



The Church of Christ the Cornerstone

Creating an Oasis of Hope in Central Milton Keynes

Baptist Union, Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic & United Reformed Churches in partnership

300 Saxon Gate West
Milton Keynes MK9 2ES
Charity Number 1202248

Annual Reports and Accounts

For year ending 31 December 2024





Contents

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Introduction | 3 |
| Church Council Trustees | 3 |
| Ministerial Report..... | 4 |
| Church Statistics | 4 |
| Education and Discipleship | 5 |
| Church Music in Worship | 6 |
| Children and Young People..... | 7 |
| Pastoral Care for the Congregation: Pastoral Friends | 7 |
| Cornerstone 'Church at Home' | 8 |
| Eco Church | 8 |
| Social Justice..... | 8 |
| Pastoral Work..... | 9 |
| Cornerstone Baby and Toddlers Group | 10 |
| Cornerstone Music: Charity number 1188707..... | 10 |
| End of Year Accounts 2024..... | 11 |
| CORNERSTONE TRADING (MK) LIMITED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 | Error! Bookmark not defined. |

Introduction

Over the past year or so, the Church Council has spent much time and effort moving Christ the Cornerstone from our old legal basis into the new CIO – a charitable incorporated organisation – that complies with modern charity law. The CIO began operating on 1 May 2024 through a Church Council established under the new rules. It was heartening to note that the Episcopal Visitation Report of September 2024 firmly supports our ecumenical journey and encourages us to keep going forward!

The Council meets regularly and has discussed everything from helping the Children's Choir keep warm in the winter to a digital offering plate. Photographs of Council Members and Cornerstone Clergy are on the wall in the entrance and over the next two years or so, membership will change as one three-year term comes to an end and another begins. This group has come together well and we recognise that we need to move our communication up a gear. We especially appreciate the support we receive from members.

Anyone in the Congregation may raise anything with the Church Council; dates and times of meetings are available electronically and the weekly Notice Sheet gives dates a bit further in advance. Hard copies of agendas and approved minutes are available at the Reception Desk or on request to the Church Secretary.

How do you want to find out about the life of our church? If there is a new or better way we could do this, please let us know. The Council has planned a full day in early May to think together about the challenges and opportunities we face as Christians in the centre of this growing City. Please talk with a Council member to make your views known. Together we can shape a bright future for our church.

Cheryl Montgomery

Church Council Trustees

Revd Fr Francis Higgins – designated member of the Ministerial Team – *ex-officio*

Revd Ernesto Lozada-Uzuriaga – designated member of the Ministerial Team – *ex-officio* (resigned)

Revd George Mwaura – Designated Member of the Ministerial Team – *ex-officio*

Philip Allsop – elected

Ade Amos – nominated

Peter Cope – Treasurer – elected

Cathy Hampton – elected

Grace Hunting – elected

Pat Kyd – Church Secretary – elected

Tabbie Macharia – nominated

Cheryl Montgomery – Chair – elected

Peter Steeds – elected

Ministerial Report

As I reflect on this past year in our ministry together, I am reminded of the words from Ecclesiastes: 'For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.' Indeed, this year has brought us both significant challenges and promising signs of renewal.

The cost-of-living crisis has touched many in our Congregation, particularly affecting our elderly members who live on fixed incomes. We've also seen a decrease in regular attendance among our senior members, partly due to ongoing health concerns. Global events have cast long shadows over our community, too. Several of our families have been affected by international conflicts leading to some difficult pastoral conversations and increased need for our prayer and support ministries. Our Congregation has responded with characteristic compassion, though we recognise there is more we could do to support those in need.

Yet, amidst these challenges, God's faithfulness has been evident in remarkable ways. We've witnessed encouraging numerical growth into our fellowship this year. Most heartening has been the significant increase in young families and children participating in our Sunday School.

