organized three lectures to address these issues: one featured a couple's testimony on how their family was transformed by God, another focused on insights into children's ministry, and the third provided guidance on handling teenagers. Moving forward, we aim to offer more such sessions and courses to provide comprehensive support for families. May God grant us wisdom to assist those families in managing their households.

Discipleship ministry

This year, we initiated our online adult Sunday school program. The first course, 'Basic Christian Theology,' covered fundamental concepts of Christianity, such as God, sin, Jesus, salvation, the Holy Spirit, and church life. The course ran from October 8th to December 3rd, 2023.

In 2024, we've scheduled three courses throughout the year: 'Introduction to the Old Testament' (February 5th to April 1st, 2024), 'Development History of the Chinese Church' (May 6th to June 24th, 2024), and another session of 'Introduction to the New Testament' (September 16th to November 11th, 2024). Our goal is to ensure that our church members are well-equipped with a diverse range of knowledge related to their faith.

Outreach events

Throughout the past year, we've arranged four evangelical events: Easter Sunday service, the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, Christmas, and the Chinese New Year. The average attendance for these gatherings was approximately 100 people, encompassing both adults and children. We are grateful to God for His mercy and grace, as we've been able to connect with newcomers, including Chinese immigrants from Hong Kong. Some have already expressed their

commitment to joining our Sunday service and fellowship. We pray that God will provide us with co-workers who can speak Cantonese to better serve these new immigrants.



Chinese New Year gathering.

Visa student Ministry

In July 2023, all of our previous students graduated, except for two co-workers who remained in the city for work. In September, we began rebuilding our fellowship. We entered the school and invited new students to join our welcome events. We give thanks and glory to God for inspiring more sisters to prepare food before the fellowship starts. Currently, we have more than ten students regularly attending our fellowship. Frank and Amy lead the group on a weekly basis.

Baptism in May

In May 2023, five brothers and sisters were baptized into Jesus Christ. May God guide them to remain steadfast in their faith.



Grace Liu

COCM missionaries ministering in CCCC

Notes to the Accounts - Year Ended 31st December 2023

1 Accounting policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 using the accruals method.

2 Income

Freewill offerings were over budget as were Oasis café receipts.

The café contributed £13356 to the church funds, after card charges of £836. £10275 of the takings were card payments (43.6%).

Other Receipts - Welfare contributions £880, Cobb's leaving gift £250, Prospects £113, Found in cash tin (D Harris) £26 = £1269

URC Grants - Underestimate from last year £458, Manse windows £3925, Hall Floor £569, Jet wash walls £770, Manse radiators, shower, toilet £1698 = £7420

Donations for specific purposes - Vaughn & Au Goodchild £1660, Daniel Gitau £1483, Amy & Kody Friesen £2225, Canterbury Food Bank (concert) £433, Canterbury Schools Work £933, Georgie Taylor YWAM £100. Total 6834

3 Expenditure

Manse expenses include £3925 for replacement windows, £960 for radiators and shower/toilet £738 = £5623; grants covered this. Council tax and water £ 4200, Gas maintenance £711, other repairs £41. Total £10575.

Church Repairs - Flat Gas Maintce £179, Café cash register £210, Fire & Burglar Alarm maintce £691, Painting £738, Hall floor seal & polish £569, Lift Maintce £405, Office chair £210, Small repairs £164 = £3070

Donations paid out - Vaughn & Au Goodchild £1660, Amy & Kody Friesen £2225, Food Bank £433, Georgie Taylor YWAM £100, Canterbury Schools Work £933, Daniel Gitau £1483 = £6834

4 Result

There was a surplus of £9710 compared to a deficit of £758 last year, excluding insurance claim of £26715.

5 Debtors

HMRC gift aid £5000, Tenancy Deposit Scheme £500, Deposit on Garden Room works £4185, Litter Waste pd Dec for Jan £106 = £9791

6 Creditors

Cleaning £209, Church electricity, gas water £1787, Manse water £395, owed to V Goodchild £500, Pension £62, Donations £90, Bank charges £49, key deposit £15 = £3107.

7 Staff Costs

Salary costs were £ 9701 plus Employer's Pension Contributions to a Defined Benefit Scheme £714

Balance Sheet at 31ST December 2023

	Note	Balance Sheet At 31st December 2023	Balance Sheet At 31st December 2022	Balance Sheet At 31st December 2021	Balance Sheet At 31st December 2020	Balance Sheet At 31st December 2019
BALANCE SHEET						
Cash at Bank		78,254	61,966	45,433	51,003	63,622
Cash in Hand		250	250	250	250	250
Investments held by Southern Synod		16,249	15,682	19,011	17,780	16,371
Epworth investment Trusts						
Creditors and Accrued charges	6	(3,107)	(2,788)	(1,929)	(795)	(1,679)
Rent Deposit received £500		(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	
Held by Tenancy Deposit Scheme						
Debtors & Prepayments	5	9,791	16,059	5,776	13,849	8,823
Total Assets		£ 100,937	£ 90,670	£ 68,041	£ 81,587	£ 87,387
Represented by						
General Fund brought forward		74,987	49,030	62,534	71,017	70,302
Transfer (to) / from Specific Funds - Littlebourne 4 Villages Sponsorship				1,273	(1,273)	
Surplus / (Deficit) for period		9,701	25,957	(14,777)	(7,210)	715
General Fund carried forward		£ 84,688	£ 74,987	£ 49,030	£ 62,534	£ 71,017
Funds held by Southern Province		£ 16,249	£ 15,682	£ 19,011	£ 17,780	£ 16,371
Total Funds		£ 100,937	£ 90,670	£ 68,041	£ 81,587	£ 87,387

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2023

	Note	Results for the year ended 31st December 2023	Variance	Budget Projection Year 2023	Results for the year ended 31st December 2022	Results for the year ended 31st December 2021	Year ended 31 Dec 2020
INCOME							
Freewill Offerings		61,019	6,019	55,000	57,550	57,659	54,845
Covenant/Gift Aid Tax Recovery -due		10,031	(969)	11,000	13,517	10,645	10,760
Hall & Premises Lettings (incl Flat £6600 & L'brne £891)		24,842	(158)	25,000	25,093	15,504	9,551
Oasis Cafe Receipts	Note 2	23,553	3,553	20,000	20,066	11,175	8,561
Littlebourne Offerings		2,121	621	1,500	1,570	830	0
Other Receipts see below		1,269	269	1,000	1,014	3,035	246
Insurance claim - loss of rental and café income 2020-2021			0	-	26,715	0	3,278
Grants due from URC	Note 2	7,420	3,420	4,000	9,193	11,820	7,250
Capital Reserve Account & URC Interest		1,363	1,213	150	144	18	49
Donations for Specific purposes	Note 2	6,834	834	6,000	9,478	8,740	4,616
Total Income		£ 138,452	£ 14,802	£ 123,650	£ 164,341	£ 119,428	99,157
EXPENDITURE							
Ministry and Mission		41,076	0	41,076	41,076	41,076	41,076
Ministerial & Preaching Expenses		4,109	(1,109)	3,000	2,972	3,084	2,091
Welfare Fund -		940	60	1,000	485	830	0
Church Cleaning		4,344	(344)	4,000	3,925	2,118	1,842
Electricity Gas & Water		12,274	2,726	15,000	12,377	11,046	6,992
Administration and Office Expenses		13,380	620	14,000	13,143	13,877	10,972
Church Insurance		6,514	686	7,200	7,200	5,775	5,450
Furniture & Fittings - water heater&chiller cabinet		5,325	(3,325)	2,000	17,229	480	615
Manse Expenses - Council Tax, water & repairs	3	10,575	(3,575)	7,000	4,976	6,810	6,236
Payments To Christian Workers		4,200	0	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
Courses, Teaching Aids & CCL Licence		760	240	1,000	929	818	758
Catering Supplies		645	55	700	682	92	190
Church Repairs	Note 3	5,986	14	6,000	6,617	18,950	5,289
Children's & Youth Work		408	93	500	684	706	956
Oasis Cafe Payments - stock & card charges	Note 2	10,197	(1,197)	9,000	9,075	5,287	4,910
Other (Bank Charges, Scone Sch etc)		1,184	(184)	1,000	968	879	889
Donations - specific - see above donations	Note 2	6,834	(834)	6,000	9,478	8,740	4,641
Youth and Family Worker			0	-	2,369	9,437	9,260
Total Expenses		£ 128,751	£ (6,075)	£ 122,676	£ 138,383	£ 134,205	106,367
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (Normal Transactions)		£ 9,701	£ 8,727	£ 974	£ 25,957	£ (14,777)	(7,210)
Transfer from Littlebourne Fund						1,273	(1,273)
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (after transfers from L'brne Fund)		£ 9,701	£ 8,727	£ 974	£ 25,957	£ (13,504)	(8,483)

£ (758)
Deficit excl Insurance Claim

BUDGET and past results**St Andrew's URC Canterbury****Budget for 2023 Income and Expenditure Account****Page 4**

	Budget Projection 2024	Results for Year ended 31/12/20223	Results for Year ended 31/12/2022	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2021	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2020	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2019
INCOME						
Freewill Offerings	55,000	61,019	57,550	57,659	54,845	57,884
Covenant/Gift Aid Tax Recovery	10,000	10,031	13,517	10,645	10,760	13,003
Hall & Premises Lettings (Flat £7,200 p.a.)	25,000	24,842	25,093	15,504	9,551	24,197
Oasis Cafe Receipts	24,000	23,553	20,066	11,175	8,561	22,638
Littlebourne Receipts	2,000	2,121	1,570	830	-	-
Other Receipts - specific gifts/interest received/other income	1,000	1,269	1,014	3,035	246	1,242
Insurance claim - loss of rental and café income 2020-2021		-	26,715	-	3,278	-
Grants from URC -	16,000	7,420	9,193	11,820	7,250	14,822
Capital Reserve Account Interest	1,000	1,363	144	18	49	124
Donations for Specific purposes	6,000	6,834	9,478	8,740	4,616	2,639
Total Income	£ 140,000	138,452	164,341	119,428	99,157	136,549
EXPENDITURE						
Ministry and Mission	45,180	41,076	41,076	41,076	41,076	39,882
Ministerial Expenses	4,000	4,109	2,972	3,084	2,091	3,165
Welfare of church members	1,000	940	485	830	-	-
Church Cleaning	4,000	4,344	3,925	2,118	1,842	3,640
Electricity Gas & Water	15,000	12,274	12,377	11,046	6,992	12,806
Administration and Office Expenses	14,000	13,380	13,143	13,877	10,972	13,753
Church Insurance	6,290	6,514	7,200	5,775	5,450	5,143
Furniture & Fittings - Garden Room £16740	18,000	5,325	17,229	480	615	1,494
Manse Expenses	7,000	10,575	4,976	6,810	6,236	14,455
Payments To Christian Workers	5,000	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
Courses and Teaching Aids	1,000	760	929	818	758	498
Catering Supplies	700	645	682	92	190	1,099
Church Repairs	6,000	5,986	6,617	18,950	5,289	10,738
Children's & Youth Work	500	408	684	706	956	1,545
Oasis Cafe Payments	10,800	10,197	9,075	5,287	4,910	10,178
Other	1,000	1,184	968	879	889	1,340
Donations	6,000	6,834	9,478	8,740	4,641	2,849
Youth and Family Workers & Expenses	-	-	2,369	9,437	9,260	9,108
Scone School	-	-	-	-	-	(57)
Total Expenses	£ 145,470	128,751	138,383	134,205	106,367	135,834
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (Normal Transactions)	£ (5,470)	9,701	25,957	(14,777)	(7,210)	715
Littlebourne 4 Villages Sponsorship				1,273	(1,273)	-
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(5,470)	9,701	25,957	(13,504)	(8,483)	715

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CANTERBURY

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

I have carried out an independent examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 of St Andrew's United Reformed Church Canterbury. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from charity trustees concerning any such matters. No material matters have come to my attention to give me cause for concern that proper records were not kept and that the information disclosed is not correct.

I confirm that these accounts are in accordance with the books and records of the church and that they show the church's financial position at 31st December 2023

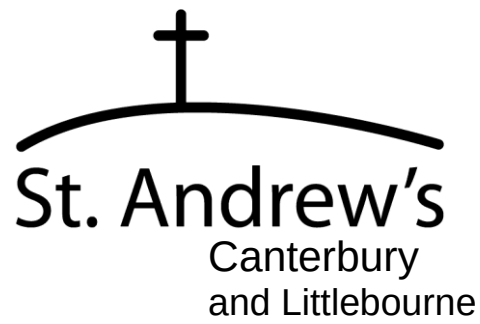


John M Ayrd

Canterbury Kent

25th October 2023

Accounts



Annual General Meeting

28th March 2023

Book of Reports



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Office Holders, Leaders and Team Coordinators 2022-23

Minister: Rev Bernard Fidler

Serving Elders: Val Cannon (2021) Peter Hollander (2018)
David Cobb (2018) Caroline Camp (2019)
Chris Wilson-Sharp (2019) Janet Wilson-Sharp (2019)
Jonathan Hollander (2020)

Church Secretary: Caroline Camp (from 2020)

Treasurer: Peter Hollander **Gift Aid:** Janet Wilson-Sharp
Offering: David Cobb

Administrator: Alice Wilson-Sharp

Safeguarding: Sue Wenham Deputy (vacant)

Authorised for Weddings: **DBS checks:** Malcolm McIntyre

Church Flowers: Mark Camp Catriona McIntyre

Fabric Team

David Spires Robert Deakin Hugh Marsh Peter Hollander

Church Representatives

Synod Val Cannon

Christians Together in Canterbury Sue Marsh

Christian Aid Vacancy

Food Bank Kate Bassett

Street Pastors (Andrew Pantling)

World Day of Prayer Caroline Camp

Small Group Leaders

Life Groups Val Cannon (in church, Tuesday afternoons)
Bernard Fidler (on Zoom, Wednesday evenings)

Men's Group: Mark Camp Malcolm McIntyre Jonathon Hollander

Church and worship rotas: Chris Wilson-Sharp

Preaching rota: Val Cannon

Sound desk and technical support: Jonathan Hollander

Prayer Ministry Team

Leader: Chris Wilson-Sharp

Church Website

Coordinators: David Cobb Alice Wilson-Sharp Jonathan Hollander

Oasis Café Team

Leaders: Patricia Hollander Sue Wenham

Church Cleaning

Team led by Sue Wenham Donald MacDonald

Stewarding Groups

Group 1 Dina Beukes
Group 2 Margaret Ashdown
Group 3 David Spires
Group 4 Peter Hollander

Littlebourne chapel Peter Hollander Jonathan Hollander

MINISTER'S REPORT

Dear friends,

Last year's report I started with reflecting on the end of Covid, and at that time the news of invasion of Ukraine was very recent. Now we are a year further on and fighting is still continuing in the Ukraine and it does not seem to be a war that will finish quickly. But in respect to last year for the church 2022 has been less eventful. But the society around us has seen a lot of changes.

We've had three prime ministers in this time. The queen passed away and Prince Charles became King. The 'mini-budget' had major implications for society, economy and our financial well-being. With the war in the Ukraine, we are now all used to higher gas and electricity prices, but I am sure that most of us feel that we have less money left over at the end of the month, and some of us find it more difficult to make ends meet.

We also have seen a further secularisation of society, and possibly a hardening of hearts in our society. People seem to be less tolerant of one another and of each other's view. Everyone seems to be on the defensive and different Christian views are not welcomed at all by some very vocal groups, often accompanied with assertive or aggressive language.

With all of this, it is not easy to be a Christian and proclaim the good news of Christ in society! But this is what Christ calls us to do at our 'frontlines'; the term we have learned from our journey with LICC (London Institute of Contemporary Christianity).

But for me it feels that 2022 was a preparation year for us. We started a number of initiatives in 2021 which have grown more mature during 2022. We have continued, under the leadership of Peter, Jonathan and Patricia Hollander, to worship at Littlebourne. We are very thankful that this year (2023) we hope to receive the two new Littlebourne friends into membership. It also has been a training ground to learn more about how to lead services and preach on Mark and now Acts. Although the impact has been small numerically, I think it has spiritually made a lot of difference and we have made friends from Littlebourne's St Vincent Church.

The Men's group has also flourished and we started to meet more frequently, and in the middle of the year, while I was on sabbatical, I was pleased to learn that Jonathan had started a Bible Study on Romans for this group, which has been well attended. But the social aspect has also been good, with a Chinese meal and board games amongst other things. I would especially like to thank Mark and Malcolm for their leadership.

We have continued to open the church on Wednesday lunch times for passers-by and employees from Whitefriars to come and find a quiet space in our church. Although we have not seen many people making use of that, we still feel that we should keep on doing this.

Another initiative that has had a boost last year was our Prayer Ministry group. There is a separate report, but over 2022 we have grown in number and confidence, which has resulted in the Lord sending us more people in 2023 to receive prayer ministry. We are grateful that God has used us in this way to help people come to terms with past trauma or current difficult circumstances. This ministry received another boost in that the Dunamis Fellowship of Britain and Ireland (DFB&I) asked us if we could host the Advanced Course for Healing and Deliverance at St Andrews during June and July. We were able to invite quite a few Christians from other fellowships to taste what this was like and as a result two more people joined our prayer ministry group. Of course, members of the prayer ministry group also

joined in with the training and all received certificates of attendance! It also resulted in the DFB&I wanting to run a full Dunamis Project series of conferences at St Andrews starting in 2024. This is a series of six conferences over three years aimed to help Christians to receive more from the Holy Spirit and to learn to cooperate with him. In the autumn of 2023, we hope to host an Ignite day: a taster day for Dunamis Project.

We have continued our relationship with Favour House Church and Pastor King James, and we have had many successful Healing Wings praise and prayer for healing sessions on the first Saturday of the Month.

And of course, I have had my sabbatical! It was good to be away for a bit from St Andrews and Sandwich and apart from the walking it also allowed me to attend worship services at different churches in Canterbury, from the Cathedral to Emmanuel Church and City Church. It is good to see that the Christian faith is still strong in Canterbury in the other churches! You can also see a report of my sabbatical in this book of reports.

It does feel that a number of things that we have prepared for in 2022 are now to come to fruition. I especially value our “Dwelling in His Presences” prayer and praise meetings that we have started together with King James on Thursday lunch times. It is good to gather with Christians of different churches and spend time with them in God’s presence. He has really blessed these sessions. I am sorry that due to other commitments I have not been able to attend as much as I would have liked, but I can recommend to everyone!

So let us continue to hold fast on what we have learned in our series of Revelations. Whatever turmoil the world may bring: Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, and he has everything in his hands. Therefore, let us also continue to run the race for Jesus in this year.

God bless you all.

Revd Bernard Fidder

SABBATICAL REFLECTIONS

Experience

I am not sure how can I can summarise the experience of this Pilgrimage Walk. As I said in the introduction, I wanted to do this during my sabbatical as I have never been on such a long walk before. Other people have experienced pilgrimage as a deeply spiritual experience. I must admit that I have not experienced this time in this way, mainly because I was mostly very tired! Walking with a heavy rucksack was more strenuous than I had expected. This became the focus of each day - how could I walk as quickly and easily to my destination, so that I could take off my backpack and put my feet up!

Having said this, it does not mean that I did not enjoy this time. I find that walking allows my mind to be freer and focusing on each step in front of me helps my mind to be quieter, and my thinking less frantic, or jumping from one topic to another. Often there I have no conscious thoughts, as I am focusing on the rhythm, the route, the directions and the destination of that day.

I discovered that I am not a person that thinks deeply during walking. I know that others pray during walking, but I think I need more a time of focus and no activity or being in a group.

Did I therefore not experience God in this time? Maybe not consciously, but I was aware of many occasions where he has gone before me or alongside me. Situations where somehow

issues were resolved before I became aware of them; a kind of guiding along. The kind where we notice God in hindsight, but not at the time!

But there have also been times where I needed to push ahead. Where it may have been easier to give up, but where I needed to push through myself. For instance, when I wanted to take the bus on the way to Winchester, but after a rest and a time of prayer, I felt strong enough to carry on.

In this part I wanted to highlight some of these experiences and reflect a bit on them. The second part is the actual blog I kept during this time.

Preparation

Just a few words on preparing for the journey. This also took more time than I expected. It consisted of three parts: 1) Planning the journey, 2) Arranging accommodation and 3) Acquiring equipment.

