



**Christchurch Market Harbourough
(Registered Charity Number: 1184289)**

**Trustees' Annual Report
1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021**

Operational Name

For the purposes of simplicity, Christchurch Market Harbourough operates locally with the name Christchurch Harbourough (CCH).

Aim and Purposes

The main purpose of Christchurch Harbourough (CCH) is the advancement of the Christian faith primarily but not exclusively within Market Harbourough and the surrounding neighbourhood; and such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the church in general meetings and the Trustees, further the work of the church.

Background

CCH was established in October 2010 and started meeting in January 2011. CCH is affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) (Registered Charity Number 263354) and is a member of the Midlands Gospel Partnership (Registered Charity Number 1138999).

During the year 2018-19, the church decided that it was in its best interest to convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). A new charity was duly set up and registered with the Charity Commission. All the assets of the previous charity were transferred to the new CIO with effect from 31 October 2019.

The church is an independent church that welcomes people from all denominational backgrounds and none. Membership of the church is on the basis of adherence to core gospel beliefs as set out in the Statement of Faith contained in the Church Constitution signed on 24 March 2019 and which formed the basis of the new CIO. The members of the church come from a mix of conservative evangelical Anglican and Free Church backgrounds.

The church is led by a team of elders who are equal in status and who, together, serve as the pastors of the church. The elders are also Trustees. The elders make decisions collectively, whilst certain matters as set out in the Church Handbook are decided by the church members during termly members' meetings (TMMs) held at least three times per year. The elders as at 31 October 2020 were John Stevens (Chair), Jonathan Prime, Adrian Reynolds, Roy Saint and Richard Underwood (Secretary). During the year Roy Saint and Richard Underwood stood down as elders and Stuart Allen was called and appointed to be the pastor with effect

from September 2021. The elders as at 31 October 2021 were Stuart Allen (Chair), Jonathan Prime (Secretary), Adrian Reynolds and John Stevens.

Public Benefit

When planning our activities for the year 2020-21, the elders considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular we endeavoured to enable ordinary people to live out their Christian faith as part of our church community through:

- worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and faith in the Lord Jesus;
- the provision of pastoral care for people living in the local community and attending the church; and
- missionary and outreach work

Current Activities of Christchurch

During the year, the regular worship of the church was affected by the COVID pandemic. When the church was unable to gather in person, church services were conducted online. Since June 2021 weekly Sunday services have recommenced. They are now held in the Jubilee Hall of Market Harborough Congregational Church on Sunday afternoon. Throughout the year, age-related activities for children were also provided. All these meetings were open to the general public, whom we invited regularly by means of social media and other advertisements. The aim of the activities was to strengthen the Christian faith of those who were already Christians, and to promote, teach and live out the Christian faith for those who wished to know more. All of these activities were provided free of charge. The church also continued to support the promotion of the Christian faith throughout the UK and in other countries.

Sunday worship and Sunday school

During the year, the main focus of the Sunday gathering was an expository sermon of approximately 30 minutes length. The church continued to preach through books of the Bible, although there was scope for topical series, one-offs, guest services and evangelistic services. The services also contained a short children's slot, which often introduced the children to what they would be learning from the Bible in Sunday school, and included an age-appropriate song.

Our services were designed to be accessible to visually impaired people and we continued to provide braille and large-print handouts of the different elements of the service. This was made possible through the use of the Worship for All transcription service provided by Torch Trust. The church follows the sight-loss-friendly guidelines to maximise accessibility.

Growth Groups

Weekly Growth Group meetings (small groups) continued to provide the focus for basic pastoral care and discipleship. Over the year, these groups met on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The leadership of the groups rotated and studies were led by both men and women. These meetings have been held both in person and by Zoom.

Prayer Meetings

During the year, the church ran regular meetings on Sunday evenings devoted to prayer for the church, for the world and for each other. These were held on Zoom. From September 2021 onwards, these meetings were held on Sunday morning.

Youth Work

During the year, the church also ran a regular youth group alongside the Sunday morning gatherings and a regular Friday night event in a local Scout Hut designed to provide fun and social interaction as well as discipleship. During the pandemic these were run on zoom, but then returned to the Scout Hut.

Pastoral Care

The church continued to run via Zoom a range of weekly daytime groups for fellowship, Bible study and prayer. Where members of the church were ill, or prevented from engaging with the church for other reasons, regular contact was organised by the elders or members of the church in accordance with government requirements. Anyone connected with the church continued to be able to request contact from an elder. A women's ministry co-ordinator is employed by the church part time to provide targeted and appropriate pastoral support to women in the church.

Mission and evangelism

In addition to ensuring that our Sunday services were accessible to people who would not normally engage with the church, the church seeks to reach out to others. The pandemic has curtailed this aspect of the work at present.