The bishop's visitation team has provided valuable insights into our ministry, particularly regarding opportunities for ecumenical collaboration. Their review has highlighted the potential for closer cooperation with our Catholic brothers and sisters. As we look toward the coming year, I am excited about the possibilities this presents for growing discipleship in Milton Keynes.

Looking ahead, we face both opportunities and challenges. Our growing youth membership needs nurturing, our elderly members need continued support, and our interfaith relationships need careful cultivation. Yet, I remain confident that through God's grace and our Congregation's faithful service, we will continue to grow as disciples and witnesses to Christ's love in Milton Keynes. I want to express my deepest gratitude to all CIO trustees and volunteers who have worked tirelessly throughout this challenging year. Your dedication and faith continue to inspire and encourage me in our shared ministry.

Rev'd George Mwaura

Church Statistics

The table shows the average attendance figures at services from 1 May 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Live streaming

The 10.00 am Sunday morning services were live-streamed and on average 25 people watched live with each attracting an average of 55 views. Choral evening services were also live-streamed and although each service is only watched live by 5 viewers the videos attract, on average, 35 views. Some of our services can attract large audiences, e.g. our Easter Sunday Holy Communion attracted 130 views.

Other special services, funerals, weddings, etc. may be live-streamed.

| Average attendance 1 May – 31 December 2024 | | | | 2023 average attendance |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Service: | Under 16s average attendance | 16 and over average attendance | Total average attendance | |
| Sunday 10.00 am (weekly) | 13 | 86 | 99 | 98 |
| Sunday 6.00 pm Evensong (approx. monthly) | 0 | 31 | 31 | 34 |
| Saturday 5.30 Vigil Mass (weekly) | (age not recorded) | | 155 | 134 |
| Monday 12.30 Mass (weekly) | (age not recorded) | | 47 | 34 |

The 6.00 pm Sunday evening fellowship, held via Zoom, has a regular attendance of about twelve.

Membership December 2024

| | 2024 membership | 2023 membership |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Anglican | 54 | 52 |
| Baptist | 4 | 5 |
| Ecumenical | 8 | 10 |
| Methodist | 25 | 25 |
| Roman Catholic | 10 | 10 |
| URC / Church of Scotland | 8 | 9 |
| Other | 7 | 4 |
| Total membership | 116 | 116 |
| Supporters | 9 | 9 |
| Total | 125 | 124 |

Special services

| | 2023 | 2024 |
|---------------|------|------|
| Baptisms | 3 | 6 |
| Confirmations | 1 | 8 |
| Weddings | 2 | 3 |
| Funerals | 0 | 8 |

Education and Discipleship

About twenty-five people regularly participate in weekly and/or seasonal Bible Study on Zoom and in person. Although we have not yet re-formed the Education Group, we continue on our path of developing personal discipleship in Advent and focusing on the role of faith in approaching social issues during Lent.

The weekly Bible study via Zoom, led by Revd George Mwaura, recently completed an eleven-week study of Revelation, which everyone found challenging and uplifting. Thanks go to group leaders Rosemary Kearsey, Stuart Kean and Revd George for their continuing efforts. During Lent, some members of the Wednesday Group will be leading sessions with a view to expanding the number of regular group leaders. Our study materials are drawn from a wide range of sources, usually chosen by consensus amongst the leaders. New members to Bible study are very welcome and we would welcome more people into the task of seeking out suitable study material.

Preparing longer-term to meet the education needs of the Congregation as a whole is recognised by the Church Council as an important way to bind us together as described in the Oasis of Hope strategy. Over the course of the next year or so we aim to hear from the Congregation about what they feel their needs are – topics and methods for learning are all open for discussion. Widening understanding of our mission in central Milton Keynes and making sure everyone can participate in it is a priority for Cornerstone.

Cheryl Montgomery

Church Music in Worship

During the past year we have been pleased to welcome Nicki Reynolds and Ruth Taylor to Cornerstone Choir as regular sopranos, and Peter Lindsay and Olu Wapelumi as regular basses. Alto Emma Chapman and tenor Rich sang with us during their gap year, and continue to join us when they are home from university.