At the beginning of the year, I started with the planning. Fortunately, the route is planned in detail by the British Pilgrimage Society for the Old Way (Southampton to Reading), and the Confraternity of St James (CSL) for the St James' Way (Reading to Southampton). Both these routes were divided up in easy chunks, but I needed to be sure that every evening I was going to be in a place where accommodation was available. This meant quite a few hours planning with Outdoor Active, which allows to upload the GPX files (GPS Exchange Format). Both organisations have these available, which allows you to see the route on maps on-line or on the phone for planning and navigation. This made this exercise a lot easier! But I still had to divide the route up into chunks that I thought would be possible for me to achieve during a day. Sometimes only 10 miles at other times 17 miles. In total I walked for 15 days, on average 13.2 miles per day, 17 miles maximum, and 8.5 miles for the half days. I did not plan to walk on Sundays as that was going to be my rest day. But as I did not have transport I had to walk then as well, but shorter distances and without a back pack.

Hospitality

The one thing that amazed me most this trip, was the way that people offered hospitality on this journey. On the stretch between Southampton and Canterbury there were quite a few Churches offering Sanctuary. They advertised on the British Pilgrimage web site that people can stay overnight in the church. They had minimum facilities like toilets and kitchens. The other option was to ask churches if I could stay overnight with them. They may not have had those minimum facilities, but if they didn't my Sabbatical Supervisor assured me that often members of churches would not mind offering hospitality in their homes.

This was certainly true. In total I stayed with 12 host families, in 7 Sanctuary Churches for 10 nights (every weekend I was in a Sanctuary Church, so three extra nights) and then I organised 5 nights in paid accommodation). All the host families offered dinner and breakfast. Not only did it not cost me a lot, but the hospitality they offered was gratefully received.

It has to be said that most people offering hospitality were well off and either retired or at the end of their careers. Most had a leadership role in the churches I had contacted (Church Warden, Stewards. Lay Preachers or other leadership functions), although some were 'just' regular congregation members, but even if they were, they were active members of the churches that they belonged to. All were very friendly, accommodating, and even caring. Especially those occasions that I came to them wet, dirty and tired. And they often offered to dry things for me or even wash things for me. Without this aspect of the pilgrimage, it would have been a totally different experience.

Also, the sanctuary churches offered great hospitality. Of course, I would have to cater for myself and make an evening meal and breakfast, but often the kitchen facilities were enough to be able to heat up a ready meal and make cereal and a hot drink in the morning. Most were welcoming in a way that made me feel connected to them in one shape or form, but there were a few churches where the experience was a bit more ‘transactional’.

But even the paid hospitality turned out to be more than I expected. The range varied from being in a youth hostel like accommodation, and a traveller’s hut, to Airbnb and one hotel. I had also planned to stay in a Youth Hostel, but I had not picked up that I had to have a photo id (and in my case as EU citizen a passport) in order to check in. They made this very clear with emails and text messages, but by then I was on my way and could not make amends. I had especially not taken anything with me, in case I lost it! As I sometimes leave things behind that made sense.

Fortunately, I was able to rebook to an Airbnb. The hosts there were so hospitable that they offered to do washing for me, shared meals with me and even took me shopping for the next day! This was over and above what was required and expected. But it was very nice!

It is through other people I discovered God caring for me. And that made me think of my own practice of hospitality and of the Church’s practice of hospitality. Especially when hospitality means giving of our time and resources to maybe the less interesting people. Or the people we find it difficult to be with. This is not yet fully crystallised in my thinking and action but God has given us individually and corporately so many resources. How can we share those resources with others and what is the cost for us.

As a pilgrim guest I am actually quite easy to give hospitality to. I am staying a limited and defined period of time. Due to the nature of my role and my purpose I am perceived to be interesting. I am a good listener and am willing to hear other people’s views, stories and circumstances. I am not too demanding and happy and thankful for all that my hosts have provided me with. After that I am gone again – maybe pleasant memories of being with my hosts, but life continues, as my journey continued.

In church settings this is different. The people that we meet we may meet on a regular basis. We may give of our time and resources, and then we find that they come back again. And we have to give more time and more resources. Some people connected to our congregation are really in very difficult situations: loneliness, ill health, poverty, lack of housing. Not things that are easily resolved but things that need more time and attention. Some of them can be very demanding and are not conscious of our boundaries or may deliberately test them. Some of them can take our efforts for granted: this is what the Church does (or at least should do).

How can we provide hospitality to them? How can we be sure that we are OK and not give too much. Or is the fear of us giving too much, stopping us from engaging with people who need us? In the end Jesus gave us his all – are we not his disciples and should we not follow him in this as well?

Challenges

Of course, there have been challenges during the course of the pilgrimage. Overall, however, due to careful planning, all the arrangements worked out, the places to stay, the route to take, which I had planned and requested beforehand. There was only one accommodation where I needed final confirmation during the pilgrimage itself.

I sometimes wonder if I should have been braver and have relied more on God and the people in the places that I visited at the time of arrival. But I do not think I am brave enough to set out on a week’s or a 3 week’s journey without careful planning! But the nature of the

pilgrimage would be totally different, as well as the challenges.

But at this time the challenges seem to be more benign, but fall into a number of categories: obstacles, weather, physique and accommodation.

Firstly obstacles: In general, most of the roads and footpaths were easily accessible, but there were occasions where the path was there but totally overgrown. Fortunately, I could clear most paths with my walking pole, but there were occasions where the path was so overgrown, that I could not go through and had to find an alternative route. That is always a bit nerve-racking as I did not know how to join with the path further on. On one occasion the path on the way to Worting was fully overgrown, and I could only walk on the golf course which ran alongside it. Golfers are often very well attired and me in my scruffy and sweaty outfit stood out a bit. Furthermore, I was worried about being challenged, as I had not paid! And then I could join the footpath again at the end of the golf course, or make my way to the entrance, and walk a long way around. Fortunately, near the boundary of the golf course there was an opening to the path again, and I could wrestle my way through the brambles to get through onto a normal path again.

Another big obstacle as one my way to Houghton. First of all, fallen trees blocked the path. It was also a rainy day and the tidal river was high and the path ran parallel to the river and the ground was very wet. Fortunately, there was a boardwalk, and after navigating two fallen trees, by sliding my backpack on the boards underneath the trees, I got to a bit where the boardwalk stopped. The only thing remaining was what looked like a pond overgrown with brambles. I was probably only 15 minutes away from my accommodation, but I had to go back, navigating the trees again and the back to the main road. By this time, it was rush hour, so donning my Hi-Viz jacket I walked about 1.5 miles on a very busy main road. I was very glad when I arrived.

Weather. It is said that there is no bad weather, only bad clothing. And that may be true, but it is much nicer to walk in the sun, or even in the dry. Every blog entry has also an overview of the weather of that day, as it is very important. Mostly the weather was very nice or quite good. But some days rain makes the day very hard. The story above is an example, but my first rainy day was on my walk to Alresford, north of Winchester. The day started nice, but then the weather turned from hot sunny weather to more autumnal. That meant that I was not prepared clothes wise when the rain started, and had to put on my rain gear for the first time. So, I got quite wet, including my boots. After that the weather cleared but walking in wet boots alongside quite boring roads and paths, including a long drover path, which was straight and paved with loose stones, did not do my feet any good. This resulted in quite severe blisters, which did not help my resolve to continue on the next day!

Physique. I have already mentioned the blisters, which kind of stayed with me for the rest of the walk. They did heal, but my feet were more sensitive, and because my boots did not quite fit (which I only noticed when the blisters formed on that day, before they were quite comfortable), walking did become more tiring and slower.

I had practised beforehand but, how can you train your body to walk 6 days a week? In hindsight I should have had a rest day in the middle of the week, but that would have added to the duration of the trip and the cost of accommodation. As a result of walking 12-17 miles my body got quite sore and tired. This does not help with being able to accommodate other challenges, so I did find that I had to discipline myself to continue walking very day!

Answered Prayer

People always ask if the Pilgrimage has been a ‘Spiritual Experience’. And as I said before

this has not been the case for me as much. I think that my spiritual experiences are always based in a group setting with other people. But that does not mean that I have not felt the presence of God, especially in the form of answered prayer.

The first time was on the day after the walk to Alresford, on my way to Winchester. I found myself at the church of Kings Worthy, and I was very tired and my feet hurt. The day was beautiful and the weather was good. I just felt the tiredness of the previous day. And I found here the temptation of the bus! At the church was a bus stop and my trusty phone informed me that if I took the bus here, I would be in Winchester in half an hour! So, I sat there for a while, deciding what to do. Unsure what to do, I prayed. And after about half an hour's rest, I came to the conviction to continue the walk. I would have hated it if I had not done the full walk, especially at the beginning. I do not know if this conviction came from God, but I do know that the prayer helped to make my mind up and gave me the energy and determination to continue.



The second time was not so much of one where I had verbalised a prayer. On Monday 12 September I was at Apuldram south of Chichester. I had a good day with the congregation on Sunday morning and then the open-air service of the United Church in Winchester. But this morning I could just lock the door behind me and go. Unlike other times, there was no-one to see me off. Most other times I left from a home, or I said goodbye to the people at the church, sometimes even sharing in morning prayers. But this time there was no one. And I commented on that to myself, and felt a bit lonely. As you can read in the blog post in detail, I met another person on the road. But the answer to prayer (even though I had not prayed it) is that God provided that encounter, almost to reassure me that I was not alone, there are other people and that he is with me.

The final one I want to highlight is on 22 Sep on the way from Battle to Winchelsea: “I have been struggling with my backpack, couldn't quite find the right fit, especially on my shoulders and after that many days they started to get sore. I had already prayed to ask Jesus for some relief. And then sometime today when I put my backpack on again, my shoulders hurt again. So, I prayed again. And somehow my body readjusted itself. My back straightened, and my shoulders were pushed back. It was as if God was saying, your posture is wrong. Do not slouch forwards, but put your back straight and shoulders back and it helped! It now feels easier to carry, when I remind myself to straighten my back and my shoulders. Thank you, Jesus!” This is the first time that I have had a real bodily experience of an answer to prayer!

There have been other times as well, but these are the main ones that I recall. Maybe perhaps on the walk to Lympne, where it was forecast to rain all day long, and as I had had a wet day the day before, I prayed that it would stay dry. To my surprise the rain hovered in the channel all day long, but never came inland...

Current affairs

There have been a number of remarkable current affairs that happened while I was walking which coloured the whole pilgrimage in a remarkable way. The first was the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the second was the ‘Mini-budget’.

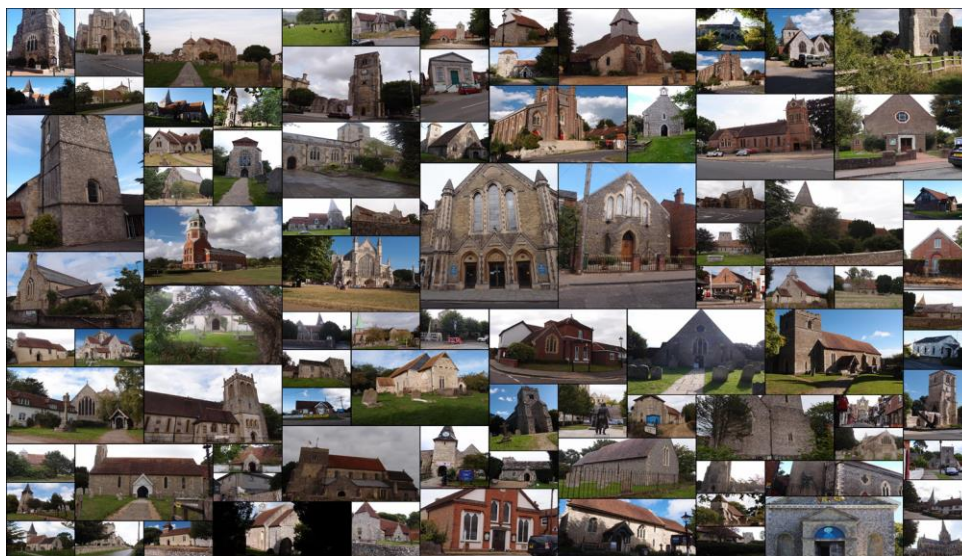
On 8 September 2022, I walked from Hamble to Wickham. And I was going to meet my host in Titchfield to walk together to Wickham, where his wife would pick us up. It was nice to

walk for a bit with somebody! But in the car the radio was on and it was full of announcements that the Queen was very ill and family was called to go to Scotland. When we came home, we watched the news that she had passed away. From that time on until the funeral on the 19 September, which was the bank holiday of the funeral, everywhere there were signs of the country in mourning. All the churches that were open had books of condolences, and as I saw many churches on my route, I could have signed a book of condolences many times. The day of the funeral was a beautiful day walking the Seven Sisters with loads of tourists and students from abroad. Most English people were watching TV at home!

And then on 23 September the Mini-budget was introduced, starting off economic uncertainty and the fall of Liz Truss's government. In my blogs you do not read much of that, but it did colour my experience. While I was walking all this was taking place and I could in a way be distant from it, but because of the news on my phone very involved. The day after I had a long conversation with a gentleman on the way to Lymington, ranging from Brexit, immigration and the Archbishop of Canterbury. He was very much of the view that there are too many immigrants and refugees, and he did not like the archbishop as he promoted the UK taking refugees in! We agreed to disagree but had a good exchange of views. At least it made this bit of the walk go quicker! Was there a relation between the two views? All about harking back to a time where the UK had control over its own country, but with globalisation there are now more forces, both economically and people coming to the UK that may make the country feel like a strange country to some of its citizens.

Churches are struggling with that too, as in the midst of this there is also a faith crisis and church attendance is dropping, churches are closing and society is increasingly more secular and alien to especially the churches with traditional ways of worship or traditional way of believing.

Churches I was not going to write much about churches, but the last comment made me



reconsider. I have seen many churches during my walk, especially as it is pilgrimage route and it visited a lot of churches. The vast majority of them are Anglican, old buildings with long histories and traditions.

I slept in quite a few and most had been upgraded with modern conveniences and one even had underfloor heating.

But are these churches, buildings and congregations, representative of the Christian faith? It seems that society has moved on, but the church has remained in a separate era, especially the church as non-churched people see them - old traditional buildings. But in the main cities there are other forms of church that do not rely so much on buildings, they meet in schools and universities, have a more modern approach to worship, media and social media. But they are not visible when I do a pilgrimage like this. It is the old buildings and the traditional congregations that are open for visitors. Not that many people come to them either any more. So, are they also islands of a day gone by in a society that has moved on? Have they become museums or some even mausoleums?

How does the URC and the church respond to that? Do we still need all these buildings to have a vibrant faith, or do we need to find different ways to meet together and be open to society?

Blogging

A final word of blogging or journaling. I am still not a natural diarist. I found it quite difficult every evening to compose a blog and to write something meaningful. Taking photos helped me to remember as well as write the blog. I could also have used better technology, but I wanted to use something that was free and Google Blogger is free. Unfortunately, the phone app is not very user-friendly or stable and a number of times I had written something only for me to lose all the contents.

Ending

I did not want to write a conclusion. Life also does not have a conclusion at the end. But something ends, the pilgrimage ends and life continues. For me this period has good, it was good to be away from my daily responsibilities, and good to meet with so many Christians along the way offering hospitality. It was good to refresh my mind and my soul, although my body can still feel tired! And it has given me a new energy and new focus on being a minister, and perhaps a new urgency that the Church needs to change to bring Christianity to the current people of England and the West.

Bernard Fidler

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Behold! I make all things new. Revelations 21 v5. This year has been a time where we have seen life return to normality following the difficulties experienced during the pandemic. Our services are held both in the church building and on Zoom and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jonathan again for his expert technical knowledge and skills in making hybrid services possible. We now have a regular monthly praise and worship service "Healing Wings" with Favour House Church in the church building on the first Saturday of the month. I would also like to thank Mark, Jonathan and all those involved in the installation of the new projector, speakers and updates to the Wi-Fi system, which have considerably enhanced our church life both in the church building and on Zoom.

We have two Life Groups meeting: one in person, other on Zoom (see page 14 for report). The time of prayer on Saturday mornings on Zoom is also continuing.

The prayer Ministry group now meets on Friday afternoons in church. See page 13 for a full report. Services at Littlebourne are continuing (see page 15). There is also a continuing prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings on Zoom for the work at Littlebourne.

We were blessed with resources provided by Alice for Advent and by Alice and Chris for the week of New Year prayer. We were able to meet in church together with King James of Favour House church from Wednesday to Saturday in the first week of the New year for a time of prayer and praise. Full details can be found on page 16 of these reports. As a result of this time of prayer, there is a time of prayer and worship jointly with Favour House Church at St Andrews on Thursdays from midday to 1pm until the end of the year.

In March 2022 Avril Leyton's time as Youth and Children's worker came to an end. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Avril for her hard work and dedication over the past 3.5 years.

Alice has been working three days a week as normal. Many of the groups who hire our rooms have continued and there are new bookings and an unending stream of enquiries about bookings. We are very grateful to Alice for the weekly newsletter she produces with details of services and other events both in other churches and of interest in Canterbury, and the many other administrative tasks, which she carries out.

During the year we were delighted to welcome Alice Wong into church membership. We rejoiced in the marriage of Joanna Hollander to Tim Samuel in December 2022. We also mourned the passing of Esther Squirrel in September 2022 and Klara Deakin in February 2023.

So, as we look forward to what the year ahead will bring, let us reflect on the words of the Caleb prayer: *O High King of Heaven, Have mercy on our Land. Revive your People. Send the Holy Spirit for the sake of the lost, the least and the broken. May your kingdom come to our nation In Jesus' mighty name.*

Caroline Camp

PRAYER MINISTRY

In 2022 we continued with the Prayer Ministry team. It was a year that we trained one another. We completed reading the book "Let Jesus heal your hidden wounds, cooperating with the Holy Spirit in Healing Ministry" by Brad Long and Cindy Strickler and we started to read the book "Healing Care, Healing Prayer, helping the broken find Wholeness in Christ" by Terry Wardle. We meet on Friday afternoons and if we do not have a prayer ministry appointment, we pre-read a chapter of these books and discuss this together in our meeting. In this way we have learned a lot from these books, but also from each other. A number of our team were able to attend the Dunamis Conferences, and learn more, especially from The healing Ministry of Jesus and the Spiritual Warfare events. We also spend time praying for each other and helping each other to meet with Jesus by imaging oneself in a picture with Jesus. We have seen especially emotional and spiritual healing.

Also, a number of the team attended the Dunamis Interim Course for Healing and Deliverance, which helped a lot to gain practice in prayer ministry.

We have also decided to do three monthly Communion and Prayer Ministry worship services on the first of the month in 2023. As I write we have had two of these and I believe people have been blessed by these.

In 2023 we have found that God has blessed our Ministry as a number of people from St Andrews and from outside have come forward for Prayer Ministry. This year alone, we have had seven prayer ministry sessions, for five people. We often find that people like to receive a second session. We like to use the Prayer Room at St Andrews, but also, we have had a team go to the home of the person wanting to receive prayer ministry.

I include below a description that comes from the Dunamis Fellowship of Britain and Ireland, whose model for prayer ministry we follow, about what happens in a typical prayer ministry session. If you are interested in becoming part of the team or if you are interested in receiving prayer ministry yourself, please contact me. We would like to have some more men on the team, as men often need as much prayer ministry and women do!

Bernard Fidler

What happens during a prayer ministry session

The client arrives and is welcomed by the team (usually 3 people, but sometimes husband and wife). They enable you to feel at ease.

The session begins and is wrapped in prayer as the whole session is kept under the leading of the Holy Spirit, with frequent pauses to check direction by the team. Often, the Lord has prepared the way, and there is a general understanding of the issues for prayer.

It's important to know that you can stop the session or pause, at any time and you are welcome to bring a friend to support you if desired.

Of course, prayer ministry can involve facing painful and difficult issues and situations which can be challenging and emotional, but knowing that at all times one is surrounded by the acceptance, love and power of the Lord Jesus and our ministering brothers and sisters is enabling and comforting.

One has to put trust in those ministering, as well as the Lord, that they are addressing what is necessary to find freedom. This may include a need for prayers of repentance, forgiveness, confession, thanks or blessing. You are helped to find the right words to pray when needed.

There is much opportunity for the Holy Spirit to minister His love, mercy and healing, restoring power in this 'safe' place.