Other events

The normal midweek programme for pre-school children (Junior Jivers) and seniors (Young@Heart) and our evangelistic Meals with a Message were suspended as a result of government requirements, but Junior Jivers and Young@Heart have now recommenced.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £109,575. This came mainly from regular donations provided through standing orders, together with Gift Aid reclaimed where applicable. One-off donations totalling £17,050 were also received. A balance of £60,834 was brought forward from the previous financial year.

£40,714 was spent on employment costs including the employment of an administrative assistant, a women's ministry coordinator and from July 2021 a full-time senior pastor.

£10,344 was spent on premises hire. This included payments to Market Harborough Congregational Church for use of its Jubilee Hall for our Sunday services and other activities; to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches for the use of its premises to broadcast online services during periods of lockdown; the rental of a storage unit for the storage of church equipment and other venues for various other regular and additional events.

Other expenses totalled £13,318, including £3,120 in donations to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches; to full-time Christian workers in North Africa; and to a like-minded church in North Leicester – North Church, Leicester.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £45,200 on unrestricted funds. There are no restricted funds in the period.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the church to maintain unrestricted reserves of at least three month's regular expenditure. This is considered sufficient to enable the charity to respond to any immediate and significant (or sustained) drop in income. At the year end, taking into account the increased expenditure from the new pastor's remuneration the reserves figure equated to £25,500.

Unrestricted funds as at 31 October 2021 totalled £106,034 which more than exceeded the Reserves Policy. This excess is partly explained by reduced expenditure due to curtailed activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. Church members also responded generously to the appeal to increase their giving to support the increased costs arising from the appointment of a full-time pastor. During the coming year the elders / trustees will give due consideration as to how best to use these surplus funds to advance the aims and purpose of the church.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointing church members is set out in the Church Handbook. The trustees/elders are appointed by the members of the church in accordance with the policies and procedures set out in the Handbook. Nominations for a new Elder/Trustees (or the re-appointment of an existing Elder/Trustee) are made by the body of Elders/Trustees. Nominations will be communicated to church members in writing, who will then be asked to vote on the appointment at a church members' meeting with at least one month's notice.

The elders meet once a fortnight, when at least three of the four elders are available. They are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the church, and these are presented to the church during the regular TMMs.

Administrative information

The correspondence address for the church is 41 The Point, Market Harborough, LE16 7QU.

Trustees of the charity as at 31 October 2021 are:

Stuart Allen (Chair)

Jonathan Prime (Secretary)

Adrian Reynolds

John Stevens

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature: 

Full Name: JONATHAN PRINCE

Date: 10.3.2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts and payments account					
Receipts					
Regular giving	73,613	-	-	73,613	53,653
One-off donations	17,050	-	-	17,050	0
Gift aid receipts	17,081			17,081	7,190
Bank Interest	7			7	16
Other Income	1,824			1,824	6,213
	109,575	-	-	109,575	67,072
Payments					
Employment costs	40,714	-	-	40,714	18,167
Church activities	23,661	-	-	23,661	26,832
	64,375	-	-	64,375	44,999
Excess of payments over receipts	45,200	-	-	45,200	22,073
Bank deposit accounts					
-					
1 November	60,834	-	-	60,834	38,761
Bank deposit accounts					
-					
31 October	106,034	-	-	106,034	60,834
Statement of Assets and Liabilities					
Cash funds					
General account	8,924	-	-	8,924	9,731
Deposit account	97,110	-	-	97,110	51,103
Other Monetary assets					
Income tax recoverable (2)	2,264	-	-	2,264	0

Notes to the accounts

1. The financial statements of CMH have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis
2. Although some Income tax recoverable through Gift Aid was claimed during the year, there was a further sum of £2,264 to claim.
3. Receipts and Payments analysis is set out below:

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
a. Receipts					
Donations	90,663	-	-	90,663	53,653
Gift aid receipts	17,081	-	-	17,081	7,190
b. Other receipts	1,824			1,824	6,213
Receipts from deposit account	7	-	-	7	16
c. Payments					
Employment related costs	40,714	-	-	40,714	18,167
Church activities					
Admin/Office	3,757	-	-	3,757	3,167
Publicity	376	-	-	376	1,261
Donations	3,120	-	-	3,120	5,670
Speakers	0	-	-	0	250
Premises hire	10,344	-	-	10,344	9,839
Catering	554	-	-	554	1,698
Resources & Literature	485			485	344
Equipment	4,264			4,264	1,400
Others	761	-	-	761	3,203
	64,375	-	-	64,375	44,999

Independent Examiners Report on the accounts

Report to the Trustees of Christchurch Market Harborough on the accounts for the year ended 31st October 2021

Charity Number 1140769

Responsibilities of Trustees

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Responsibility of Independent Examiner

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of statement

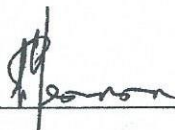
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or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

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

28-12-2021

Laurence Fearon

LEF Consulting, 107 Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, West Midlands B65 0BB