New music tackled during the year ranged from Gibbons, through Beethoven, Stanford and Todd, to arrangements of Leonard Cohen and U2! On Good Friday we sang Stanford's Stabat Mater, marking the exact Centenary of the composer's death.

In June we provided special music for Mayor Marie Bradburn at her Civic Service. Just three months later we delivered the music for the funeral of her husband, Councillor Robin. In December we sang a special concert for her chosen charity, Sieve MK Gateway.

During the year we provided music for the funerals/memorials of much-loved Cornerstone figures: Professor David Murray, Peter Keens, Jenny Donaldson, Joan Ranson and Celia Collard.

We collaborated with George Mwaura, Nicola Vidamour, Barry Lotz and Chibuzor Okpala in some beautiful evening choral services through the year, and sang for Revd Chi's Induction at St James New Bradwell in September.

We had a wonderful weekend singing the services in Gloucester Cathedral in August, skilfully accompanied by my recent student Michael Chamberlain, currently Organ Scholar at St Andrews University.

Our Young Voices Choir had a successful year, singing twice each term on Sunday morning and at Saturday Mass, as well as special appearances at St Peter's Gayhurst, Freeman Memorial Church Bletchley, Highclere Nursing Home Downs Barn and Salvation Army Carols and Toys. We were fortunate to have good blend of younger and more mature voices. Performances of 'Joseph and the Dreamcoat' (splendid coat made by Cheryl!) were a highlight.

Thanks to Ernesto and George for their collaboration during the year, Woody for practical help, Cheryl for occasional piano assistance, Adrian Yardley and Peter Lindsay for librarianship and other duties, Christine Thompson for her regular help with Young Voices, and Jill for her dedicated administrative support.

Adrian Boynton

Children and Young People

It has been another exciting year for Cornerstone children and young people. We have welcomed some fresh faces in both groups, and unfortunately there is also a group of children who are no longer coming to church. The new groups of children are from families who have moved into Milton Keynes from other parts of England or from Africa.

The children who come to church on Sunday are between the age of three and seventeen years. Five volunteers currently manage the group: Ruth, Christine, Tabbie, Nora, and Ruth. We also get a lot of support from the stewards, who help with the setting up of the room and providing back-up support where needed. The children are divided into two groups based on their abilities and age.

One group is for those under eight years, and the other one is for children aged between eight and seventeen years. There is no creche for the little ones. When we have some young children, they tend to join the younger group if possible, or stay in the main church with their parents. Ruth usually teaches the younger children while Tabbie, Christine and Nora take on the older children. Nerys offers the overall support especially when we have occasional activities throughout the year. Nerys is also always available to provide the back-up support or step in when needed.

Tabbie Macharia

Pastoral Care for the Congregation: Pastoral Friends

The Pastoral Friends scheme developed from discussions in the Pastoral Committee, particularly involving Stuart Kean, Rosemary Kearsey and Revd George. The scheme was approved by the Congregational Meeting on 21 July 2024, and at Holy Communion on Sunday, 29 September 2024 our team of Pastoral Friends were presented to the congregation, and to enable people to put names to faces. Cornerstone has ten Pastoral Friends – Ade Amos, Ratna Balakrishnan, Mubina Chakera, Rosemary Goldie, Maggie Kean, Pat Kyd, Kuda Matare, Blessing Onwunali, Carl Pinnock and Barbara Smith – who each care for about ten members of the Congregation.

Pastoral Friends is a way of keeping in touch with church members in a very light-touch way about once a month with, for example, a chat, a phone call. It is gentle, friendly and confidential. Keeping in touch is especially important if members are absent unexpectedly from church, perhaps through illness. If a church member needs particular help, their Pastoral Friend will refer them, with their permission, to either Revd George or Revd Ernesto. The scheme is optional and, while a few church members decided not to be part of the scheme, Pastoral Friends have found a welcome response when contacting their assigned church members.