When all sense that enough has been accomplished for that session, there are final prayers of sealing and completing.

Each client is given advice about holding onto their healing as the enemy likes to steal and destroy it. It's important to do all you can to keep every door shut to the enemy so he is unable to find easy access into your life.

Sessions are normally no more than a maximum of 2 hours. The prayer minister will usually contact you shortly after the ministry session to see if you are OK.

Source: Dunamis Fellowship of Britain and Ireland (<https://www.dunamis.org.uk/what-we-do/healing/>)

LIFE GROUPS

This year has been a year of change, even though life has returned to normal after the pandemic. Linda Cawsey has moved to Margate and so her Life Group has ceased. Val's group meets in person in church on Tuesday afternoons and Bernard's Life Group meets virtually on Zoom on Wednesday evenings.

The meetings are based on the Bible reading of the preceding Sunday and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Val for providing the questions for our Life Group meetings.

Life Group meetings normally open with prayer and begin with an ice breaker – something more light hearted to try and get people talking. This is then followed by a worship song on U-Tube, followed by reading of the Bible passage. The question sheet has usually been sent out in advance, so that participants have time to think about the questions posed. A time of discussion takes place in response to the questions given. There is then a time of prayer for the concerns people raise and the meeting closes with the Grace.

If you are not yet part of a Life Group and would like to join one, either on Tuesday afternoons in person or virtually on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, we shall be pleased to welcome you.

Caroline Camp

SONBEAMS TODDLER GROUP

We give thanks for all the work Avril Leyton has done for the years she led the Sonbeams mothers and toddlers group and the children's work. Since April volunteers from Sonbeams have run the group on Thursday mornings, and this continues to be the case. During the year the numbers have been relatively steady, so that it is not too busy nor too quiet. It is hoped that, with the input from Christians in the group, the activities (story time and singing time) will have more of a Christian content in the future.

It has been a God send that the group is able to continue as is a safe and enjoyable activity for the mums, grandparents, carers and children who attend, many of whom are from other countries.

Peter Hollander

LITTLEBOURNE CHAPEL

The chapel has been open on Sunday afternoons for church services since Easter 2021. The congregation has not grown in 2022 but the times of worship are much appreciated by those who do attend. The preaching in 2021-22 was the whole of Mark's Gospel, followed by the Psalms of Ascent and since last Spring, beginning at Acts 1, the Acts of the Apostles, reaching chapter 12 presently.

The chapel continues to be well used by a mothers and toddlers group, childminders, Pilates and for children's birthday parties. Shrove Tuesday was celebrated with pancakes.

Littlebourne has a monthly news sheet delivered to all homes and there has been the opportunity to provide a Gospel message from the Chapel, alongside one from St Vincent's on the front page. Please pray that the Good News is able to touch the hearts of those in the village who don't know Jesus and join the Tuesday evening prayer on Zoom.

Peter, Patricia and Jonathan Hollander

NEW YEAR PRAYER

Our New Year Prayer theme was, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty. Zechariah 4:6

There was the opportunity to use a daily prayer guide for the week, which had prayer and worship alongside each other, looking at further examples of where great things were accomplished by the work of the Holy Spirit. There was the opportunity for daily corporate prayer and worship, led by King James from Favour House Church. Littlebourne Prayer on Tuesday evening and the Saturday morning Zoom also prayed into the themes from the prayer guide for those days.

We concluded the week with Lyndall Bywater speaking on Zechariah 4, particularly verse 10 which says, "Who dares despise the day of small things..." Zech. 4:10

Her message was very timely for us as a fellowship, stressing the importance of 'small things' that we do which cause God to rejoice. Big building projects start with one small brick, then another brick, then another and so on. It is an accumulation of small things put together over time.

She said that we do not need to try to be bigger or mightier. Jesus uses little things to do much: seed and grain become a harvest, a mustard seed becomes a tree, yeast becomes risen bread, olives become oil that create a bright light for Christ.

Our building bricks for 2023... (so far!)

- continuing with a weekly lunchtime prayer watch, in connection with Favour House Church.
- holding monthly prayer ministry services.
- exploring the development of a chaplaincy ministry for Whitefriars.

Alice Wilson-Sharp & Christine Wilson-Sharp

OASIS CAFÉ

We have seen customer numbers increase considerably over the last twelve months, with every one of our four working days getting busier and busier. This could be due in no small part to the excellent value for money that Oasis gives, as we continue to keep our prices as low as possible, enabling more people to enjoy a coffee or light lunch without breaking the bank. We see this as vitally important as the cost of living continues to rise with little prospect of it slowing

down in the foreseeable future. That being said, we have had to make some adjustments to our prices, with more to come, as we too have to pay more for our supplies. Customer satisfaction remains undiminished, and many of our 'regulars' not only come back, but encourage friends and family to patronise us as well.

Our staff Christmas celebration at the Golden Lion was enjoyed by all who were able to attend. We are already booked in for this year!

We have been pleased to once again offer workplace experience to students from Canterbury College - one of the highlights of last year was being recognised by the college with an 'Excellent Employer' award! New members of staff have joined the team, whilst others have stepped back from frontline duties, although Linda Cawsey still pops up behind the counter on a regular basis. Laura Bassett has also been helping out when her health permits. One of our most loyal and long-standing members of staff, Chris Couch, is standing down from the Thursday team, but will still be with us on Tuesdays and Fridays. While we're on the subject of staffing, Thursdays and Fridays as well as being busier than ever, are very short-staffed, so please pray that more people will come forward and be prepared to commit to either of these days, so that Oasis can continue to open on four days of the week.

Prayer, prayer and more prayer are at the heart of all we do in Oasis, as we continue to serve our customers in the name of Jesus and for his glory.

In 2022 Oasis café was able to be open all year now that Covid restrictions have eased, this has meant that our profits have gone back up. In 2022 our profit was £11,575.62. This was made up of £4,183.16 Cash and £7,392.46 in Visa Credits. Our charitable efforts have raised £70 for Red Nose Day via cake sales and £107.65 for Macmillan again via cake sales. We also raised £177.65 for the Poppy Appeal. We are not profit driven but we like to cover our costs and pay into the church so that the heating, lighting, hot water, Wi-Fi etc are paid for. Please pray that we are 'prophet' lead and able to offer more than just food.

Sue Wenham & Patricia Hollander

KIDZ KLUB

With great reluctance, the trustees of the charity decided to end its Saturday morning klub after the summer term because of lack of volunteers. With the numbers of children, there had to be sufficient adults on site. The numbers of volunteers shrank and it became unviable to continue safely within the guidelines expected of a charity involved in children's work. The trustees give thanks to the United Reformed Church Southern Synod who supplied funding for an additional year, but this money has been returned because of the closure of the charity's activities.

Peter Hollander

MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

The Men's Social Group restarted after Easter 2022 with a May evening walk around Littlebourne and afterwards at The Evenhill, but inclement weather cancelled our proposed Church Garden barbeque in July.

After the summer holiday break, we restarted in October with a very successful film night showing "14 Peaks: Nothing is Impossible" about a group of Nepali Sherpas tackling all the highest peaks in the Himalayas in a concentrated month of high altitude climbing. It gave a new meaning to the phrase "endurance and running a race without looking back" and included some stunning high mountain scenery photography.

We also introduced a regular men's Bible study programme in October run by Jonathan Hollander looking at the Book of Romans. This is going well with lots of lively discussion.

Then we had the always popular take away Chinese meal in November, a very successful indoor board games night in December after Christmas and another film night showing the "Banshees of Inisherin" in January; a challenging film in a broad West Coast of Ireland brogue, which nevertheless took 4 awards at the recent BAFTAs

Finally, this month we had a very successful joint evening with Favour House Church with real Nigerian food and beer and an interactive talk afterwards by King James on Nigeria and Christian Leadership. The food was interesting to say the least, some excellent like the chicken and fried plantain and other dishes like the pepper soup, offal stew and steamed cassava, more of an acquired taste, I think.

Going forward we have an Easter themed evening at the end of March, a Canterbury Cathedral evening visit in May and a proposed barbeque in July, weather permitting. The regular Bible studies will also run until August. We will then restart in September/October with the 2023/24 programme.

Mark Camp and Malcolm McIntyre.

CANTERBURY STREET PASTORS



Canterbury Street Pastors

St Andrew's Church
Annual Report 2023

Team News

Personnel continues to be stable, although we have had a few losses to the team due to various reasons. God still provides enough people to keep our patrols going, allowing us to be present on the streets of Canterbury. We still have an average of between 15-20 Street Pastors and 5-6 Prayer Pastors.

We have now added 2 new trustees to the leadership team, meaning that we now have a total of 5 trustees on board.

Last October (2022), we trialled a new shift pattern for the patrols, meeting at an earlier time of 8.30pm and going out on patrol from 9pm until around 2am. The patrols have seen an increase in encounters and faith chats, but the timing of patrols is something we will review as the warmer weather comes around the corner.



We were sad to hear of the loss of Maureen Brunt, one of our dear Street Pastors, who served both in Herne Bay and Canterbury. She will be remembered fondly.

Church Support

The year 2022 saw a good number of visits to the churches in Canterbury, once we were able to meet again in person and worship together. We reached around 12 different churches with varied responses. It was a great experience to see other fellowships within the Canterbury area. We are looking to go back to those churches again this year and visit new ones we haven't yet reached. We are grateful for the support churches in prayer, finances, and personnel.

Community Funding

This last year has been a busy and fruitful year for us. Back in March-April, we applied for the 'Safer Streets' funding awarded by the Home Office and organised by Kent Police. The remit was the reduction of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) as part of the Canterbury 'Community Safety Partnership.' This was a joint bid for 10 different projects and initiatives, with a grand total of around £700,000 awarded for the whole project. Canterbury Street Pastors were awarded around £17,000 for our part of the bid for an 18-month period, with the opportunity for match funding with our volunteers and leadership team.

This has enabled us to get new supplies, equipment and marketing, alongside enough funds to recruit 10 new volunteers. This pays for coaching, uniforms and additional training. We were also able to employ a new engagement officer, to assist both the trustees and our coordinator with recruitment, funding, and marketing. In December we were able to employ Helen Jones as our new engagement officer. She has become a valuable part of the team. This funding will enable us to increase patrol sizes and hopefully put out 2 teams on a Saturday night to cover both early and later times. As the city grows with new developments on the fringes of the city centre, we hope to cover a wider range in the city.

Community Engagement

With the bid funding, we have gained new compatriots in the community by being a part of the 'Community Safety Partnership' and the 'Purple Flag' accreditation. 'Purple Flag' awards cities for their safe night-time economies and Canterbury has now been awarded this accreditation for the 11th year in a row. There is also the 'Best Bar None' scheme in the city, which monitors and awards the pubs and clubs for their attention to safety and due diligence. This means Canterbury Street Pastors are in the midst of these groups and continue to be a constant presence in the city. Put another way, we are keeping God in the middle of the night-time economy and we are in the midst of keeping Canterbury safe on a Saturday night.

We also attend the freshers' fayres at the 3 universities and attend the community hubs in the city, which are put on by the 'Safety Partnership', universities and other partners. The police and council speak highly of us and our involvement in the night-time economy. As a 'Safer Streets' project, we are able to be a part the new 'SafeZone' app and the new 'Safer Streets' partners' website. We are a constant presence in the community – and remain focused on keeping Christ in the picture as we continue to be a witness.



The Year 2023 and Beyond

We are hopefully building a bigger and better organisation, through the hard work of the whole team – from the team patrols to prayer support; from the coordinator to the trustees and leadership team. The continued support of local churches and community engagement is crucial as we increase our teams. Since lockdown we have worked hard to create a firm foundation on which to build. With extra funding to help build the team of tomorrow, we hope to keep God on the streets through the team and give a helping hand, a listening ear and a strong shoulder to those who need it. We are excited about the future of Canterbury Street Pastors and – with so many different roles and ways to get involved – we continue to look for people to walk that journey with us.

Contact - Andrew Pantling, Coordinator, Canterbury Street Pastors.
coordinator@canterburystreetpastors.org to find out more!



Andrew Pantling

GLOBAL CAFÉ (FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL)

As a church we support the work of Friends International, who work among the international student community in Canterbury, by hosting a Global café on our premises every Saturday night.

Every Saturday during Global Café we offer drinks and snacks for students, and we also offer board games, table tennis, pool and badminton. It has been fantastic to see the café flourish this year and we regularly get about 30-40 international students, asylum seekers and international professionals visiting every Saturday. Each evening has a theme - for example

Iranian themed night, Pancake night, table tennis tournament just to name a few. At the end of each evening, we would read a Bible passage and have a short discussion around the tables on the theme of the passage. This social event and the other social events we run during the week like volleyball, English club and walks help us build relationships and to invite students to our weekly meal and a Bible study where they can learn more about Jesus. This year we have seen a Malaysian student become a Christian and many others coming along to our events from India, Iran, Pakistan, Portugal, Latvia, Ukraine and many other countries. Many of them end up visiting local churches and Christian Union events. Thank you for your support and for providing such a fantastic venue for us!

If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer at one of our events or support the international student ministry by prayer or by hosting students for a meal, please, contact our staff worker Baiba.Strause-Kalmere@friendsinternational.uk

Please pray for:

- Recruitment of more members for FI Branch prayer group meeting 4x a year - we need a rep from URC who has a passion for cross-cultural mission work;
- Recruitment of students for Reach discipleship year for next year!
- Pray for our weekly events and especially weekly evangelistic Bible study with a meal in a British home
- Planning for annual Canterbury Summer International Outreach based at SMB premises -from 3rd-9th July 2023.! We are currently recruiting local volunteers who could provide B & B for week or two for outreach team members, people to bake cakes, lend bikes or sponsor a team member.

Baiba Strause-Kalmere

OPEN AIR CAMPAIGNERS

It is a real privilege, as OAC Kent Director/Evangelist, every Wednesday, to be reaching out in the town centre with a team of 10 others (outside of Fenwicks near Mcdonalds) with my paintboard and box of tracts, reaching out in a friendly manner to those in town with the 'Good News'. Unity in the Lord and His Gospel no matter what church we are from is a powerful witness.

Many have been reached with the Good News this past year with some now believing along with many hundreds of tracts and Bibles taken with gratitude. I continue to build ongoing friendships with many local shop workers, school kids, security staff, refuse collectors, delivery riders, homeless, etc. Thank you for your valuable prayers in continuing with this ministry.

I also continue to evangelize throughout Kent and south London 4/5 times every week, plus preach at Speakers Corner every other week. I run a teaching of Evangelism/Apologetics Zoom meeting every other Friday night from 8-11pm. I preach once a month in a prison near Maidstone and will be once again taking teams to evangelise in Israel, Greece and Germany over the Spring/Summer. My website has some photos attached that 'paint a thousand words' -www.acts1043alive.com

Dave Workman

CANTERBURY CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH(CCCC)

--updates from Apr 2022 to March 2023

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:19-20 ESV).”

We give thanks to the Lord for gathering our Chinese people in the UK, a country that has sent tremendous missionaries all over the world, including China, in the past two hundred years. We need to be inspired by this great love from God and go out to spread the gospel to all nations.

Sunday worship

After last Easter, we discontinued our online streaming service. It has been taking up too much of our co-workers' time to operate the system. Additionally, we hope that brothers and sisters can come together to worship God on Sunday. Currently, the number of attendees on Sundays is around 30, including both adults and children.

Over the past decade, the number of Cantonese speakers in the UK has decreased, as there has been no new immigration from Hong Kong. Many churches have shifted their focus to Mandarin-speaking groups since numerous Chinese people from mainland China have moved to the UK.

However, in the past two years, many new immigrants from Hong Kong have come to the UK due to political reasons. They are all Cantonese speakers. Last year, a new immigrant family joined our church. The wife was able to attend our Sunday service and fellowship because she could understand Mandarin, but the husband was unable to join due to language barriers. We plan to set up simultaneous interpretation during our Sunday service soon to assist Cantonese speakers in joining our service. We also hope to start a Cantonese service in the future if God brings more Cantonese speakers to us. This is our prayer, and we require that God's will be fulfilled.

Children Ministry

The current average number of children attending Sunday worship is around 10-15, including both youth and kids. Last summer, the Children's Ministry organised a pizza party for all the children and their families in the garden. The event was a success, with great fellowship and communication.

However, there are still many children outside of the church, and we have a strong desire to reach out to these families. We had hoped to run a Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer but unfortunately, we do not have enough co-workers to organize it. As a result, we have decided to postpone the plan until next summer so that we have sufficient time to prepare. We pray that God will open the door for us and provide us with the necessary resources to reach out to these children and their families.

Bible study groups

We currently have five Bible study groups that meet regularly every week. There is a Cantonese-speaking group that meets on Thursdays, a sisters' group that meets on Tuesday morning, a Grace Fellowship made up of members who run restaurants that meets on Wednesday morning, a family group that meets on Friday night, and a student fellowship that also meets on Friday night. Additionally, we recently reinstated a brothers' fellowship that meets on Tuesday night. The average attendance for each group is around 5-6 members, and they study different books of Scripture. We can sense the deep desire of our brothers and sisters to delve into God's Word, and we pray that God would strengthen them through His Word.

Discipleship ministry

Since last October, we have started a Bible reading group where we lead our brothers and sisters to read one chapter per day. We also provide them with some interpretive guidance for each daily chapter. So far, we have finished reading the four gospels, Acts, Romans, and we are currently reading 1 Corinthians. We plan to continue reading until we have completed the entire Bible. Our prayer is that God will help them build themselves up in His holy words.

In March, we started a Bible study training program. Seven sisters and one brother have joined us for a total of nine weeks, with each session lasting one and a half hours. We practice interpreting Scripture together, learning and growing in our understanding of the Bible.

In addition to our current activities, we are also planning to open an online Sunday school for adults. We will start with the basics of theology, followed by an introduction to the New Testament, Old Testament, and other related topics. We recognize the importance of seeking God's guidance in all our endeavors and will pray for His direction as we move forward with this new initiative.

Outreach events

Over the past year, we have organised three evangelical events: the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, Christmas, and the Chinese New Year. The average attendance for these events was around 110, including both adults and children. We are thankful to God for His mercy and grace, as He added to our numbers those who were being saved. In particular, we are overjoyed that four sisters accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord in these events, and another couple accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord during our visitation efforts.



Picture: the Christmas event.



Picture: Chinese New Year gathering.

Conferences organized by COCM ([COCM | Chinese Overseas Christian Mission \(COCM\)](#))

COCM organizes various conferences with the aim of helping churches cultivate their members. CCCC has always encouraged brothers and sisters to attend these camps. During last Easter, we had one student attend the Mandarin student camp and three students attend the Cantonese student camp. Additionally, four families attended the summer family camp. We thank God that through these camps, they have come to know Him better.

Change in church leadership

In the past ten years, our Chinese church did not have our own pastors. We thank God that He moved COCM to help us and continually sent different missionaries to pastor God's sheep. We thank Yunhai and Gabby for dedicating themselves to CCCC for over four years and continually praying for God to raise up local co-workers to serve. Frank and Amy have lived in Canterbury for over ten years, faithfully contributing themselves to God's house. Frank has almost completed his theological education. Frank and Amy have also joined COCM as missionaries. They have been assigned by COCM to serve as pastors in CCCC. Yunhai and Gabby have been assigned to the new venue, Portsmouth Chinese Church. May God bless their path ahead! COCM has also appointed Rev. Grace Liu as the senior pastor to lead the church.

We are grateful to God that St. Andrew Church has supported us for so many years and provided such a nice place for us. We pray that God blesses St. Andrew Church to be a channel of His grace and love, to bless even more people.

Grace Liu

COCM missionaries ministering in CCCC

Notes to the Accounts - Year ended 31st December 2022

Income

Freewill offerings were slightly over budget as were letting of premises receipts. Oasis café receipts were on budget

The café contributed £11,000 to the church funds.

Donations for specific purposes - Vaughn & Au Goodchild £1307, Daniel Gitau £4604, Canterbury Schools Work Trust £1452, Amy & Kody Friesen £1490, Sabbatical Gifts £625. Total £9478.

Expenditure

Electricity bills over the past few years have been quite high. In the winter months the underfloor heating peaks at over £1600 for a month - that's £400 per week. The contract is fixed to 31 March 2024, with 18.1p/kWh day and 11.343p/kWh night which was average for the UK.

However present rates are double these old fixed rates.

We have spent less on church maintenance and repairs than expected, but after 22 years things are needing replacement.