If you are not currently a member of this scheme, perhaps a church attender who has not yet joined church membership, and would like a Pastoral Friend, please contact Pat (pat_kyd@yahoo.co.uk) or Revd George.

Pat Kyd, Chair of Pastoral Committee

Cornerstone ‘Church at Home’

We continued to hold our Sunday Evening Together meetings, via Zoom, on a regular basis throughout 2024. Janet and I returned to leading the meetings at the beginning of 2024 after a few months break. Our usual format includes hymns, worship songs, readings, prayers and a short reflection. We aim to provide fellowship and prayerful support for one another. We are grateful to those who help in leading some of the meetings, including Rosemary Kearsey, Marian Bradley, Robin Kyd, as well as Revd George and Revd Ernesto.

There is a core group of twelve who attend our meetings with the occasional visitor. We aim to provide a meeting for those who find attending services in Church difficult for whatever reason. Anyone is welcome to join if you are free at 6.00 pm on a Sunday evening. Similarly, anyone who would like to offer to lead a session is also welcome to get in touch. We meet every Sunday, apart from when there is a Choral Evening Service. On those Sundays we often have a Sunday Afternoon Chat from 5.00 pm to keep in touch with everyone.

An achievement during 2024 has been actually keeping the meetings going and our desire is to keep the group together during 2025.

Ian & Janet Trimnell

Eco Church

Having received a Bronze Award in Eco Church award scheme towards the end of 2023, in 2024 we have seen progress towards achieving silver status. One of the major achievements was the installation of a ‘touch-activated automatic double-door system’, as recommended in Cornerstone’s Energy Audit, to reduce heat loss and reduce our carbon footprint by 1.83 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year.

We celebrated creation in a variety of ways, through organising special services, a Lent Study on ‘Calling a Wounded Earth Home’, a church picnic, a prayer vigil for World Environment Day, and a concert performance of Haydn’s The Seasons. A series of short talks was also organised during the Church Notices, on topics ranging from ‘Reducing energy use’, Fairtrade, and ‘Recycling’, to car sharing.

We were also pleased to have been given permission by Milton Keynes City Council to manage the two gardens to the North and South at the front of the church. The Church supported local and national level advocacy about environmental and climate-change issues, including hosting three meetings of the MK Climate Action Network to engage with local councillors on plans for the development of Milton Keynes.

Looking ahead to 2025, Cornerstone will review its progress using the new Eco Church survey, produce an Environmental Policy and Net Zero Plan, and continue to engage with civil society groups and civic leaders as it strives to achieve Silver Award status.

Stuart Kean

Social Justice

Members of Cornerstone Social Justice Group: David Chapman (chair), Mubina Chakera, Joy Chapman, Margaret Goodall, Cathy Hampton, Stuart Kean, Fidele Mutwarasibo, Rick Mutwarasibo, Osazeme Osaghae and Helen Timlin.

The Social Justice Group (SJG) seeks to help Cornerstone serve God by taking action for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.

We started 2024 with a workshop that brought together (in the Guildhall) 35 people from across the city who are committed to making Milton Keynes 'Not just a city, but a Just City'. With a keynote presentation by Chris Shannahan of the *Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations* at Coventry University, we explored issues of Social Justice in many areas of the civic life of Milton Keynes. Later in the year we examined the *MK City Plan 2050*, with an eye for social justice, and responded to the Council's consultation on the plan with a set of Just City proposals. Maintaining Cornerstone as a Fairtrade church remains a very high priority for the Group because the exploitation of workers in poorer and less-powerful communities across the world is one of the biggest sources of international injustice. Since Traidcraft went into administration in 2023 we have worked hard to source Fairtrade produce and products from a number of alternative suppliers, and as well as selling them at the Church shop have taken stalls to events across the city, including a Climate Café, an Eco Church event and the Stony Stratford Christmas fair. The ongoing slaughter of tens of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza throughout the year has been a stain on humanity in 2024, and we liaised with the multifaith grass-roots Communities for Peace and Justice Group to call for a ceasefire. Then, as part of Christian Aid's campaign for a Just Peace in the Middle East, we held a screening at Cornerstone in November of the film 'The Tinderbox', which explores the origins of the conflict in Israel and Palestine.

Looking ahead, Fairtrade remains a priority; campaigning for peace and justice in Milton Keynes and across the world remains vital. Helen Timlin has been appointed secretary of the group, and new members would be very welcome.

David Chapman

Pastoral Work

During the past year, the Pastoral Workers have tried to maintain an outward facing presence in our church during the week. Although there are fewer of us who are trained as Pastoral Workers, we are ably supported by our Reception Volunteers, who staff the desk, answer the phone and offer a welcome to the many people who use our building day by day. The Pastoral Workers' role is to be available to anyone who comes seeking help or advice. Although we may not always have an answer to their needs, we have time to listen to people's concerns and to offer to pray with them when this is appropriate, and this is welcomed. As these requests may be made to anyone on the Reception Desk even when a Pastoral Worker or minister is not available, we have opened our monthly Support Group to our Receptionists too. The Support Group is facilitated by an external, professionally trained counsellor. Those who choose to attend have found the support very valuable. We are grateful that the Church continues to fund this essential support.

If you are free for a few hours each week and could consider joining the team, please get in touch with Rosemary Kearsey, Pat Kyd or any of the others who already carry out this important role. They will be glad to provide you with more information.

Rosemary Kearsey

Cornerstone Baby and Toddlers Group

We are delighted that Cornerstone Toddlers is part of our church life once again, reaching out into the city on Monday mornings.

The previous group had closed down as a result of the Covid restrictions and it seemed a pity that such a long-standing benefit to the wider community might be permanently lost. Fortunately, Joy Chapman and Sandra Prado, who had been part of the previous team, were prepared to help me get the group back up and running again. After a lot of hard work sorting, cleaning and rehousing the resources, we re-opened our doors in September 2023.

During the last few years, provision for young children has changed substantially, and the group now caters for a much younger age range than previously. After a slow start to re-establish the group, we are now a welcoming community of mums, dads, grandparents and their children. Since September we have had thirty-eight families attending and the success of the group is spreading by word of mouth as well as on social media. Everyone loves the super space that the Guildhall provides and we are grateful to the Trading Company for its support.

We have regular visits from the Baby and Toddler Development Worker at the Early Years Alliance, and the children have enjoyed her sensory stories and song sessions. We are also pleased that the group is able to offer opportunities for other volunteers. Currently these include an asylum seeker as well as a volunteer through the YMCA partnership.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and would particularly like to thank David for setting up the hall, Chibby for making the teas, Peter for keeping the accounts and Woody and Simon for all their support.

Nerys Steeds

Cornerstone Music: Charity number 1188707

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2024 Cornerstone Chamber Choir, Orchestra and Soloists collaborated with Churches Together in Milton Keynes to deliver a very successful performance of Handel's 'Messiah', raising £1000 each for MK Money Lifeline and the Ukraine Appeal. Eight months later, to mark the Season of Creationtide, the same forces performed Haydn's colourful and life-affirming masterpiece 'The Seasons'. Audience was smaller in number than for Messiah, but hugely appreciative.

Chamber recitals during the year included Alexander Ardakov (piano solo), Claudia Gallardo with Prajna Indrawati (violin and piano duo), Prajna Indrawati with Gerry Tsui (two piano recital) [requiring hire of a second piano!], and the return of two favourites to Cornerstone in recital with me, John Macdomnic (trumpet) and Emily Haig (soprano). A lovely Christmas recital was given by New English Singers with guest piano soloist John Fisher and outstanding young violinist Sean Lau. Sean featured alongside talented young pianist Yiding Wang in a lovely Christmas Concert given by our Church Choir for the Mayor's chosen charity, Sieve MK Gateway.