Most expenses are close to budget apart from cleaning where we have had to get in cleaners for toilets given the building use during the week.

Result

There was a surplus of £25,957 compared to a deficit of £14777 for 2021. However if the insurance claim is excluded there would be a deficit of £758

Insurance Claim

A claim was been lodged with our insurers for loss of income from lettings and the café due to Covid over the March 2020 to July 2021 period. It was estimated a year ago at £27,000, and £26,715 was paid out.

Budget

Budget offerings for 2023 are down because of donors no longer with us.

The estimated total church electricity for the full year 2023 is likely to be about £15,000. Since we let out the premises, turning off the heating isn't really an option. Hopefully we will break even in 2023.

St Andrew's URC Canterbury**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2022**

	Results for the year ended 31st December 2022		Budget Projection 2022	Results for the year ended 31st December 2021
		Variance		
INCOME				
Freewill Offerings	57,550	(2,550)	55,000	57,659
Covenant/Gift Aid Tax Recovery	13,517	(2,517)	11,000	10,645
Hall & Premises Lettings (incl Flat £6000 & L'brne £1493)	25,093	(5,093)	20,000	15,504
Oasis Cafe Receipts	20,066	(66)	20,000	11,175
Littlebourne Offerings	1,570	(70)	1,500	830
Other Receipts see below	1,014	(14)	1,000	3,035
Insurance claim - loss of rental and café income 2020-2021	26,715	285	27,000	0
Grants due from URC - ½ projector & ½ Littleb'ne toilet floor	9,193	(1,193)	8,000	11,820
Capital Reserve Account Interest	144	(113)	31	18
Donations for Specific purposes see note 2	9,478	(4,478)	5,000	8,740
Total Income	£ 164,341	£ (15,810)	£ 148,531	£ 119,428
EXPENDITURE				
Ministry and Mission	41,076	0	41,076	41,076
Ministerial Expenses	2,972	28	3,000	3,084
Welfare Fund - Income £1965 paid £2450	485	(485)	-	830
Church Cleaning	3,925	(1,925)	2,000	2,118
Electricity Gas & Water	12,377	3,623	16,000	11,046
Administration and Office Expenses	13,143	(143)	13,000	13,877
Church Insurance	7,200	0	7,200	5,775
Furniture & Fittings - new projector & audio equipment	17,229	(5,229)	12,000	480
Manse Expenses	4,976	1,024	6,000	6,810
Payments To Christian Workers	4,200	0	4,200	4,200
Courses, Teaching Aids & CCL Licence	929	(179)	750	818
Catering Supplies	682	(482)	200	92
Church Repairs	6,617	5,383	12,000	18,950
Children's & Youth Work	684	316	1,000	706
Oasis Cafe Payments	9,075	(75)	9,000	5,287
Other (Garden, Bank Charges, Scone Sch etc)	968	32	1,000	879
Donations - specific - see above donations - note 2	9,478	(4,478)	5,000	8,740
Youth and Family Worker	2,369	31	2,400	9,437
Total Expenses	£ 138,383	£ (2,557)	£ 135,826	£ 134,205
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (Normal Transactions)	£ 25,957	£ (13,252)	£ 12,705	£ (14,777)
Transfer from Littlebourne Fund				1,273
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (after transfers from L'brne Fund)	£ 25,957	£ (13,252)	£ 12,705	£ (13,504)

Excluding Insurance claim - we would have a deficit of £758

Other Receipts Photocopies £312; URC investment income £438, Sonbeams £264

Other Expenses Bank Charges £566, Garden £76, Wreath £35, Scone School £266, keyboard £25

St Andrew's URC Canterbury

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2022

BALANCE SHEET

Cash at Bank	61,966	45,433	51,003
Cash in Hand	250	250	250
Investments held by Southern Synod	15,682	19,011	17,780
Creditors and Accrued charges	(2,788)	(1,929)	(795)
Rent Deposit received £500	(500)	(500)	(500)
Debtors & Prepayments - URC Repair Grants claimed £9193	16,059	5,776	13,849
HMRC gift aid £6333, Tenancy Deposit Scheme £500,			
Total Assets	£ 90,670	£ 68,041	£ 81,587
Represented by			
General Fund brought forward	49,030	62,534	71,017
Transfer (to) / from Specific Funds – Church Maintenance Legacy			
- Littlebourne 4 Villages Sponsorship		1,273	(1,273)
Surplus / (Deficit) for period	25,957	(14,777)	(7,210)
General Fund carried forward	£ 74,987	£ 49,030	£ 62,534
Funds held by Southern Province	£ 15,682	£ 19,011	£ 17,780
Total Funds	£ 90,670	£ 68,041	£ 81,587
Creditors			
Mission payments due £774, Gas £80, Electricity £1799, NEST £55, Bank Ch £65, Key deposit £15			

St Andrew's URC Canterbury

Budget for 2023 Income and Expenditure Account

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[illegible]

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CANTERBURY
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

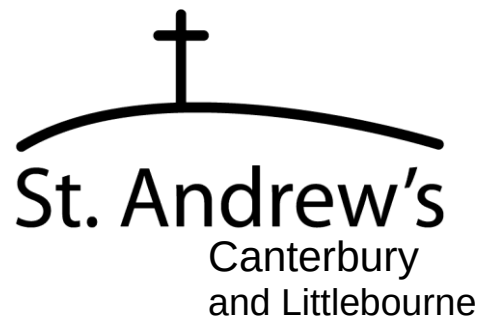
I have carried out an independent examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022. I confirm that these accounts are in accordance with the books and records of the church and that they show the church's financial position at 31st December 2022

John M Ayrd

Canterbury Kent

29 October 2023

Accounts



Annual General Meeting

22nd March 2022

Book of Reports



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Office Holders, Leaders and Team Coordinators 2021-22

Minister: Rev Bernard Fidler

Families and Children's Worker: Avril Leyton (to March 2022)

Serving Elders: Val Cannon (2021) Peter Hollander (2018)
David Cobb (2018) Caroline Camp (2019)
Chris Wilson-Sharp (2019) Janet Wilson-Sharp (2019)
Jonathan Hollander (2020)

Church Secretary: Caroline Camp (from 2020)

Treasurer: Peter Hollander **Gift Aid:** Janet Wilson-Sharp
Offering: David Cobb Linda Cawsey

Administrator: Alice Wilson-Sharp

Safeguarding: Sue Wenham **Deputy:** Linda Cawsey

Authorised for Weddings: Linda Cawsey **DBS checks:** Malcolm McIntyre

Church Flowers: Mark Camp Catriona McIntyre

Fabric Team

David Spires Robert Deakin Hugh Marsh Peter Hollander

Church Representatives

Synod Val Cannon

Christians Together in Canterbury Sue Marsh

Christian Aid Vacancy

Food Bank Kate Bassett

KidzKlub Peter Hollander

Prospects (Harry & Alison Mc Donald, SMB) Kate Bassett

Street Pastors (Andrew Pantling)

World Day of Prayer Caroline Camp

Small Group Leaders

Life Group Leaders Wednesday evening at termly intervals, rotating leadership

Life Groups Val Cannon (in homes, alternate Tuesday evenings)
 Linda Cawsey (in homes, Tuesday evenings)
 David Cobb (in church, alternate Friday mornings)
 Bernard Fidler (on Zoom, Wednesday evenings)

Men's Group: Malcolm McIntyre Mark Camp

Church and worship rotas: Chris Wilson-Sharp **Preaching rota:** Val Cannon

Sound desk and technical support: Jonathan Hollander

Youth & Children's Team

Leader: Avril Leyton **Youth Work Elder:** Linda Cawsey

Prayer Ministry Team

Leader: Chris Wilson-Sharp

Pastoral Care

Coordinator: Linda Cawsey

Church Website

Coordinators: David Cobb Alice Wilson-Sharp Jonathan Hollander

Oasis Café Team

Leaders: Patricia Hollander Sue Wenham Linda Cawsey

Church Cleaning

Team led by Sue Wenham Donald MacDonald

Stewarding Groups

Group 1 Dina Beukes
Group 2 Liz Hopkins
Group 3 David Spires
Group 4 Peter Hollander

Littlebourne chapel Peter Hollander Jonathan Hollander

MINISTER'S REPORT

Dear friends,

Another year has passed. Another year that was coloured by the Covid-19 pandemic. Many people are saying that in the future we will say 'pre Covid' or 'post Covid' when trying to date events in the past. I truly hope and pray that we are not starting to be in the 'post Covid' period. But while I write this, we are a week into the invasion of Russia in the Ukraine and it may well be that this is going to be a more defining event of this era than Covid has been. But we did not know about this in 2021!

When we started the year, we were in lockdown. Although Churches were not included in the lockdown measures, we followed the national URC and government guidelines and our services were on Zoom or could be listened again via the telephone.

Then at Easter we were allowed to worship in the church, but without singing in the Church. The week before I had learned that we could sing outside as long as we were on Church grounds. That Easter we started to sing outside in the car park: "Thine be the Glory" & "Christ the Lord is risen today". I expected that as soon as we were allowed to sing in church again in July, that we would not do this anymore. But to my surprise we wanted to continue to sing outside and moved from the car park behind the church to the main entrance in front of the church. I am not sure how much it benefits the City of Canterbury, but it definitely benefits us: it gives us more confidence to make a stand outside of church and also helps us to see the world outside St Andrews.

During the same time Peter and Jonathan Hollander started worship in the afternoon at Littlebourne Chapel, and they have been doing this faithfully since! Peter will also have a report in this book, so I won't say too much. However, it has meant that Sundays have become quite busy, and so we also decided to halt the Sunday Evening Oasis Café Church on Zoom, and I believe that quite a few of us welcome the Sunday evening Sabbath rest. We have also had a small group of us looking at developing prayer ministry. Although it has been slow going, by studying on Zoom in the beginning of this year, to meeting and ministering to each other in the second half of the year, all of us have really benefited from this and some of us have been able to give some heavy burdens to Jesus. We are still meeting on Friday afternoons at 3pm, so if you are interested in having a Prayer Ministry session, please contact me.

In our preaching series we did three London Institute of Contemporary Christianity preaching series, followed along with Bible studies for our Life Groups: Ezekiel, the 6Ms: Modelling God's Character, Making Good Work, Ministering Grace and Love, Moulding Culture, Mouthpiece for Truth and Justice and Messenger of the Gospel. Reminders and encouragements of what living as Christians on our Frontlines should be like. Finally, we looked at how Worship can strengthen our relationship with God as well as how it impacts on our daily lives.

But we do need to recognise that the pandemic has had an impact on our congregation size. Some people have moved to different churches, others are worshipping with us on Zoom (but we do not see them as well as those in the church), and some are still not confident to come to church and do not like being on Zoom or do not have the ability to do so. But we also have to recognise that we have been able to welcome new people as well! I hope and pray that 2022 will be a time of more people joining us.

I would like to end with the theme that we discerned at the 2021 New Year prayer from Isa 43:19:

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

This is what we prayed for last year. I think that God has started to do this at St Andrews. There is now a way opening up to do something for the city by focusing on Whitefriars. There are little but encouraging streams forming around Littlebourne Chapel and our Prayer Ministry initiative and we have been blessed by welcoming Favour House to St Andrews. Originally worshipping at Blean once a month before the pandemic, now they have started to do Healing Wings on the first Saturday of the month at 4pm at St Andrews. It has been encouraging because they have invited us to participate as well, and more of us are now involved. God leads in mysterious ways. So, for 2022 let's keep our eyes open to what God is doing so that we are ready to step in time with his Holy Spirit to proclaim Jesus Christ in Canterbury, or the places where we live.

Revd Bernard Fidder

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29 v11

This year has been another difficult year with a second and then a third lockdown because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Yet at the same time it has been a year which is starting to bear fruit.

Our services started the year on Zoom only, but as restrictions eased, services have been held in the church building and at the same time on Zoom. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jonathan for his expert technical knowledge and skills in making hybrid services possible. We continue to have worshippers from other churches on Zoom from time to time, both from the local area and further afield.

Our church wide Life Group on Zoom is continuing on Wednesday evenings and during the year Life Groups were able to restart in person (see page 8 for report). The time of prayer on Saturday mornings on Zoom is also continuing.

During August Bernard and the Elders went on an 'Awayday' to The Living Well, Nonnington, in order to pray and discern the way forward. As a result, we are looking to reach out to the shopworkers in Whitefriars by offering a quiet space at lunchtime in church. Prayer and prayer walking in Whitefriars is taking place on Wednesdays at 12.00 midday, in order to seek God's will for the way forward.

The prayer Ministry group now meets on Friday afternoons in church. See page 7 for a full report. At Easter Peter and Jonathan started holding a weekly service at Littlebourne chapel. You can read about this on page 9. There is also a continuing prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings on Zoom for the work at Littlebourne.

We were blessed with resources provided by Alice for Advent and also for the week of New Year prayer. We were able to meet in church at the end of the week of New Year prayer to pray and to share what God had brought to us from our prayer times. Full details can be found on page 10 of these reports.

Avril has been able to move from online Messy Church to meeting in the church building to hold Messy Church. Thank you, Avril, for your hard work and dedication over the last 3½ years.

Alice experienced another time of working from home at the start of the year and was then able to return to working in the church building. Many of the groups who hire our rooms have re-started their meetings and there have also been new bookings. We are very grateful to Alice for the weekly details of services, the monthly newsletter and the many other administrative tasks, which she diligently carries out.

During the year we mourned the passing of Margery Rowe in March and Daphne Woodcock in December 2021. Margery had been a church member for many years and Daphne a regular worshipper.

This year as we go forward in our church life, let us follow these words in Hebrews 12 v 1-2: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.*

Caroline Camp

PRAYER MINISTRY

The year started by meeting together and reading two books. The first was 'Receiving the Power' by Brad Long and Douglas McMurry. This book helps Christians to see who the Holy Spirit is, how he works and how we can cooperate with him in our Ministry. It is the basis of not only prayer ministry but of all Christian ministry. We cannot do anything without the Holy Spirit, but neither can we tell the Holy Spirit what to do. The best way to live and work as a Christian is to listen to Holy Spirit and follow his promptings (however uncomfortable that may be for us), as in this way God's Kingdom is established and Jesus Christ is proclaimed.

The second book was 'Let Jesus heal your hidden wounds' by Brad Long and Cindy Strickler. This book focusses on how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in healing ministry. The focus of this book is very much on inner healing: all of us, whether we recognise it or not, are affected by inner hurts, pains and traumas of the past. It could have been a horrendous accident which we have suppressed in our memories or it could be difficult and painful relations with parents, carers or other loved ones. Although we may have forgiven them, these episodes colour our attitudes, our way of life and our relationship with Christ. This book helps us to recognise these memories and gives a framework of how to bring them to Jesus so that he can heal these hurts and pains in our hearts.

From mid-July, once we were able to meet physically again, we met in the church, first in the sanctuary but later we moved to the Gallery Room. We started out by leading each other into a picture with Jesus. This was not to specifically ask for healing for a specific thing, but just to see what Jesus may say or do for the individual. And because we do this as a team it is a safe place and helped by the prayers of those involved.

I remember once when I did this, that I could not find a place for me to image myself, but when listening to Jesus and being prayed for by others, I suddenly remembered a tree house from my youth. I imagined myself there and invited Jesus. And he was just there with me and blessed me with his presence. But being together in this tree, in which I spent time often alone, it reminded me of my loneliness in my youth. It reminded me that I was not alone and that Jesus was with me at that time and at this time and also how much Jesus loves me and each one of us, and that he wants all of us to be whole by being in a relationship with him.

We continue to meet when we can on Friday afternoons at 3pm. But we are now ready to open our prayer ministry to others. So please let me know if you would like to join us, even if it is only to also go into a picture with Jesus so that we can be blessed by him. It is confidential, but we would have to report it if people were to threaten to do harm to themselves or others, in-line with safeguarding regulations. But often we have seen people struggling with deep things but sharing these only with Jesus, and not with the team. In the end it is Jesus who heals, and we are there to help him with that. So, you are free to share as much or as little as you want, when we are in a session. Of course, 1 to 1 conversations are also possible!

Revd Bernard Fidler

LIFE GROUPS

Two of the Life Groups were able to meet on Zoom for most of 2021 with material largely being drawn from the previous Sunday's sermon. Additionally, Val Cannon's group started afresh later in the year moving to a Tuesday afternoon in Oasis Café and this has proved to be very well received. Also, David and Geraldine Cobb have recently started meeting with the Friday bible study group fortnightly at the church having taken over from Les and Val Thomas. A big thank you to Les and Val for leading the Friday group so faithfully for many years. The option of having Life Groups meeting physically during the day or in the evenings on Zoom has proved a very flexible arrangement. Each Group seems to have evolved to cater particularly for the needs of its members with some being more study based and others being more support based but each one brings together those who seek fellowship around God's Word. Each Group is open to new members and you may be assured of a warm welcome.

Linda Cawsey

YOUNG CHURCH

Young Church has changed quite significantly over the last year. Our children have either outgrown Young Church or moved to a different church. This has meant there hasn't been a need for the Sunday morning teaching upstairs. On the occasions we have had visiting children, crafts and a Bible story have been provided but the children have stayed in the worship area. Currently we have a Young Church box which has weekly resources in such as prayers, a story, craft/colouring and questions relating to the story that week. It has been great to welcome our new family, please pray for them especially the young people to grow in their relationship and love for the Lord.

Avril Leyton

MESSY CHURCH

It has been wonderful to be able to have Messy Church in the church building once again since our year of Online Messy Churches. We have had 3 in total since October covering the Fiery Furnace, Messy Christmas and our most recent Messy Church where we looked at Creation. There have been our regular families that come back each time where we have been able to continue building relationships with the children and family members. Once again it has been encouraging to welcome many of the Sonbeams families to Messy Church. We start at 3.30 with 50 minutes of crafts relating to the afternoon's theme followed by 20 minutes of worship which consists of a story and questions, singing and prayers. We finish our time together by sharing food.

Please pray for all the families that have attended Messy Church to continue to seek God and for the seeds sown to grow.

Avril Leyton

SONBEAMS TODDLER GROUP

Sonbeams is our Thursday morning pre-school group running from 10am till 11.30am every week including half term. The group has grown steadily since we were able to reopen last July. Since July we have had 66 families attend (thankfully not all at the same time). We have a mix of mums, dads, grandparents and carers who come along.

Our morning starts with a time of play until around 10:30 when we have a drink, a snack and a story followed by more play. We finish our morning with a time of singing. We have a wonderful group that have all connected with each other. Good relationships have been built between the families as well as myself and the team. There are regular opportunities to chat about what is happening within their families, and on occasions we have been able to pray.

Please pray for the families attending Sonbeams. Pray for a deeper understanding of God and a passion to know Him more.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported these 3 groups over the last 3 ½ years. It has been appreciated.

Avril Leyton

LITTLEBOURNE CHAPEL

We have held services in the chapel every Sunday afternoon at 3pm since Easter 2021 (except Sunday 26 December 2021). During this time, we have focused the preaching on Mark's Gospel and by Easter Sunday 2022, we will have reached the resurrection in chapter 16. We have had some preaching from members of St Andrew's, but most of it has been Peter and Jonathan alternating each week. Our congregation, other than those who have supported us from St Andrew's faithfully for nearly a year, is made up of two villagers who have been very regular, and one from further afield who also comes from time to time with his teenage daughter. Our prayer is that more from the village join us in the coming year. We have had support from St Vincent's and it has been a blessing to know that they support us as we also try to support and encourage them as they seek to have a vicar for the benefice of five parishes, having been without for three years. We have had several folk from St Vincent's come to the St Andrew's Men's meetings for food and fellowship, and thanks go to Mark Camp and Malcolm McIntyre for organising these events.

The chapel was redecorated in early 2021, and we have been able to let it out throughout the year two mornings a week to child minders, one morning a week to Mothers and Toddlers (Stay & Play) and to the successor to Music Box (Sing & Play) on an afternoon a week. One evening a week there is Pilates and, on a few Saturdays, there have been village children's birthday parties. The chapel has been kept beautifully clean by the users and we acknowledge their efforts in doing this for not only themselves and the children, but for us as well.

This year 2022, we replaced the disabled toilet floor as some of it was attacked by dry rot, making it sag in a vital area!!

Each week we change the text on our blackboard inside the chapel, so users will see Good News every week. Patricia and the two ladies from the village are making new banners to fit across the balcony which will screen off the toys kept up there and give a Christian message to all users of the building.