Our ongoing series of talks illustrated with CD recordings explored the relationship between Music and Dance, and the History of British Music.

I am deeply grateful to David Chapman, Adrian Yardley, Martin Ferns, Jon Rosewell, Tim Norwood, Ann Harris, Cathy Hampton and Margaret Goodall for all their hard work during the year. Special thanks to Jill for her continuing care and support.

Adrian Boynton

Christ the Cornerstone Ecumenical Partnership

Charity Number 1202248

End of Year Accounts 2024

Christ the Cornerstone Ecumenical Partnership (CCEP) became operational on 1 May 2024. The following accounts / financial statements are for the eight-month period 1 May – 31 December 2024.

The previous charity (*The Ecumenical Partnership of Christ the Cornerstone – charity number 1122083*) transferred its responsibilities and assets to CCEP on 1 May 2024. This previous charity has now closed.

CCEP is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Bank accounts

CCEP opened a new business bank account with Unity Trust Bank ready for 1 May 2024. Most day-to-day financial transactions are processed through this account.

CCEP also opened a new Metro Bank Community Savings Account to receive some on-line donations. Money is transferred from this account to the Unity Trust account when it is needed.

The previous charity had a business bank account with NatWest. On 1 May 2024 there was a balance of £2176 in this account. Ownership of this money transferred to CCEP on that date. This account was closed on 8 August 2024 once all bankers' orders etc. had been changed. The closing balance of £1650 was transferred to the Unity Trust account.

The previous charity had a Community Savings Account with Metro Bank. This account had a balance of £505 on 1 May 2024. This account was closed on 30 August 2024 and the closing balance of £2206 transferred to CCEP.

Cornerstone Christmas Appeal Bank Accounts

In August 2024, CCEP opened a new Metro Bank Community Savings Account called 'Cornerstone Christmas Appeal'. All donations for the 2024 Christmas Appeal have been paid into this account. The summary accounts for the 2024 Christmas Appeal are shown later in this document.

The previous charity also had a Metro Bank Community Savings Account for the Christmas Appeal. (CCEP were not able to continue with this account as our charity commission registration number is different from that of the previous charity.) On 1 May 2024 this account had a zero balance for the appeal as all 2023 appeal moneys had been paid out to charities. The account did, however, have a balance of £864 on that date. This money belongs to Cornerstone Toddlers and was transferred to a restricted fund in the Unity Trust account when this Metro account was closed on 30 August 2024. It had earned a little interest since 1 May 2024 and so was worth £871 on transfer. Separate accounts for Cornerstone Toddlers for the whole of 2024 are presented later in this document.

Investment Accounts

The previous charity owned two investment accounts administered by the Church of England Community Benevolent Fund (CBF):

| | |
|---|---------|
| CBF Property Fund – value at 1 May 2024 | £37,348 |
| CBF Investment Fund – value at 1 May 2024 | £54,537 |
| Total value at 1 May 2024 | £91,885 |

Ownership of these investment accounts has been transferred to CCEP. They have increased in value by £3811 by the year end.