We have also been blessed with a keyboard player who is able to come two Sundays a month (he plays the organ in village churches on other Sundays). The chapel acoustics are good, so that even a small number can sing heartily and make a joyful noise to the Lord.

If you are able, do join us for Littlebourne prayer on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm on Zoom. Prayer helps Littlebourne, just as the Saturday and Sunday morning prayers help St Andrew's which is also in need of more people coming to join us in worship and service to God. We all need God's guidance on the way forward. There will be a Platinum Jubilee event in the village in June, which we will be part of, and have the opportunity to meet more villagers.

Peter, Patricia and Jonathan Hollander

PASTORAL CARE

The past year has continued to bring difficulties for a number of members who have felt they were unable to attend church in the current climate and with access to care homes being either prohibited or limited. Heavy reliance has continued to be placed on the elders to maintain contact with their membership list and grateful thanks is given to all members who have maintained contact and kept a watchful eye on more vulnerable members. The morning Sunday service has continued to be available on Zoom but with no interaction with those worshipping in the church building. Nevertheless, it continues to be a useful link with those unable to attend in person. The gradual opening of Oasis Café during last summer helped once again to provide a mid-week venue for those seeking companionship and a listening ear. Similarly, the two Life Groups on Zoom were able to offer prayerful support during a time of isolation and concern for loved ones. *‘Beloved, let us love one another: for love comes from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.’*

Linda Cawsey

NEW YEAR PRAYER

We began with a word from our visiting speaker, King James of Favour House Church: do not settle this year. We are settling for less than God has for us. Do not settle this year! Like Nehemiah, we need to be building with a trowel in one hand and protecting the work with a sword in the other. We need to hunger for more from God – for ourselves as well as for St. Andrew’s and Canterbury.

On Saturday 15th January, we prayed into points based on Judges 7:8-15 “Your hands shall be strengthened...” Releasing any sense of inadequacy to God. For obstacles to faith to be dealt with. “Arise ... for I have delivered it into your hand.” For faith, boldness and confidence to step out. Speaking out in faith that lives will be saved this year. “Look at me and do likewise...” For discernment to know what to do and when. For obedience to do what God tells us ‘And every man stood in his place...’ For discernment to know what each of us is to do. That we will stand, act and speak in the power of the Holy Spirit. For the body of Christ to stand and withstand in Canterbury. That the light of Christ will be seen and the praises of God heard in this place. First Steps: “Go down ... and listen to what they are saying” (Judges 7:10).

Alice Wilson-Sharp

OASIS CAFÉ

Oasis Cafe reopened on Tuesday 19th May, as soon as restrictions were eased after the second prolonged lockdown. Once more we were careful to be Covid compliant, operating with a reduced menu and taking extra precautions such as using Track and Trace to try to ensure that we did not put our staff and customers at unnecessary risk. Thankfully we did not have to put Track and Trace to the test, and have been able to remain open since May without interruption.

Customers have been loyal, as always, and we are now seeing numbers steadily increasing, so that we are almost back to pre-pandemic levels. There have been a few changes to the staff, and we have been pleased to welcome two new members of the team as well as seeing the return of Norma, a long-standing mainstay of the cafe. She joins us on Wednesdays, along

with recent recruit Linda (another one!) and Lynn has joined the Friday team, who have also been pleased to see Pat back with them on a regular basis. Most recently the Thursday team has been joined by Denisa who, together with the rest of her family, has been coming to St. Andrew's. In addition, we are once more taking students on work experience from Canterbury College. Bryn comes in on Wednesdays, and Josh is back on Fridays, completing his work experience which was interrupted by lockdown back in March 2020. It is a real pleasure to have them with us, and their help is proving invaluable.

Once again, we supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning appeal in September raising £68.60, and the Royal Legion Poppy Appeal in November. We are looking forward to Comic Relief in March (some of us more than others!) and to putting on something special to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

Although we did not hold our usual afternoon tea in the summer, we were delighted to be able to once more enjoy a Christmas meal at the Golden Lion in December, where 'awards' were handed out, crackers were pulled, and a good time was had by all!

We introduced our new, revised menu at the end of September, and, despite necessary price increases, made essential by the rising cost of everything, our customers still seem to find we give good value for money and keep coming back. Our regulars love it when we recognise them and remember their usual orders, although some of them sneakily change their orders on occasions to confuse us! The rapport we are able to develop with our customers often affords opportunities to ask how they are which has led to openings to offer prayer and support in some circumstances. As always, we start by committing the day to the Lord, and asking for his help, guidance and blessing on all we do, which is in His name and for His glory.

In conclusion, we would like to thank you for your continuing prayer and support for all who work at Oasis, and all our lovely customers.

In 2021 Oasis café, which was open for eight months, had a profit of £6,559.98. This was made up of £2,853.08 Cash and £3,706.90 Visa Credits. The introduction of the card machine since covid has been a necessity. Our takings are down, in 2019 we made £12,489.84, but nonetheless Oasis is getting slowly back to normal.

How can you help?

You can volunteer, you can come to Oasis café as a customer, bring a friend and you can pray.

Sue Wenham & Patricia Hollander

KIDZ KLUB

Canterbury Kidz Klub is a Saturday morning Klub for primary aged children. Our aim is to teach children bible truths and disciple them, building up relationships with them and their family.

We currently have 5 regular adult team members and, more recently another 3 who help out once a term. This a huge decrease in helpers over the last 2 years. We are struggling almost every week to run the klub with so few adult helpers. We are so thankful to Bernard and Sue W for stepping in to help if they can when we are really short.

Over the last 12 months we have visited our Klub families whenever Coronavirus restrictions allowed and have been able to keep in touch with our families in this way. We currently have 3 people who visit each week. We have lost 2 of our regular visitors. We visit @ 50 families

in Canterbury each week. Since we restarted in September, we have welcomed some new families from different areas of the city.

In September 2021 'in person' Kidz Klub restarted after Coronavirus restrictions were lifted to allow this. We kicked off the new academic year with a 'Scooby Doo' theme entitled 'Altogether Awesome!' We talked to the children about how Awesome God is and how we should respond to such an awesome God. Then, in the term to Christmas looked at the different talents God has given people. Each week between 17 and 30 children come to the klub.

From January 2022 we have started a 'Spongebob Squarepants' theme which looks at some amazing things Jesus did – knowing Zacchaeus by name without ever having met him; healing 10 lepers and raising a dead man. We have gone on to follow the Easter account and will end the academic year looking at the early church followed by the Christian's response to God today.

Sadly, Kidz Klub will have to cease at the end of this academic year unless funding is found and volunteers come forward. We need, as a minimum another 4 regular volunteers and @ £18000/year to run the klub. Costs include the provision of transport for children attending the klub, my salary as coordinator, buying devotionals, bibles, prizes and resources to run the klub

For prayer:

- **Urgent prayer needed for funding to become available to enable this essential work which build's God's kingdom to continue. The Klub was started as a Christians Together in Canterbury initiative and our prayer is that the churches in Canterbury take ownership of the charity again – funding and resourcing it.**
- **Urgent prayer needed for people to volunteer their help at the klub. This need not be every week.**
- **Thanks to God for the 'old' Kidz Klub families who have continued to come to the Klub and welcome their visitor over the last year. Praise to God for the many 'new' families who have heard about us through a variety of means and now regularly send their children to the Klub.**
- **Please pray that the Christian message that goes out week by week, on the activity sheet delivered to each home and at the Klub, will bring people of all ages into the Christian faith.**
- **Please pray that the daily devotionals and bibles that will be given out after Easter will be used and will help all who read them grow in their faith.**

Fiona Clegg

CANTERBURY PROSPECTS GROUP

The pandemic has had a considerable impact on our group, and the Team has had to adapt. Some care homes are still not willing to allow their residents to return, so like everyone else's activities, numbers have gone down. Our team has been smaller too.

We were not able to hold our usual Christmas nativity pageant and party, as we considered it unsafe at the time.

However, by changing the layout of the hall, reducing refreshments, and following government guidelines, we have been able to return and to enjoy meeting up each month. This year we're learning about God through the colours of the rainbow!

In May we're planning a joint meeting with the Broadstairs group, as they are now smaller too.

We are most grateful to St. Andrew's for your continued commitment to hosting and supporting us, as we reach out to share the love of Jesus in a fully accessible way.

Harry and Alison Macdonald

MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

The Men's Social Group restarted our meeting in November with a Chinese take away meal in the Oasis Café which was successful with 12 men attending. We then organised a Pizza and Pancakes evening supper on Shrove Tuesday 1st March which also coincided with St David's Day. The idea was that the men would organise and cook for the ladies of the church including making pancakes from scratch. We had 32 attending and it morphed into a social witness event as we had 11 visitors and our Romanian family of 4, including three visitors from St Vincents church in Littlebourne. It was a highly successful evening if we ran out of batter to make pancakes and had to undertake an emergency dash for more ingredients. We intend to run a quarterly programme of events for the rest of this year.

Mark Camp and Malcolm McIntyre.

CANTERBURY STREET PASTORS



Canterbury Street Pastors

Coordinator Report 2021

It has been an interesting time for Canterbury Street Pastors, starting in the midst of lockdown and off the streets. We kept the team together with online prayer session every week on a Saturday Night from 9pm. We had some great sessions. The team have been resilient throughout. We started adding in, in-person prayer walks once we were physically possible as the country unlocked slowly. This enabled the team to meet each other again and bond. We collectively prayed for the streets of Canterbury and the work the team do out there.

In June, we had our long-awaited commissioning service on the 26th June 2021. This was a great service, led by Liz and myself. With our guest speaker, Arch-deacon Jo Kelly-Moore and special guest, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury. In the service we commissioned 9 members including myself and welcomed 4 new team leaders to the fold. This was a momentous occasion that heralded the return of Street Pastors to patrols that night. We have been out since then and enjoying the company of each other back out on the streets.



We currently have 22 street pastors, of which are:

- 5 Team Leaders
- 13 street pastors
- 4 new recruits – 2 of these are returning Street Pastors

In 2021 we have added 6 new recruits including myself.

My goal was to add 5 new recruits by the end of the year, which has been reached. We look to adding more next year. We now have a great team of street pastors and I am personally very proud of them! I have started producing monthly newsletters since January and adding to our Facebook page. Our social media presence continues to grow.

September saw us working at the 3 University freshers Fairs and 2 community hubs. I have been involved throughout the year with the Community Safety Partnership, led by the Council and supported by the Police and other agencies in and around Canterbury. This has been a valuable resource with knowing what is going on in our city and community, keeping the community relations going. We are working alongside Canterbury BID team, providing safer streets in the city via the Purple Flag Accreditation.

Strategy Plan – April 2021

I looked at 4 areas for development back then. This is where we are at with those plans.



Full Team.

We were in a position of 2 seniors, 14 Street Pastors and a number of Prayer Pastors. = 16
We now have 4-5 Team Leaders (Nick currently off with Mental health issues) 13 regular Street Pastors and 4 new recruits = 22 and now around 8 regular Prayer Pastors. We will pick up recruitment again in this year.

Church Support

After the successful events of the Commissioning service and the 10th Anniversary Celebrations, Street Pastors are hopefully back in the minds of churches and leaders. I look forward to visiting Churches in the new year, as most churches have reopened now. I had started to visit the churches of our current members to support them in their home churches as an informal visit. I will pick this up again soon.

Community Partnership

It has been a busy time since April. With regular CSP (community Safety Partnership) online meetings, NTE (Night time Economy) and HE/FE (Students) meetings. Freshers Fairs at UKC, CCCU, UCA. Community Safety Hubs.

I have earmarked 4 charities to help support throughout 2022. These are:

- Rising Sun Domestic Violence and Abuse Service
- Catching lives
- Community Larder (based at All Saints Church)
- Connecting Canterbury

These charities have an enormous impact on the community in Canterbury and I would like Canterbury Street Pastors to support and encourage these 4 throughout the year. Highlighting various events, the work that they do, and signposting where necessary, with the use of our monthly newsletter and social media platforms.

I have recently attended the AGM for the Rising Sun service and now have great links with various members of the team. They deal with vulnerable women and men on a regular basis. I will be arranging an awareness seminar for Street Pastors and friends in the new year. We have met with the Canterbury BID team out on the streets. This was a planned evening where they walked around with us for a while on patrol. This will be repeated again soon. (Twice a year). We are in talks with the Police and CSP for giving Bystander training for all Street Pastors, what to look out for on the streets, local knowledge from the police. I seek to build better links with the Police and their community liaison officer. I would like to have regular meetings with them, reporting to them our monthly reports.

Approaching the new year...

Prayer Pastors

We need a new Prayer Coordinator to help build on the prayer teams that we have, with new training and support for the current prayer pastors. When we have our next Commissioning service, we need to commission prayer Pastors and recognise their valuable service alongside the street pastors. It is as much a calling as the SP team. I want to bring in local training for the team and new recruits. With local trainers we can open it up to other initiatives.

Church Interaction

Now that Churches are coming back into in-person meetings, I will arrange a programme of Church visits including those that have street pastor members and building new connections. We need new promotional material, including flyers, posters, banners and sign- up sheets. I will build a new sub team from the street pastors to become our SP promo team.

I will be inviting Church leaders out on observation patrols too,

Projects

We can learn a lot from each other in different area initiatives. It will be beneficial to go out with other teams either as an observer or on patrol. If team members are able to go out with other teams. A night with other teams to learn how others patrol. Even joining other prayer teams, We're all Street Pastor's at the end of the day. We had a schools visit 6th Dec, next Monday. A GCSE Religious Studies class from Marsh Academy, New Romney are coming to find out about Street Pastors. What we do? Why We do it? This went well, and hope this is becomes a regular event.

We stopped collecting cans, due to Covid. Glass can still be used as a weapon, so we continue to it pick up. We have stopped counting urinals, it still happens but not necessary for the count. A noticeable difference is that we are encountering more people and majority are positive and encouraging, providing the teams with much needed inspiration.

From the monthly reports, we are seeing an upsurge in spiking and vulnerable females, but a reduction of homeless visible on the high street. This may be due to the council's project to rehouse as many homeless with available funds.

People are most grateful for flip flops, water and lollies. Supplies are good at the moment and now look to offer another size.

Andrew Pantling

GLOBAL CAFÉ (FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL)

As a church we support the work of Friends International, who work among the international student community in Canterbury, through providing a venue for their weekly Global Cafe activity. Besides that, Friends International also run other activities like volleyball, football, English classes, Bible studies, trips and annual International Student mission week and Summer Outreach run by Friends International and Christian Unions. The staff workers are Baiba Strause-Kalmer and Matthew Archer, who are usually supported by Reach interns and the Friends International Branch Committee, led by Kay Lusk. If you have any questions or if you would like to get involved or support the international student ministry, please, contact baiba@friendsinternational.uk or Kay Lusk on kay@lusk.org.uk or visit our website www.canterburyfi.org.uk

Praise points:

- We thank God for being able to restart all of our activities face to face this academic year, after 18 months of running most activities online.
- We praise God for a fantastic International Student mission week with talks that took place from 1st-18th February 2022, with new students coming and hearing the gospel, making friends and asking good questions about God.

- We praise the Lord for being able to restart our International Bible study with a meal on Thursday nights called "Discovery"
- For increased spiritual interest during mission week

Prayer points:

- The Lord to open people's hearts & may the seeds sown would grow and bear fruit
- Their weekly events like English club, volleyball, Discovery, and International cafes
- Planning for annual summer outreach and follow up
- For more volunteers from different churches to come on board with various outreach activities
- For local families to volunteer in hosting international students for a meal in a British home

Baiba Strause-Kalmere

OPEN AIR CAMPAIGNERS

Using the church's 'Funny shaped room' is a real blessing each Wednesday for myself and team of round 10 helpers from a variety of churches, as we meet to drink a coffee and prepare and pray before heading out to evangelize in Canterbury high street.

It's a real privilege, as OAC Kent Director/Evangelist, every Wednesday, to be reaching out in the town centre (outside of Fenwicks near Mcdonalds) with my paintboard and box of tracts, reaching out in a friendly manner to those in town, for around 5 hours each time, with the 'Good News'.

Some have been saved in the last year, now believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and I've baptized a few of them. Many thousands have been reached with the Gospel with many hundreds of tracts and Bibles gladly taken. I've built up ongoing friendships with many local shop workers, school kids, security staff, refuse collectors, delivery riders, homeless, etc, and I thank you for your valuable prayers in continuing with this ministry.

I also continue to evangelize throughout Kent and south London 4/5 times every week, plus preach at Speakers Corner every other week. I've run a weekly teaching of Evangelism/Apologetics Zoom meeting every Friday night from 8-11pm for over a year now. My usual outreaches overseas and in prison have all been postponed due to the covid restrictions but I'm hoping things will open up a bit more in the Spring/Summer. May the Gospel of God's grace reach many more in Canterbury in the year ahead.

Dave Workman

CANTERBURY CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (CCCC)

Report to follow



**Faversham United Church, Preston Street, Faversham, ME13 8PE
(Methodist, United Reformed Church)**

**Mr Roger Berryman
Church Treasurer
34 Cressway
Faversham
Kent ME13 7NH**

November 2nd 2022

St Andrews URC Canterbury 2021 Accounts

Attn: The Treasurer, Officers and Minister,
St Andrews URC
Watling Street
Canterbury Kent CT1 2NU

The URC Southern Synod Finance Officer
East Croydon URC, Addiscombe Grove.
Croydon Grove CR0 5LP

All

I hereby acknowledge that I have carried out an Independent Examination of the above accounts. I raised 2 matters with the treasurer to which he has responded to my satisfaction. Accordingly I confirm my satisfaction that these accounts are an accurate record of The Church's Financial Position as at December 31st 2021.

It would be helpful with future years independent examinations if relevant resolution dates could be provided with regard to debtor and creditor entries on the year end Balance Sheet as I appreciate particularly with Gift Aid accruals that the final numbers will invariably be different from the year end accruals .

The valuation of the Church Investments for year end 2021 has now been spreadsheet validated by The Southern Synod Finance Officer and the accounts have been updated accordingly as at December 31st 2021.

Having examined accepted and signed off the 2021 accounts these should be forwarded to the Finance Officer of The Southern Synod of The United Reformed Church.

Roger Berryman Signed:..........

Independent Examiner
Church Treasurer (Faversham United Church, and Greenstreet Methodist Church). Bookkeeper The Beacon Church and Christian Centre Dover. Tenterden Methodist Church.

***Our mission statement: ' By our witness & service, through friendship & love,
we seek to encourage others to discover the life changing message of Jesus Christ'***

Notes to the Accounts - Year ended 31st December 2021

Income

Freewill offerings were over budget. Oasis Café and letting of Premises receipts were well down because of closures, but slightly above budget. Other receipts include monies for car parking (Girllings) £1618, Margery Rowe funeral £200, Welfare donations £830, URC interest £306. Donations for specific purposes - Vaughn & Au Goodchild £1900; Kbdy & Amy Friesen £1335; School's Work Trust £1480; Food Bank £274; Daniel Gitau - car £2620; Daniel Gitau Music Makers concert £1131 - Total £8740.

Expenditure

Electricity bills over the past few years have been quite variable because the "smart" meter wasn't smart, and failed to send readings. This year there has been a catchup for under charged electricity in 2020 and the first half of 2021. Price increases in 2022 are over 30%.

The manse expenses were Council Tax £3217, water £375, Gas maintenance £600 and insurance £481, replacement windows £1814 and a cooker hob replacement £322.

Administrative expenses include Wages £9174, Telephone & broadband £3367; Photocopier £1271

Church repairs were Alarms £836; Fire protection £1268; Lift Maintenance £713; Gas Service £366; Chapel painting £2297; Chapel blinds £726 £1273 for the chapel had been provided in the previous year. Roof repairs £2100 were covered by insurance. Front and back doors £11040, for which a 50% grant was received from the URC; church painting £1012; water heater £344; Dynorod £156; Lightning rod maintenance £118; and locks £74 - total £18950

Result

There was a deficit of £14777, from which must be deducted a village shop grant for Littlebourne of £1273 received last year.

Insurance Claim

A claim has been lodged with our insurers for loss of income from lettings and the café due to Covid. Over the March 2020 to July 2021 period letting income was down about £2,000 per month, but some income was received during the period at times when we could re-open.