Notes to accounts

- 1 CCEP's year-end accounts for 2023 showed an income of £0 and expenditure of £0 as it was not yet operational. That is why the 'Last Year' column in this year's return is left as zero.
- 2 The accounts this year are presented in a 'Receipts and Payments' format following Charity Commission guidance notes reflecting their requirements for accounting periods ending on or after 1 April 2009, subsequently amended for charitable incorporated organisations. They are appropriate for a CIO with annual income less than £250,000. (Our CIO constitution document does not specify a particular format for the presentation of annual accounts.)
- 3 The Charity Commission have provided a pro-forma account form (Form CCI6a). This form, properly completed, meets statutory requirements and has been used to present our accounts this year end.
- 4 This form shows our receipts and payments for the eight months of 2024 that CCEP has been operational. Explanatory notes have been added to the end of the form to give more information about certain figures.
- 5 Money received and payments made since 1 May 2024 on behalf of the previous charity is shown on the form but subtracted from the final totals for CCEP. These amounts were already included in the previous charity's closing accounts.
- 6 'Unrestricted funds' are generally funds available for general objectives of the charity.
- 7 'Restricted funds' can only be used for the purposes for which they have been given, within the objectives of the charity.
- 8 In these accounts, 'receipts' are noted when they have been received and 'payments' are noted when paid. (There are, however, some adjustments made for year ends, where transactions can take some time to appear on bank statements.)
- 9 CCEP is not VAT registered so VAT cannot be reclaimed.
- 10 Fixed assets – Note 7 at the end of form CCI6a gives information about our assets including musical instruments. Depreciation is provided on assets at the following fixed rates, calculated to write off the cost evenly over the expected life:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Computers and software | 3 years |
| Furniture, fixtures and fittings | 5 years |
| Musical instruments | 20 years |

Summary of financial position – year end 2024

| <i>1.5.24 to 31 12.24</i> | Unrestricted funds | Restricted Funds | Total funds |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Receipts (income) | £91,417 | £30,145* | £121,562 |
| Payments (expenditure) | £93,361 | £6,290 | £99,651 |
| Surplus/deficit | -£1,944 | £23,855 | £21,911 |
| Bank balances, etc. at 1.5.24 transferred | £2880 | | £2880 |
| Balance at 31.12.24 | £936 | £23,855 | £24,791 |
| Investment funds held – value at 31.12.24 | | | |
| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total investment |
| | £75,201 | £20,495 | £95,696 |

**Includes a restricted fund legacy of £20,000 plus £5000 gift-aid claimed on it.*

CCEP has no unpaid invoices or outstanding debts as at 31 December 2024.

Important Information to Note

The financial statements in this report show that we have been able to balance the books this year – but only just.

However, it is extremely important to note that:

- We paid just less than 50% of the Parish Share suggested by the Anglican Diocese. (We have not been able to pay the full amount for several years.)*
- The URC have given us a 25% discount on the costs of our URC Minister.*

If we had had to pay the full costs of these, we would have used up nearly all our reserves held in our investment accounts.

The recent Bishop of Oxford's Visitation has suggested some structural changes, which may help future finances. However, in the meantime, we are planning a stewardship campaign to encourage more people to join our planned giving schemes. We also need to work on our fundraising.

Cornerstone Toddlers Accounts for the period 1 January – 31 December 2024

Statement of Receipts and Payments

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Receipts (income) | |
| Subscriptions | 297.40 |
| Bank interest | 8.00 |
| Total | 305.40 |
| | |
| Payments (expenditure) | |
| Toys and equipment | 250.09 |
| Refreshments and sundries | 35.25 |
| Craft supplies | 25.79 |
| | |
| Total | 311.13 |
| | |
| Surplus (deficit) for the year | (5.73) |

Statement of Funds

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Cash at bank at start | 863.73 |
| Cash in hand at start | 91.38 |
| Surplus / deficit for year | (5.73) |
| Reserves at end of year | 949.38 |
| | |
| Represented by: | |
| Cash at bank at year end | 763.61 |
| Cash in hand at year end | 185.77 |
| Total | 949.38 |

Please note that Cornerstone Toddlers keep their own accounts. As of 31 December 2024 they have a reserve of £764 held in a restricted fund in CCEP's Unity Trust account.