I estimate a loss of income from lettings of about £24,000 and for the café £13,000, making a total of £37,000 for which a claim has been made. From this must be deducted savings in cleaning, electricity, children's work materials and catering, so the net amount may be around £27,000 as mentioned in the June accounts

Budget 2022

We will need to get a better projector, a more powerful computer, a video camera and audio equipment to enable us to live stream on Youtube. Presently Jonathan's using his own camera and lap top for this. Services in church and on Zoom are quite complicated, more so when led on Zoom and streamed back to the church. Improved equipment to make it much simpler and be on Youtube so people can access it any time, both live and later is needed. It is expected that the URC will meet half the estimated costs of £12,000

How we do in 2022 depends on how much the insurance claim comes to. Heating electrically is going to be more expensive, but other costs are likely not to increase as much.

St Andrew's URC Canterbury
Balance Sheet at 31st December 2021

BALANCE SHEET

Cash at Bank	
Building Society	
Cash in Hand	Oasis Float
Investments held by Southern Synod	
Creditors and Accrued charges	Telephone, Electricity
Rent Deposit received £500	Held by Tenancy Deposit Scheme
Debtors & Prepayments - Hire of Premises £776	
HMRC gift aid £4500, Tenancy Deposit Scheme £500,	
<u>Total Assets</u>	

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2021

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2020

Cash at Bank	45,433	51,008
Building Society		
Cash in Hand	250	250
Investments held by Southern Synod	19,011	17,780
Creditors and Accrued charges	(1,929)	(795)
Rent Deposit received £500	(500)	(500)
Debtors & Prepayments - Hire of Premises £776	5,776	13,849
HMRC gift aid £4500, Tenancy Deposit Scheme £500,		
<u>Total Assets</u>	£ 68,041	£ 81,587
Represented by		
General Fund brought forward	62,534	71,017
Southern Synod		
Transfer (to) / from Specific Funds – Church Maintenance Legacy		
- Littlebourne 4 Villages Sponsorship	1,273	(1,273)
Surplus / (Deficit) for period	(14,777)	(7,210)
General Fund carried forward	£ 49,030	£ 62,534
Funds held by Southern Province	£ 19,011	£ 17,780
Specific Fund - Littlebourne 4 Villages sponsorship money	1,273	
Receipts / (Payments) in year	(1,273)	1,273
Specific Fund - Littlebourne 4 Villages sponsorship money	£ 0	£ 1,273
<u>Total Funds</u>	£ 68,041	£ 81,587

St Andrew's URC Canterbury**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2021**

	Results for the year ended 31st December 2021		Budget Projection 2021	Year ended 31 Dec 2020
		Variance		
INCOME				
Freewill Offerings	57,659	(2,659)	55,000	54,845
Covenant/Gift Aid Tax Recovery	10,645	1,355	12,000	10,760
Hall & Premises Lettings Flat £6000, (L'brhe £996)	15,504	(504)	15,000	9,551
Oasis Cafe Receipts	11,175	825	12,000	8,561
Littlebourne Offerings	830	(830)		0
Other Receipts - car parking £1618, other income	3,035	(2,035)	1,000	246
Watling St charity Insurance claim loss of letting & café income		1,000	1,000	3,278
Grants from URC - Turn the Tide £5350, Repairs £6470	11,820	(2,820)	9,000	7,250
Capital Reserve Account Interest & other interest	18	13	31	49
Donations for Specific purposes	8,740	(4,740)	4,000	4,616
Total Income	£ 119,428	£ (10,397)	£ 109,031	£ 99,157
EXPENDITURE				
Ministry and Mission	41,076	3	41,079	41,076
Ministerial Expenses	3,084	(84)	3,000	2,091
Welfare of church members -	830	170	1,000	0
Church Cleaning	2,118	(118)	2,000	1,842
Electricity Gas & Water	11,046	(6,046)	5,000	6,992
Administration and Office Expenses	13,877	(877)	13,000	10,972
Church Insurance	5,775	0	5,775	5,450
Furniture & Fittings	480	520	1,000	615
Manse Expenses	6,810	(810)	6,000	6,236
Payments To Christian Workers	4,200	0	4,200	4,200
Courses, Teaching Aids & CCL Licence	818	(68)	750	758
Catering Supplies	92	108	200	190
Church Repairs	18,950	(6,950)	12,000	5,289
Children's & Youth Work	706	294	1,000	956
Oasis Cafe Payments	5,287	113	5,400	4,910
Other (Garden, Bank Charges £550, etc)	879	121	1,000	889
Donations - specific	8,740	(4,740)	4,000	4,641
Youth and Family Worker	9,437	63	9,500	9,260
Scone School			-	
Total Expenses	£ 134,205	£ (18,300)	£ 115,904	£ 106,367
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (Normal Transactions)	£ (14,777)	£ 7,904	£ (6,873)	£ (7,210)
Transfer from Littlebourne Fund	1,273	1,273		(1,273)
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (after transfers from Littlebourne Fund)	£ (13,504)	£ 9,177	£ (6,873)	£ (8,483)

BUDGET and past results
St Andrew's URC Cahterbury
Budget for 2022 Income and Expenditure Account.
Page 4

	Budget Projection 2022	Results for Year ended 31/12/2021	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2020	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2019	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2018	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2017
INCOME						
Freewill Offerings	55,000	57,659	54,845	57,884	55,529	59,230
Covenant/Gift Aid Tax Recovery	11,000	10,645	11,332	13,003	11,722	12,217
Hall & Premises Lettings (Flat £6,000 p.a.)	20,000	15,504	9,551	24,197	35,431	34,995
Oasis Cafe Receipts	20,000	11,175	8,561	22,638	22,599	21,468
Littlebourne Receipts	1,500	830	-	-	-	-
Other Receipts - specific gifts/interest received/other income	1,000	3,035	246	1,242	2,111	450
Insurance claim - loss of rental and café income 2020-2021	27,000	-	3,278	-	0	13,370
Grants from URC - Repairs £2000, Projector/audio/Youtube £6,000	8,000	11,820	7,250	14,822	1,143	-
Capital Reserve Account Interest	31	18	49	124	65	13
Donations for Specific purposes	5,000	8,740	4,616	2,639	1,333	1,370
Total Income	£ 148,531	119,428	99,728	136,549	£ 129,933	£ 143,114
EXPENDITURE						
Ministry and Mission	41,076	41,076	41,076	39,882	37,956	36,672
Ministerial Expenses	3,000	3,084	1,909	3,165	4,517	2,139
Welfare of church members		830	-			5,660
Church Cleaning	2,000	2,118	1,842	3,640	4,870	3,337
Electricity Gas & Water	16,000	11,046	6,802	12,806	17,928	13,942
Administration and Office Expenses	13,000	13,877	11,116	13,753	10,874	9,689
Church Insurance	7,200	5,775	5,450	5,143	4,853	4,761
Furniture & Fittings - Projector £6,000; audio/camera/Youtube £6,000	12,000	480	615	1,494	782	3,464
Manse Expenses	6,000	6,810	6,236	14,455	29,315	389
Payments To Christian Workers	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
Courses and Teaching Aids	750	818	758	498	494	573
Catering Supplies	200	92	190	1,099	1,003	1,148
Church Repairs	12,000	18,950	5,289	10,738	12,415	15,086
Children's & Youth Work	1,000	706	956	1,545	1,344	1,388
Oasis Cafe Payments	9,000	5,287	4,910	10,178	10,637	9,273
Other	1,000	879	889	1,340	840	758
Donations	5,000	8,740	4,641	2,849	1,533	2,246
Youth and Family Workers & Expenses	2,400	9,437	9,260	9,108	9,115	8,963
Scone School	-	-	-	(57)	129	(69)
Total Expenses	£ 135,826	134,205	106,138	135,834	£ 152,806	£ 123,619
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (Normal Transactions)	£ 12,705	(14,777)	(6,410)	715	£ (22,873)	£ 19,495
Littlebourne 4 Villages Sponsorship		1,273	(1,273)	-	15,611	(15,611)
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	12,705	(13,504)	(7,683)	715	(7,263)	3,884
Payments To Christian Workers						
Canterbury Schools Wbrk Trust	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Vaughn & Au Goodchild	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Amy & Kody Friesen	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200



**Faversham United Church, Preston Street, Faversham, ME13 8PE
(Methodist, United Reformed Church)**

**Mr Roger Berryman
Church Treasurer
34 Cressway
Faversham
Kent ME13 7NH**

November 2nd 2022

St Andrews URC Canterbury 2021 Accounts

**Attn: The Treasurer, Officers and Minister,
St Andrews URC
Walling Street
Canterbury Kent CT1 2NU**

**The URC Southern Synod Finance Officer
East Croydon URC, Addiscombe Grove,
Croydon Grove CR0 5LP**

All

I hereby acknowledge that I have carried out an Independent Examination of the above accounts. I raised 2 matters with the treasurer to which he has responded to my satisfaction. Accordingly I confirm my satisfaction that these accounts are an accurate record of The Church's Financial Position as at December 31st 2021.

It would be helpful with future years independent examinations if relevant resolution dates could be provided with regard to debtor and creditor entries on the year end Balance Sheet as I appreciate particularly with Gift Aid accruals that the final numbers will invariably be different from the year end accruals .

The valuation of the Church Investments for year end 2021 has now been spreadsheet validated by The Southern Synod Finance Officer and the accounts have been updated accordingly as at December 31st 2021.

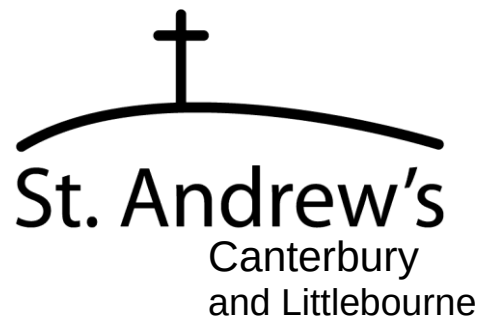
Having examined accepted and signed off the 2021 accounts these should be forwarded to the Finance Officer of The Southern Synod of The United Reformed Church.

Roger Berryman Signed:.....

**Independent Examiner
Church Treasurer (Faversham United Church, and Greenstreet Methodist Church). Bookkeeper The Beacon Church and Christian Centre Dover. Tenderden Methodist Church.**

***Our mission statement: ' By our witness & service, through friendship & love,
we seek to encourage others to discover the life changing message of Jesus Christ'***

Accounts



Annual General Meeting

16th March 2021

Book of Reports



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Office Holders, Leaders and Team Coordinators 2021-22

Minister: Rev Bernard Fidler

Families and Children's Worker: Avril Leyton

Serving Elders: Peter Hollander (2018) David Cobb (2018)
David Spires (2018) Chris Wilson-Sharp (2019)
Janet Wilson-Sharp (2019) Caroline Camp (2019)
Jonathan Hollander (2020)

Church Secretary: Caroline Camp

Treasurer: Peter Hollander **Gift Aid:** Janet Wilson-Sharp
Offering: David Cobb Linda Cawsey

Administrator: Alice Wilson-Sharp

Safeguarding: Sue Wenham **Deputy:** Linda Cawsey

Authorised for Weddings: Linda Cawsey **DBS checks:** Malcolm McIntyre

Church Flowers: Liz Hopkins Gwen Empett

Fabric Team

David Spires Robert Deakin Hugh Marsh Peter Hollander

Group Leaders

Sonbeams Avril Leyton
Young Church Avril Leyton
Oasis Café Church Core Team coordinated by Alice Wilson-Sharp

Church Representatives

Synod Val Cannon
Christians Together in Canterbury Sue Marsh
Christian Aid Vacancy
Food Bank Kate Bassett
KidzKlub Peter Hollander
Prospects (Harry & Alison Mc Donald, SMB) Kate Bassett
Street Pastors (David Clegg)
World Day of Prayer Caroline Camp

Small Group Leaders

Life Group Leaders Wednesday evening at termly intervals, rotating leadership

Life Groups Val Cannon Liz Hopkins (in homes, alternate Tuesday evenings)
Linda Cawsey (in homes, Tuesday evenings)
Les & Val Thomas (in church, alternate Friday mornings)
Bernard Fidler (Manse or church, Wednesday evenings)
(In lockdown virtual meeting on Wednesday evenings on Zoom)

Men's Group: Malcolm McIntyre Mark Camp

Church and worship rotas: Chris Wilson-Sharp **Preaching rota:** Val Cannon

Sound desk: Jonathan Hollander

Youth & Children's Team

Leader: Avril Leyton **Youth Work Elder:** Linda Cawsey

Prayer Ministry Team

Leader: Chris Wilson-Sharp

Pastoral Care

Coordinator: Linda Cawsey

Church Website

Coordinators: David Cobb Alice Wilson-Sharp Jonathan Hollander

Oasis Café Team

Leaders: Patricia Hollander Sue Wenham Linda Cawsey

Church Cleaning

Donald McDonald and other volunteers in church cleaning team

Stewarding Groups

Group 1 Joan Humphries, Dina Beukes
Group 2 Liz Hopkins
Group 3 David Spires
Group 4 Peter Hollander

MINISTER'S REPORT

Dear friends,

What a year this has been - it has been a bit of a roller-coaster, hasn't it? But this is a strange roller-coaster as we spend most of the time indoors! Fortunately, we are now being able to look forward to a time when most of us are vaccinated, and although there is still the risk of falling ill, the risk will hopefully be similar to getting the flu.

But we are not there yet, as we are still in lockdown at the moment. I don't know about you, but some days I feel a bit 'Zoomed' out, as I have attended too many Zoom meetings for my brain and my eyes to cope with on one day. But then I am also very aware that many of you reading this cannot access Zoom and have not been able to join us in that. Since the last AGM we only have had one morning service in the Church building! And I hope and pray that you have been able to cope with this, and that we can restart some of the services in the building soon.

At the beginning of the first lock-down many people suggested that this can be a special time and that during this time all of us have had the time and space to deepen our relationship with God. I hope you have felt that as well. I think we have done that here at St Andrews, as we have been trying to look towards the future and what God is calling us to as a congregation.

As elders we did this by having "time away at home" meetings in the summer, in which we discerned that God was calling us to work on two things: to determine His way for the Littlebourne Chapel and to develop a prayer and/or healing Ministry. This was confirmed at the Church Meeting in November 2020, and since that time we have been working on this. Under the direction of Peter and Jonathan, we have been praying for Littlebourne Chapel every Tuesday evening. We had a clear sense at the beginning that we should start worship again at Littlebourne before trying to do anything else: to start with worshipping God first. And although we were able to pray a few times at Littlebourne itself, the latest lockdown put an end to that, but we hope and pray that we can start this in the next few months. With regards to prayer/healing ministry, a team have been meeting since the beginning of 2021 to receive (refreshing) training on the person and the work of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit we cannot do anything – and this training has sometimes been quite challenging but good. Our main challenge for both these initiatives is that we develop the fruit of patience and the gift of waiting!

Last year, we have also started to look at the material offered to us by the LICC Learning Hub, which wants to encourage us that we are all missionaries of God wherever we are placed: with our friends and family, but also in the community around us where we live. We were introduced to the concept of our Frontlines, with the Frontline Sundays in January and February. This was before the lockdown and you may remember putting pins in the map of Canterbury and surroundings to indicate where your frontline is – i.e. where is God's mission field for you. Then we looked at a 1 Peter: Confidence in a Complex World, and we learned that as Christians we can be confident because of our position in Christ: We are chosen by Him! We also studied Exodus, and learned what it means to be free to serve God. Not only do we need to be freed from earthly masters, like the Israelites from slavery, but then God wants us to use our freedom to choose him freely! Not as slaves but as servants: free and

willing. In the second half of the year, we looked at the Bible readings covering the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, with the question in mind: what does it mean for our lives when we say that we are disciples of Christ? If you want to be reminded of these themes, most of the sermons are available on the website and Alice has started to compile sermon booklets for those without internet access.

That concludes my report for last year, but I cannot help looking ahead. What will the new normal look like? When all the lockdown and social distancing restrictions are eased, what will our lives look like? Are we all wanting to go back to what we used to do? Or is now the time to see what we should do differently? Paul challenges us in 1 Cor 9:22: “I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some”. Is that our attitude? Or do we prefer to be back in the comforting routine of what we used to do? Is that what God wants us to do, or have we learned that we can worship in different ways during this lockdown?

So as the social distancing restrictions are eased slowly, we can go back in the church and worship him there. It may be a mixture of meeting physically and doing Zoom together. As some of us would find it difficult to come to church, and being present via Zoom would be a blessing to them. But is God calling you to take more active part in the service? Would you like to pray, or read or help lead worship? Would you like to be part of one of our life groups – to develop your relationship with people in our fellowship in Christ?

Or is God calling you to do something outside of the Church? To be involved with homeless, people with mental health issues, foodbank, or something like that? Over the Summer we will be looking at a framework for fruitfulness, using 6 phrases starting with M: Modelling godly character, Making good work, Ministering grace and love, Moulding culture, being a Mouthpiece for truth and justice, being a Messenger of the gospel. It is outside of the church where our mission field is. Sometime we meet the outside together, for instance at the Oasis Cafe, Sonbeams, Messy Church, Littlebourne or Prayer Ministry. But God calls others to be in the outside alone but supported by the church, working in a charity, leisure or work. God is everywhere and wants people to know him everywhere. Is he calling you to this? And if so, how can we support you?

Whatever God is calling us to know and in the future we can be reassured with these words from Paul:

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39).

Whatever challenge we face the rest of this year, let us hold fast to that.

Yours in Christ
3 March 2021

Rev. Bernard Fidler

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, am with you wherever you go. Joshua 1 v9

I was given this verse by a friend many years ago and it is a reminder to me that I need not be fearful because God is with us through the power of his Holy Spirit. I took over the position of Church Secretary at the AGM last July 2020. If I were to rely on own strength I would not get very far, but with the help and guidance of God's Holy Spirit, I can confidently go forward. So, first of all, I would like to take this opportunity to say an enormous thankyou to Val for all that she did in the time she served as church Secretary.

Church life has certainly been very different to what we have been used to. Last August we were able to start holding café services in the church building again. However, we had to sanitise our hands and sign in, we were seated in socially distanced groups of 6 and we were not allowed to sing behind our face masks. Nevertheless, we were able to continue this until the beginning of November when the second lockdown was announced.

Apart from one blended service our morning services have been on Zoom. However, this has brought new opportunities and also new worshippers to our online services. Worshippers from URC Sandwich and Broadstairs have been able to join us and worshippers from further afield from France and Kenya. We have also been able to join in a church wide Life Group on Zoom on Wednesday evenings and also a Zoom time of prayer on Saturday mornings.

It was a great joy to receive Andrew and Val Goddard and Mike Lineham into membership of our church in November 2020.

During August Bernard and the Elders went on two 'Awaydays' to the church building in Canterbury and to the chapel in Littlebourne, in order to pray and discern the way forward. As a result, there is a group meeting virtually on Zoom on Fridays to discern whether prayer or healing ministry would be right for Canterbury. Peter and Jonathan are leading weekly prayer meetings to discern the future work at Littlebourne.

We were blessed with resources provided by Chris Wilson Sharp for both Advent and New Year prayer. We were able to meet on Zoom to pray and to share what God had brought to us from our prayer times. Full details can be found on pages 10 to 12 of these reports.

Avril has been running Messy Church online on Saturday mornings. You can read more about online Messy Church on page 8.

Alice was furloughed initially when the first lockdown started, but was able to restart work when restrictions eased in August and a couple of the groups who hire our hall re-started their meetings. Alice has continued working during lockdown and diligently produces the weekly details of services, a monthly newsletter and carries out other administrative tasks, for which we are very grateful.

Although we are still in lockdown at time of writing this, we hope that in the weeks and months to come, we shall be able to get back to some sort of normality. In the meantime, *⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4 v6-7.*

Caroline Camp

LIFE GROUPS

Our three Life Groups had to stop meeting in March 2020 because of the lockdown. However, Bernard's group decided to go online and a weekly virtual Life Group on Zoom now meets on Wednesday evenings and is open to anyone in the church who can access Zoom. The meetings are based on the Bible reading of the preceding Sunday, so the last few meetings recently have discussed aspects of the book of Ezekiel.

The evening normally opens with prayer and begins with an ice breaker – something more light hearted to try and get people talking. This is then followed by a worship song on U-Tube. The Bible reading is then read out. The question sheet has usually been sent out in advance, so that participants have time to think about the questions posed. A time of discussion takes place in response to the questions given. We then have a time of prayer for the concerns people raise and the meeting closes with the grace. Meetings normally last about one hour.

If you would like to join in the Life Group virtually on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm we shall be pleased to welcome you.

Caroline Camp

YOUNG CHURCH

Young Church has been very different this year.

During the short time we were able to meet in the building from January to March Young Church has been fun. We enjoyed our time together for our Sunday group. We continued to follow the ROOTS teaching material which gave the children and young people the opportunity to worship, pray, play games, make craft and also learn together. The Roots Material caters well for all age groups. The children and young people worked together throughout the morning. The Young people are excellent at helping the younger ones with craft or with any games we played.

Back in March meeting for Young Church had to stop. As it hasn't been possible to meet for Young Church the teaching each week has been sent to the children either by post or e-mail.

The teaching each week starts with an introduction to the theme. This is followed by a Bible passage, prayers, songs, crafts, ideas to explore relating to the story, an activity sheet and questions to think about.

While we haven't been able to meet face to face in the building for Young Church, it has been possible to send the teaching to families that haven't attended on a Sunday morning but are part of our Toddler group Sonbeams.

Avril Leyton

MESSY CHURCH

Our first Messy Church last year was in February where we explored Jesus feeding the 5000. Unfortunately, we were unable to have Messy Easter in the Church building. With a little planning and the wonder of Zoom, Messy Church has been able to continue Online. At the moment we are looking at The Old Testament. We started at creation and are now at Samuel. We so far have had 31 Messy Church sessions Online.

Messy Church starts at 11 am every Saturday morning usually for around 30-40 minutes. We start the session with an action song we can all dance to. We then have an activity or game

which usually involves the children having to look for something around the house. We then pray before having a video of the Bible story and questions. A PDF of the craft is sent out via email for the children to do at a later date if they wish to. We finish the morning with a couple more action songs and prayer.

At Christmas we had 4 Messy Christmas Sessions covering the Christmas story. The craft for each of these sessions was sent out via post in advance so over the 4 mornings we were able to make a donkey, a Christingle, a sheep and a star together Online.

Regularly each week we have four children who attend including two from the Chinese Church. Other children have joined on occasions. Each child who attends must have a signed consent form before they can access the Zoom meeting. They have become a little group who have definitely grown in confidence to speak up and answer questions but also in chatting with each other. It's lovely to see this and to spend time with them.

Over the Christmas period there was the opportunity to pray for a family which was encouraging.

Each week either Bernard or Jonathan will run the technical side of the Zoom session and Linda, Jacqui from the Chinese Church and myself attend.

Please do encourage anyone who may be interested in attending to get in touch.

Thank you to all who help Messy Church Online.

Avril Leyton

SONBEAMS TODDLER GROUP

Sonbeams Toddler Group is a Thursday morning group for preschool children running from 9.30 -11.30 am. Before we had to stop meeting in March, we regularly had 20 + children attending with their mums, dads, grandparents and childminders. Relationships were continuing to develop as well as opportunities to chat and encourage.

During the morning we have craft, songs a story and snacks which is everybody's favourite part of the morning.

Thank you to all who help with Sonbeams.

Avril Leyton

PASTORAL CARE

The past year has brought its own difficulties in that a number of our members have been shielding, access to care homes has been prohibited and home visits not allowed. This has meant a shift in emphasis to walking with a friend (limited during the summer to 6 people but then reduced to one only), meeting outdoors (when allowed), telephone contact and the really helpful Zoom on-line meetings together with the 'chat room' facility after the Sunday morning service. Sadly, for some members the latter has not been possible due to lack of appropriate technology. Heavy reliance has been put on the elders to maintain contact with their membership list and grateful thanks is given to all members who have gone the extra mile to keep in touch, do shopping and keep a watching eye on us all. *In that you do it to the least of these, you do it unto Me.*

Linda Cawsey

ADVENT AND NEW YEAR PRAYER

Advent

John 1 v 14

- It is good to get (back) into a pattern of daily Bible reading and prayer.
- Our Lord is a God full of surprises. Are we going to have more surprises in 2021?
- Joseph of Nazareth said to be a 'righteous man'. His righteousness was seen in his love, mercy and care for Mary despite believing, at that point, that she had been unfaithful to him. This contrasts with the 'righteousness' of the religious rulers who would no doubt have stoned her.
- There are two kinds of givers: those who give God their leftovers and those who give their first-fruits. 'Test Me on this...'
- Mary was 'highly favoured'. Why? Despite the high cost, she said, 'So be it.' We follow God the way He wants us to live; sometimes this can be surprising. Sometimes, what God asks us to do can seem difficult, but it is good to do it anyway! Mary was highly favoured but still lost her son. (In fact, she lost two sons – Jesus and James.)
- Mary was young, doing simple household tasks and believed; Zechariah was old, experienced, serving in the Temple and he doubted. Maybe, the years of praying for a son apparently to no avail had worn him down and the months of silence before John was born gave him time to heal from those years of disappointment.

New Year Prayer **Our New Year Prayer this year has been a time of individual preparation**

1. The Invitation to a wedding feast Rev. 19 v 6 – 8

- a. When there is an invitation, you must respond, attend and say thank you.
- b. Re hearing God's call to do something: John 5 The healing at the pool at Bethesda. In Hebrew Beth Eshda means 'Place of outpouring' or 'House of Grace'. Praying for St Andrew's to be a place of outpouring of the Holy Spirit and a House of Grace for those in need of healing. Jesus does the healing by His Word. There was the response of faith. Healing led to repentance and to a spontaneous testimony to others. There was also an angry backlash against Jesus from the religious rulers. We can expect enemy action when we are doing God's work in the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Prepared for His coming Luke 12 v 35, 36

- a. It is so easy to be slothful, we could be found sleeping on the job.
- b. What do we mean by being prepared and ready?
- c. Wedding tradition: The groom went back to his father's house to prepare a home for his bride. When the groom's *father* saw that all was ready, he would send his son back to fetch his bride to the home he had prepared. This is a wonderful picture of the return of Christ for the church.
- d. Bridesmaids wearing bracelets of flowers – may we bear about us a sweet fragrance of Christ.
- e. To be expectant all the time is hard, but we must be prepared for God to change our plans for the day, week or year. Our feet should be always fitted with the readiness of the Gospel of peace.
- f. Alertness.
- g. David Pawson: Remain faithful constantly, having faith in Jesus, holding on.

3. Stand firm in the battle.

1Cor. 16 v 13

- h. The Roman shield was designed to cover the whole of the front of the body. It was the largest piece of equipment. It was most effective when a cohort of soldiers made a wall of their swords in front, beside and above their heads. Apply this thought to the church. The shield reminds us of where our safety is: 'taking up' our faith in Jesus.
- i. The soldier's belt was designed to take some of the weight off the shoulders. As we trust in the Word of God, so a weight is lifted off our shoulders!
- j. We need the armour because we are under attack. It is not a magic talisman, there is great meaning behind the imagery.
- k. The new ministries at St Andrew's and Littlebourne will result in enemy attack, if we are doing what God wants.
- l. Smith Wigglesworth was in touch with the Lord every fifteen minutes.
- m. People are fearful; pray that God will give us opportunities to tell people the gospel and encourage them. (See 2e above.)
- n. The armour is not for us to fight with, but so that we can stand firm in Jesus to the end.

4. Alert and Watchful

Romans 13 v 11, 12

- o. Do not dwell on things that cannot be changed but look to Jesus.
- p. Do not give up – persevere.
- q. **Psalm 123 v 1, 2** Like a valet or maid - alert, watching for a sign that the master/mistress requires some service. So we keep our eyes on the Lord. Like the bridesmaids, we need to be ready. Like good soldiers, we need to be alert to any command from our Captain, to any enemy action and to our comrades' positions and needs, covering one another's backs. Like watchmen on the city walls, we need to be alert, even when others sleep, looking out for enemy attack and looking out for the King's return. So, we must be alert to enemy action and to the needs of our brothers and sisters. We must be aware of the signs of the times and, at the same time, keep our eyes on our Lord, ready to obey His call and follow Him, and looking with anticipation for His return. It feels as if we need to be like the Wheels in Ezekiel - full of eyes. Happily, we have the Holy Spirit, Who sees all; we just have to be alert to His prompting.

5. Overview from Liz Hopkins

These are the points that impressed me from all of the readings and prayer times.

I found they are all clear instructions. It does not say 'please will you' or 'if you would like to'. No 'ifs' or 'buts', either.

TAKE everything the Master has set out for you.

TAKE all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued.

TAKE the breastplate of righteousness.

TAKE your stand.

TAKE God's power.

STAND your ground.

STAND firm.

BE FILLED with the Holy Spirit.

TRUST in Christ alone.

COME to the Wedding of the Lamb.

BE STRONG in the Lord and in His mighty power.
KEEP WATCH (asleep - meaning spiritually insensitive).
BE ALERT
BE VIGILANT
BE ON YOUR GUARD
STAND TALL with your hands held high.
PRAY CONSTANTLY
SPEAK encouraging words to one another.
BUILD UP HOPE
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN and BE SMART

Christine Wilson-Sharp

OASIS CAFÉ

There is not a great deal to say about Oasis Cafe this year, as sadly, due to circumstances beyond our control, we have been closed for the greater part of the time. However, what there is to say is positive and encouraging.

We were, along with the rest of the country, plunged into Lockdown following the announcement by the Prime Minister on Friday 20th March, which turned out to be our last day of opening for four months. With ever alarming reports of the spread and severity of Covid-19 we noticed a decline in trade over the weeks prior to lockdown, although many of our regular customers continued to come into the cafe for coffee or lunch, taking advantage of the opportunity to meet with friends and enjoy the relaxing, friendly atmosphere that the cafe always exudes. Once we were instructed to close, Patricia and I ventured in over the weekend to clear and pack away as much as possible, not knowing how long we were to be in this situation. I don't think either of us, or indeed any of the staff imagined that it would be July before we were able to reopen.

Once we could see the lockdown coming to an end, we then had to make sure that we could meet all the rules to enable us to open safely and be Covid compliant, which took a few weeks to organise. We decided that it would be a sensible decision to investigate taking card payments as well as cash, and Peter was instrumental in making that happen. Although there is a small cost involved, we still felt that this was the right move for Oasis at this time, and were soon in possession of a smart new card machine, which has proved popular with our customers, old and new. Finally, on Tuesday 28th July we were in business once again, and over the ensuing weeks gradually welcomed back regular customers, and saw more and more people 'discovering' us for the first time and returning frequently. It was really good to chat with people and catch up on their experiences of living through lockdown, and adapting to the inevitable changes brought about by the pandemic. Initially due to staffing issues and the need for some people to continue to shield, we were only able to be open for business three days a week, but by the autumn the situation had improved sufficiently for us to return to our usual four days a week. Friday 8th October was our first Friday back, and for a short while it was back to business as usual, until we were once more back in lockdown for the month of November, where we have remained ever since!

As I write this, there is no sign of things changing for the foreseeable future, but maybe by the time you get to read it they will have changed for the better, and Oasis will be preparing to throw open its doors to its loyal customers once more. With God's help it won't be too long before the coffee will be brewing, the paninis sizzling and the cafe buzzing with chat, laughter and love.

Patricia's report for Oasis

As for the financial side of things because we were only open for six months in 2020 our profits to St Andrew's are greatly diminished. Every time a lockdown occurs it takes time to get going again. We had to reduce our menu to ensure that we did not waste too much food and incur unnecessary costs. So, our profit to St Andrew's in 2020 was £3000.91.

In March we also raised £112.62 for Sport Relief via Cake sales and Donations and in September we raised £45.70 for MacMillan again via Cake sales and Donations.

That makes a total of £158.32 raised for charity.

Many thanks to everyone who worked in 2020 without whom none of this would be possible. See you all in 2021!

The even better news from Oasis Cafe is that we have had several answers to prayer for our Customers. Please pray that we are able to open this year and that more conversations that make a difference can take place. Your prayers for Oasis Cafe make a difference!

Sue Wenham and Patricia Hollander

KIDZ KLUB

Canterbury Kidz Klub is a Saturday morning Klub for primary aged children. Our aim is to teach children Bible truths and disciple them, building up relationships with them and their family.

We currently have 15 adult team members – 3 of which are ex junior helpers who are now 18! These teenagers started out as Kidz in the Klub and have stayed on to help.

From March 2020 to August the Saturday Klub ceased to run but team members could 'meet' via Zoom fortnightly – offering community, prayer, friendship and support. The same was offered to our Junior helpers.

From September 2020 to November family visiting restarted where we were able to deliver activity sheets each week looking at one of Jesus' disciples. We adapted the reverse of the sheet to include text about the disciple, a simple game idea, a relevant video link, a simple craft idea and a prayer idea too. We currently have 5 people who visit when restrictions allow.

The planned 'Family Klubs' were abandoned for November and December 2020 and visiting ceased.

From January 2021 Canterbury Kidz Klub restarted via Zoom. We had 15 families consent for their children to join and currently hold a 40 minute Klub every Saturday. We have had 3 more families join after hearing about the Klub and 14 of the 15 families that told us that their children would like to join us have 'come along', most of them regularly.

For prayer:

- **We have lost 2 of our adult volunteers. Please prayerfully consider if you would find out more about joining our team. When we restart in person meetings, we will be very short of volunteers.**
- **Pray for our junior helpers. Most did not engage with Zoom and have not responded to text messages and we have lost contact with them. Please pray that they are well – mentally and physically.**
- **Pray for Klub families that any need may be made known and appropriate help/support made available.**
- **Pray for those children that were being brought to church that their desire to know more about the gospel will remain strong.**

Peter Hollander

CANTERBURY PROSPECTS GROUP

The Canterbury Prospects group was only able to meet three times in the past year due to the pandemic restrictions.

Most of our members have been either shielding at home or not leaving their care homes since 23rd March. But in January and February we were able to hold our normal meetings with the usual mix of easy-to-understand worship and Bible teaching aimed at those with learning disabilities and their carers. As well as this we all enjoyed an opening game and a craft activity, followed by a full afternoon tea at the end!

We did manage one meeting in October, with strict social distancing and no tea, before we were all locked down again. We were unable to hold our usual summer outing or the much-loved Nativity pageant.

Once again, we want to thank our team for their patience at this difficult time and hope to be able to resume our meetings in the not too distant future. Once we do, we will be open to welcoming new team members who might be able to join us or who are simply interested in what we do each month. Please phone us on 01227 456529 if you would like to come. Also, if you know of anyone who might benefit from this ministry, please tell them about us. It takes place on the last Saturday of most months.

We also wish to thank St Andrews for their continuing commitment to us, without which we would not be able to continue to offer this ministry to those who enjoy it so much.

Harry & Alison Macdonald

MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

Sadly, the Men's Social Group did not meet for the rest of 2020 and has so far been unable to meet this year due to the pandemic. However, we were given an idea about sharing a virtual meal on Zoom. As a result of this idea, we held a virtual pancake evening on Zoom on Shrove Tuesday 16th February. This was open to everyone to attend, not only men and proved to be very well received.

In the same way, we plan to hold another virtual meal on Zoom on Friday evening 26th March and this time the meal will be jacket potatoes with a topping/filling/sides of your choice. Again, this will be open to everyone and will be split into breakout rooms.

After Easter we plan to hold a virtual quiz on zoom with hopefully Malcolm at the helm. When restrictions have eased further, we hope to hold an outside barbecue in the church garden which on current regulations could be late May or in June.

We hope to run a full calendar for the Men's Social Group from September onwards.

Mark Camp



Canterbury Street Pastors

Coordinator's Annual Report for 2020

I volunteered to take over the running of Canterbury Street Pastors from the End of January. Taking over from the previous Coordinator. I have been a prayer pastor for 8 years for Canterbury and have seen the team grow and see answered prayer on a regular basis. I have taken on a team consisting of 4 senior leaders, 9 street pastors, 5 trainees, and a group of Prayer Pastors. A capable team that works well together and I am proud to send out on patrol.

We had been patrolling up to mid- March before the Covid-19 Pandemic struck the country. We were in the process of planning our AGM and Commissioning Service for April. I was able to start sending regular prayer focuses out to the street and prayer teams. Keeping in touch with all members, also regular zoom sessions with the team to keep moral up. I have kept up with the local community safety partnership run by Canterbury City Council and partnered by local police and partners. Keeping my ear to the ground of what is going on in the city.

September saw Liz Jenkins take on the role of Chair of Trustees and Myself employed Part-time as Coordinator for Canterbury Street Pastors.

As of March, Teams have not gone out on patrol due to Covid restrictions. Trainees have completed their training. Unfortunately, 2 senior leaders and a few team members have stepped down. I now have 16 Street Pastors fully trained.

We have established regular Zoom Prayer sessions on a Saturday Night, to continue to pray for the work of Street Pastors and the work in City. This has been attended well by both teams and valued.

I set up regular contact sessions via Zoom with the SP Area Coordinators, sharing and supporting each other through this pandemic and its various challenges. This has been well supported by other coordinators.

Since September, I have had the support of the Chair of Trustees, as a mentor. As we have been stood down as teams, this has given me time to work on building up the administration side of the role, with regular supervision meetings with my mentor.

This has helped both of us to get to grips with what we have, what we don't need, and what we need to improve.

Giving time to organise the database details of the team, updating all DBS certificates for the team.

I continue to build on the work previous coordinators have done and hopefully building a firm foundation on which to move forward in the future.

We are in the process of reviewing and adopting our policies and guidelines, I have compiled new guidelines for senior leaders, team members and prospective members.

At the start of the new year, we look forward to the year ahead. We have updated our social presence by updating the website (Thanks goes to Rohan Clegg) we have set up a new Facebook page. Also, we now are trailing using Mailchimp for newsletter email delivery. This downtime has given me time to learn, build and organise the role of the Coordinator.

Andrew Pantling

Coordinator Canterbury Street Pastors coordinator@canterburystreetpastors.onmicrosoft.com

GLOBAL CAFÉ (FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL)

As a church we support the work of Friends International, who work among the international student community in Canterbury. The staff workers in Canterbury are Baiba Strause-Kalmere, and Matthew Archer and Friends International Branch committee led by Kay Lusk (kay@lusk.org.uk). If you have any questions or if you would like to get involved or support the international student ministry, please, contact Kay or Baiba (baiba@friendsinternational.uk)

This past year during the pandemic we have had to stop our sports events like volleyball (at Canterbury College Sports centre) and badminton (St Andrews URC church) that we started running Badminton at St Andrews church every Tuesday afternoon, and many refugee boys used to really enjoy playing pool, badminton and table tennis and practising English in a relaxed atmosphere.

During the months of September and October, when we still enjoyed minimal restrictions in Kent, we were able to run outdoor picnics, afternoon teas and walks in groups of 6. Students really appreciated these times and opportunities to meet face to face.

Since restrictions increased again in November, we have been running all events online on Zoom platform including Global café, Bible studies, Book reading club (we are reading "Hiding Place" by Corrie Ten Boom currently), Creative Corner (adult drawing club with conversations). The benefit of running online events is that returnee students from Japan, China, USA, Brazil, Thailand, Singapore - have been able to join in. We also were unable to provide hospitality to students this Christmas, but we still offered one to one outdoor walks to anyone who felt lonely

International Student Online Canterbury Café

Weekly plan

Mondays 8.00 - 9.30pm
English Conversation Café
— an evening of games, chat and discovering new cultures and countries.

Tuesdays 2.00 – 3.15pm
Online Reading Club – reading *The Hiding Place*
No need to have your own hard copy of the book.

Wednesdays 6th 2.00 – 3.30pm
Creative Corner – time for some art & to practise your English!

Saturdays 8.00 - 9.30pm
English Conversation Café
— an evening of games, chat and discovering new cultures and countries.

Walk & Talk
If you'd like to take a break from your bedroom studies & meet up with someone for a social walk, please let us know!

Get in Touch
Call/Text/Whatsapp – 07999556555
Instagram – ficanterbury
Fb – International Students Canterbury
www.canterburyfi.org.uk
Download our free App for the full events calendar
<https://www.friendsinternational.uk/international-student-app/>

Online activities:
<https://zoom.us/j/315724025>
Meeting ID: 315724025 Password: 188674

Friends International is a charity registered in England and Wales (1094095)

during this time. We continue to offer these one to one walks. If anyone is interested to meet one student for a walk from time to time, do contact Baiba for more details.

Prayer points:

- Give thanks for the new ways we have to engage with international students and give thanks for the new students that are starting to engage with online events.
- Give thanks for the students that have joined the online events. We always read a few verses from the Bible at the end of Global café and try to show students that the Bible is relevant for everyday life.
- Pray for Word Alive – evangelistic Track online that will take place from 6th April – 11th April. Pray that students would engage with the talks and small group discussions.
- Friends International have just published a book written by Peter Teagle called “Is Christianity a Western Religion” and it answers most commonly asked questions asked by young people from different countries in an accessible way to EFL students. You can pre-order a book here: [Book Shop | Friends International](#) FI are hoping to develop other evangelistic tracts that can be suitable to EFL students and can be given out during Christmas and Easter events. Please, pray for wisdom & God’s guidance as they seek to resource local Christians and churches in this way.
- It is difficult to engage with new students who have studies online, as they are tired from looking at the screen all the time. Pray for wisdom for staff in how to attract and keep in touch with new students who are shy and feel “zoom fatigue” is preventing in joining zoom events.
- Pray for mental health of international students who can feel isolated, especially those living by themselves.
- Recruitment of more members for FI Branch development group & prayer group that meets once in a few months (now online)
- Recruitment of new Reach trainees for next year - due to start in September!

Baiba Strause-Kalmere, Centre Team Leader, Canterbury

Mobile:07999556555

Friends International - registered charity 1094095

www.canterburyfi.org.uk

www.facebook.com/internationalstudentscanterbury

OPEN AIR CAMPAIGNERS

I'm now into my 14th year as a full time OAC Kent Director/Evangelist, and every Wednesday of that time has been spent in Canterbury reaching out in the town centre. This year has obviously been a little different, with a number of weeks during the 1st lockdown, of hardly anyone in town, and so 'plan B' implemented. During those weeks, I delivered milk for a Christian dairy farmer friend of mine to 'Catching lives' in Canterbury, who gave the milk to the homeless.

Apart from these weeks however, I've been evangelising as per 'normal' in my usual spot, outside of Fenwicks near Mcdonalds, with my paintboard, box of tracts and team of 5 local helpers, reaching out in a friendly manner to those in town, for around 5 hours each time with the 'Good News'. Some have been saved, now believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, and many thousands reached with the Gospel. I've built up ongoing friendships with many local shop workers, school kids, security staff, refuse collectors, delivery riders, homeless, etc, and I thank you for your valuable prayers in continuing with this ministry.

I also continue to evangelise throughout Kent and south London, plus monthly preaching at Speakers Corner, and I've run a weekly teaching of Evangelism and Apologetics Zoom meeting for the last 5 months. My usual outreaches overseas and in prison and at a market, have all sadly been cancelled due to the Covid restrictions.

Dave Workman

CANTERBURY CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH(CCCC)

--updates from May 2020 to March 2021

“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.” Psalm 107:1-3

We give thanks to the Lord as our redeemer in Canterbury in a unique way. God has called us as Chinese Christians and give us opportunities to reach predominantly Chinese population in the greater Canterbury area.

Over the past year, all our church meetings have been transferred to online meetings since March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. God has continued to lead unbelievers as well as believers to come to our meetings. We have opportunities to share the gospel with unbelievers one to one. Praise the Lord that 6 new believers were born locally and remotely. Below are the details of what we are doing which are all online activities since March 2020.

Sunday worship

We continue to have weekly Sunday services and the number of regular attendants is around 20-30 adults. We stopped the children Sunday school due to the church limited resources to run it online. But we encourage parents to bring their kids to join St. Andrew's Messy Church program. It is not easy for spiritually young parents to work out the time due to their time conflict but we still have two kids to join.

Besides of both of us (Yunhai and Gabby), we have two church members preach for Sunday sermon. We are glad to see the variety of the preaching style and format while the speakers are keeping the solid and essential truths in the Bible. Even in the online worship which is less people-interaction but we can witness that the dynamic and changing power of God's words are well received.

We thank God for the committed worship team that they are still faithfully serving on Sunday services. We are very encouraged to see the committed team to overcome unexpected technical problems. An AV team member eventually witness her spiritual growth by attending the services more regularly.

Bible study groups

We continue to have the weekly Cantonese-speaking Bible study group which is spiritually growing well by diligently studying the Bible with life application in such difficult time of the pandemic. The five Mandarin-speaking Bible study groups are also continuing: three groups for Christian families; one group for seekers; One group named “Grace Fellowship” for the families who work in the Chinese take-away restaurants.

All of the groups overcome the online meeting limits and difficulties to study the Bible and gradually apply the biblical truths broader and deeper in their daily life. Two families contracted the Covid-19 virus but they have been recovered; A member of another family was

diagnosed with cancer, and has been receiving treatment. We can witness the changing power of God's words that the group members have spiritually strengthened and are continually growing. Some of them stepped out to serve and became co-workers in the group.

Student ministry

As usual, each June is a cheering-up but "hard" month for us. It is cheering-up because the graduating students accomplished their studies and we have a loving and sweet party for them; It is "hard" because it is not easy for us to say good bye to them. We praise the Lord that three students stepped out to serve as co-workers. We then had the three-months disciple training for all the new and old co-workers.

In the last fall and this semester, we have very small number of people attending the online meetings but we still keep it running by having new-student-welcome activities then studying the Bible follows. There were 3 new students and 3 seekers came to join our Bible study while 5 Christian students regularly come. We adjust our ways to do caring to meet the challenges of the virtual social life. The greatest need is loneliness of young people, which reminds us to lead Christians spending more time with the Lord.

Outreach events

In October 2020, COCM had an online new student welcome party for all the Chinese churches/fellowships in the UK and Europe. We joined it and three new students came.

We still keep the four-evangelical-meetings-in-a-year plan under the pandemic challenge. In 2020 Easter, Chinese mid-autumn festival and the Christmas celebration, we moved major activities online with new styles and format, and the events were well received. The impressive one was the children presented their online recorded chorus to praise the Lord. In all the above events there were 3-4 seeker families joined us.

In all our evangelical activities during the year, the total number of new believers in 2020 is 6 locally and remotely. We have to postpone the baptism for 4 adults in 2020 but thankfully they all finished the baptism class.

Conferences organized by COCM

As usual we encourage our members to attend various Christian conferences organized by COCM and FI. Through them our members are strengthened spiritually and loving relationship are established. We pray along the way that more disciples of Jesus Christ will be risen.

The preparation for registration as Charitable Incorporated Organization

The church co-worker committee is preparing the church constitution to register the church as Charitable Incorporated Organization.

We are grateful to God that St. Andrew Church has continued to provide a place for the Canterbury Chinese Christian Church (CCCC) to meet. May God continue to bless St. Andrew Church as she blesses CCCC.

Pastors Yunhai Wu & Gabby Zhong

COCM missionaries and CCCC pastors



The
United
Reformed
Church



The
Methodist
Church

**Faversham United Church, Preston Street, Faversham, ME13 8PE
(Methodist, United Reformed Church)**

Mr Roger Berryman
Church Treasurer
34 Cressway
Faversham
Kent ME13 7NH

October 22nd 2021

St Andrews URC Canterbury 2020 Accounts

Attn: The Treasurer, Officers and Minister,
St Andrews URC
Watling Street
Canterbury Kent CT1 2NU

The URC Southern Synod Finance Officer
East Croydon URC, Addiscombe Grove.
Croydon Grove CR0 5LP

All

I hereby acknowledge that I have carried out an Independent Examination of the above accounts. The treasurer responded to 3 points arising from my examination that I have now checked. Having done so confirm I am satisfied that these accounts are an accurate record of The Church's Financial Position as at December 31st 2020.

Below are noted relevant points going forward and actions for year 2021.

Just for assistance in checking the debtors and creditors brought forward from the prior year could the date of resolution of each item be noted. I found some were but not all.

The valuation of the Church Investment for year end 2020 that was only received in October 2021 should be updated as at December 31st 2021. I suspect at that date this valuation may have been the best available at the end of 2021.

Once these accounts have been approved by the trustees they should be forwarded to the Finance Officer of The Southern Synod of The United Reformed Church.

I thank the treasurer for submitting these accounts for examination and acknowledge his hard work and dedication in his preparation of them. As per my above comments, I have pleasure in signing off these accounts as being fully examined and accurate.

Roger Berryman
Independent Examiner

Signed:

Church Treasurer (Faversham United Church, and Greenstreet Methodist Church). Bookkeeper The Beacon Church and Christian Centre Dover.

***Our mission statement: 'By our witness & service, through friendship & love,
we seek to encourage others to discover the life changing message of Jesus Christ'***

St Andrew's URC Canterbury**Accounts for the year Ended 31 December 2020**

Income and Expenditure Account - 2020	page	1
Donations	page	2
Balance Sheet	page	3
Budget 2021	page	4

Notes to the Accounts - 2020**Income**

Freewill offerings were close to budget. Oasis Café and letting of Premises receipts were well down because of closures. Other receipts include monies for Littlebourne £2509, of which £1273 needs to be spent on the premises in 2021. Donations for specific purposes was double previous years, thanks to generosity towards mission. Overall income was down £37,000 on 2019 due to reduced grant, café and lettings income. Expenses were down as well.

Expenditure

Most spending was below budgeted spending except manse expenses, which was under budgeted (my mistake!) The main manse expenses were Council Tax £3072, water £711, Gas maintenance £556 and insurance £464 Administrative expenses include Wages £9194, Telephone & broadband £2484, Photocopier £1293, less furlough £2144 Overall expenditure was £6933 under budget.

Result

There was a deficit of £7210, to which must be added a village shop grant for Littlebourne of £1273, which we will spend in 2021.

Budget for 2021

The budget includes a drop in rental income due to Coronavirus closures
The Café receipts are budgeted to include closure for 6 months.
The estimated excess of expenditure over income is £5600

St Andrew's URC Canterbury

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2020

	Results for the year ended 31st December 2020		Budget Projection 2020	Results for the year ended 31st December 2019
		Variance		
INCOME				
Freewill Offerings	54,845	(155)	55,000	57,884
Covenant/Gift Aid Tax Recovery	10,760	(1,240)	12,000	13,003
Hall & Premises Lettings (incl £3,000 church flat)	9,551	(2,449)	12,000	24,197
Oasis Cafe Receipts	8,561	(3,439)	12,000	22,638
Other Receipts - specific gifts/interest received/other income	246	(754)	1,000	1,242
- 4 Villages L'borne £1273, Family Matters £1236, photocopies, car parking	3,278	3,278		0
Grants from URC - £5,250 Turn the Tide, £2,000 Church repairs owed at 31.12.20)	7,250	(1,950)	9,200	14,822
Capital Reserve Account Interest	49	(51)	100	124
Donations for Specific purposes	4,616	2,616	2,000	2,639
Total Income	£ 99,157	£ (4,143)	£ 103,300	£ 136,549
EXPENDITURE				
Ministry and Mission	41,076	(3)	41,079	39,882
Ministerial Expenses (less £500 Sandwich URC)	2,091	(1,409)	3,500	3,165
Welfare of church members - £550 collected, £500 pd, £50 creditor	0	-	-	0
Church Cleaning	1,842	(3,158)	5,000	3,640
Electricity Gas & Water	6,992	(1,008)	8,000	12,806
Administration and Office Expenses	10,972	(699)	11,670	13,753
Church Insurance	5,450	(0)	5,450	5,143
Furniture & Fittings	615	(385)	1,000	1,494
Manse Expenses	6,236	4,236	2,000	14,455
Payments To Christian Workers	4,200	-	4,200	4,200
Courses, Teaching Aids & CCL Licence	758	258	500	498
Catering Supplies	190	(811)	1,000	1,099
Church Repairs	5,289	(4,711)	10,000	10,738
Children's & Youth Work	956	(544)	1,500	1,545
Oasis Cafe Payments	4,910	(490)	5,400	10,178
Other (Garden, Bank Charges, Covid supplies etc)	889	(111)	1,000	1,340
Donations - specific	4,641	2,641	2,000	2,849
Youth and Family Worker	9,260	(740)	10,000	9,108
Scone School			-	(57)
Total Expenses	£ 106,366.86	£ (6,933)	£ 113,300	£ 135,834
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (Normal Transactions)	£ (7,210)	£ 2,790	£ (10,000)	£ 715
Transfer to Littleborne 4 Villages Sponsorship spending	(1,273)	(1,273)		
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (after transfers to Manse Fund)	(8,483)	1,517	(10,000)	715

Donations**St Andrew's URC Canterbury****Income and Expenditure Account for the year
ended 31st December 2020**

		Donations	Christian Workers	Budget
Canterbury Schools Work Trust	£305 sent direct	825	1,200	1,200
Vaughn & Au Goodchild	£1100 sent direct	160	1,500	1,500
Daniel Gitau via Great Commission Trust	£3250 sent direct	70		
Amy & Kody Friesen		3,310	1,500	1,500
E Kent Synod Area	from church funds	-		
Nicola Furley Leaving Gift	from church funds			
J Proctor Retirement Gift	from church funds	25		
Canterbury Food Bank - Harvest		251		
		4,641	4,200	4,200

Page 2**Year ended
31st December 2019**

Donations	Christian Workers
665	1,200
	1,500
1,623	
361	1,500
100	
100	
2,849	4,200

St Andrew's URC Canterbury
Balance Sheet at 31st December 2020

BALANCE SHEET

Cash at Bank	51,003
Building Society	
Cash in Hand Oasis Float	250
Investments held by Southern Synod	17,780
Creditors and Accrued charges Water, Telephone, Electricity , NEST	(795)
Rent Deposit received £500 Held by Tenancy Deposit Scheme	(500)
Debtors & Prepayments - URC Turn the Tide £5,250, Repairs grant £2,000 & HMRC gift aid £5928.75, Tenancy Deposit Scheme £500, Electricity Refund £170.17	13,849
<u>Total Assets</u>	£ <u>81,587</u>

Represented by

General Fund brought forward	71,017
Southern Synod	
Transfer (to) / from Specific Funds – Church Maintenance Legacy	
- Manse Rentals since Sept 2016	
- Littlebourne 4 Villages Sponsroship	(1,273)
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(7,210)
General Fund carried forward	£ <u>62,534</u>
Funds held by Southern Province	£ <u>17,780</u>
Specific Fund - Littlebourne 4 Villages sponsroship money	
Receipts / (Payments) in year	1,273
Specific Fund - Littlebourne 4 Villages sponsroship money	£ <u>1,273</u>
<u>Total Funds</u>	£ <u>81,587</u>

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2020

Balance Sheet
At 31st December 2019

Balance Sheet
At 31 December 2018

63,622	65,449
250	250
16,371	16,371
(1,679)	(1,397)
8,823	6,000
£ <u>87,387</u>	£ <u>86,673</u>
70,302	77,564
-	15,611
715	(22,873)
£ <u>71,017</u>	£ <u>70,302</u>
£ <u>16,371</u>	£ <u>16,371</u>
Specific Fund - Manse Fund brought forward	15,611
Receipts / (Payments) in year	(15,611)
£ <u>- Manse Fund carried forward</u>	£ <u>-</u>
£ <u>87,387</u>	£ <u>86,673</u>

BUDGET and past results
St Andrew's URC Canterbury

Budget for 2020 Income and Expenditure Account

Page 4

	Budget Projection 2021	Results for Year ended 31/12/2020	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2019	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2018	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2017	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2016	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2015
INCOME							
Freewill Offerings	55,000	54,845	57,884	55,529	59,230	58,488	61,096
Covenant/Gift Aid Tax Recovery	12,000	10,760	13,003	11,722	12,217	13,307	14,189
Hall & Premises Lettings	15,000	9,551	24,197	35,431	34,995	29,397	21,737
Oasis Cafe Receipts	12,000	8,561	22,638	22,599	21,468	20,057	20,962
Other Receipts		246	-	-			
- 4 Villages L'brne : - specific gifts/interest received/other income	1,000	3,278	1,242	2,111	450	50,423	481
Expected donation from Watling Street Charity for Welfare	1,000		-	0	13,370		11,782
Grants from URC - Repairs & Turn the Tide	9,000	7,250	14,822	1,143			
Capital Reserve Account Interest	31	49	124	65	13	11	18
Donations for Specific purposes	4,000	4,616	2,639	1,333	1,370	3,884	5,428
Total Income	£ 109,031	99,157	136,549	£ 129,933	£ 143,114	£ 175,567	£ 135,694
EXPENDITURE							
Ministry and Mission	41,079	41,076	39,882	37,956	36,672	37,954	36,646
Ministerial Expenses	3,000	2,091	3,165	4,517	2,139	2,389	2,511
Welfare of church members	1,000	-		Pastoral Assistant and Expenses	5,660	8,201	2,680
Church Cleaning	2,000	1,842	3,640	4,870	3,337	3,504	3,890
Electricity Gas & Water	5,000	6,992	12,806	17,928	13,942	13,635	9,315
Administration and Office Expenses	13,000	10,972	13,753	10,874	9,689	8,147	7,796
Church Insurance	5,775	5,450	5,143	4,853	4,761	4,478	5,545
Furniture & Fittings	1,000	615	1,494	782	3,464	1,275	13,481
Manse Expenses	6,000	6,236	14,455	29,315	389	2,209	9,661
Payments To Christian Workers	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,280	5,450
Courses and Teaching Aids	750	758	498	494	573	468	881
Catering Supplies	200	190	1,099	1,003	1,148	1,395	1,336
Church Repairs	12,000	5,289	10,738	12,415	15,086	13,801	21,338
Children's & Youth Work	1,000	956	1,545	1,344	1,388	1,522	713
Oasis Cafe Payments	5,400	4,910	10,178	10,637	9,273	8,909	9,194
Other	1,000	889	1,340	840	758	723	1,803
Donations	4,000	4,641	2,849	1,533	2,246	8,836	5,473
Youth and Family Workers & Expenses	9,500	9,260	9,108	9,115	8,963	12,766	16,849
Scone School	-	-	(57)	129	(69)		1,407
Total Expenses	£ 116,904	106,367	135,834	£ 152,806	£ 123,619	£ 134,493	£ 157,018
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (Normal Transactions)	£ (6,873)	(7,210)	715	£ (22,873)	£ 19,495	£ 41,074	£ (21,325)
Littlebourne 4 Villages Sponsorship	1,273	(1,273)	-	15,611	(15,611)		
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(5,600)	(8,483)	715	(7,263)	3,884		
Payments To Christian Workers							
Canterbury Schools Work Trust	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Vaughn & Au Goodchild	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Paul Marsh							800
Amy & Kody Friesen	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Causeway Prospects (notional against income)							200
Street Pastors (notional against income)							250
Friends International - Global Cafe						80	
	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,280	5,450



**Faversham United Church, Preston Street, Faversham, ME13 8PE
(Methodist, United Reformed Church)**

Mr Roger Berryman
Church Treasurer
34 Cressway
Faversham
Kent ME13 7NH

October 22nd 2021

St Andrews URC Canterbury 2020 Accounts

Attn: The Treasurer, Officers and Minister,
St Andrews URC
Watling Street
Canterbury Kent CT1 2NU

The URC Southern Synod Finance Officer
East Croydon URC, Addiscombe Grove.
Croydon Grove CR0 5LP

All

I hereby acknowledge that I have carried out an Independent Examination of the above accounts. The treasurer responded to 3 points arising from my examination that I have now checked. Having done so confirm I am satisfied that these accounts are an accurate record of The Church's Financial Position as at December 31st 2020.

Below are noted relevant points going forward and actions for year 2021.

Just for assistance in checking the debtors and creditors brought forward from the prior year could the date of resolution of each item be noted. I found some were but not all.

The valuation of the Church Investment for year end 2020 that was only received in October 2021 should be updated as at December 31st 2021. I suspect at that date this valuation may have been the best available at the end of 2021.

Once these accounts have been approved by the trustees they should be forwarded to the Finance Officer of The Southern Synod of The United Reformed Church.

I thank the treasurer for submitting these accounts for examination and acknowledge his hard work and dedication in his preparation of them. As per my above comments, I have pleasure in signing off these accounts as being fully examined and accurate.

Roger Berryman
Independent Examiner

Signed:

Church Treasurer (Faversham United Church, and Greenstreet Methodist Church). Bookkeeper The Beacon Church and Christian Centre Dover.

***Our mission statement: 'By our witness & service, through friendship & love,
we seek to encourage others to discover the life changing message of Jesus Christ'***