Cornerstone Christmas Appeal 2024

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Donations: | | |
| Donations received | 3486 | 4473 |
| Gift -aid recovered from HMRC | 720 | 874 |
| | | |
| Total | 4206 | 5347 |
| | | |
| Distribution to nominated charities: | | |
| Advantage Africa | 1500 | 2500 |
| MK:Act | 1000 | 1487 |
| Tools for self-reliance | 850 | |
| Urban Farm (Christian Foundation) | 850 | |
| MK Money Lifeline | | 1000 |
| Toilet Twinning | | 360 |
| (balance left in appeal bank account) | 6 | |
| Total | 4206 | 5347 |

The 2024 Christmas Appeal received donations in December 2024 and January 2025. All donations were paid into the dedicated 'Cornerstone Christmas Appeal' account at Metro Bank.

The 'Cornerstone Christmas Appeal' is accounted for separately from the rest of CCEP funds.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Christ the Cornerstone Ecumenical Partnership

On accounts for the period ended

31st December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1202248

Set out on pages

1-3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the eight months ended 31 / 12 / 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

26 / 02 / 2025

Name:

C G Linford

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

MCICM

Charity Name

Christ the Cornerstone Ecumenical Partnership

No (if any)

1202248

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16
a

| For the period from | Period start date | To | Period end date |
|---------------------|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| | 1st May 2024 | | 31st December 2024 |

Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Last year (The Charity was not operational last year) |
|--|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ |
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| Planned giving | 55,368 | - | - | 55,368 | - |
| Other donations (note 1) | 8,605 | - | - | 8,605 | - |
| Fundraising | 1,193 | - | - | 1,193 | - |
| Legacies | - | 20,000 | - | 20,000 | - |
| Grants and parochial fees (note 2) | 1,940 | - | - | 1,940 | - |
| Tax recovered (gift-aid) | 15,504 | 5,000 | - | 20,504 | - |
| Fees for weddings, funerals/ contra | | 3,612 | | 3,612 | - |
| Reclaimed expenses (URC) (note 4) | 1,262 | | | 1,262 | - |
| Short term loan to open Unity Trust acc | 8,000 | | | 8,000 | |
| Restricted funds (note 8) | | 1,533 | | 1,533 | |
| income owed to previous charity | - 455 | | - | - 455 | - |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 91,417 | 30,145 | - | 121,562 | - |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 91,417 | 30,145 | - | 121,562 | - |

A3 Payments

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Ministry (note 3) | 48,468 | - | - | 48,468 | - |
| Premises (service charges) | 23,107 | - | - | 23,107 | - |
| Music | 6,564 | - | - | 6,564 | - |
| Administration | 4,568 | - | - | 4,568 | - |
| Outreach (note 5) | 630 | - | - | 630 | - |
| Bank charges | 261 | - | - | 261 | - |
| Restricted funds (note 8) | - | 2,518 | - | 2,518 | - |
| Fees for weddings, funerals, contra | - | 3,612 | - | 3,612 | - |
| Repayment of short term loan | 8,000 | | | 8,000 | |
| Outstanding expenditure incurred by previous charity | 1,763 | 160 | - | 1,923 | - |
| Sub total | 93,361 | 6,290 | - | 99,651 | - |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |

Total payments

| | | | | |
|--------|-------|---|--------|---|
| 93,361 | 6,290 | - | 99,651 | - |
|--------|-------|---|--------|---|

Net of receipts/(payments)

| | | | | |
|---------|--------|---|--------|---|
| - 1,944 | 23,855 | - | 21,911 | - |
|---------|--------|---|--------|---|

A5 Transfers between funds

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | - | - | - | - |
|---|---|---|---|---|

A6 Cash funds last year end

| | | | | |
|-------|--|---|-------|---|
| 2,880 | | - | 2,880 | - |
|-------|--|---|-------|---|

Cash funds this year end

| | | | | |
|-----|--------|---|--------|---|
| 936 | 23,855 | - | 24,791 | - |
|-----|--------|---|--------|---|

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

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restrict ed funds to nearest £ | Endow ment funds to nearest £ |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| B1 Cash funds | Unity Trust account balance 31.12.24 | 1,764 | 3,324 | |
| | Metro account balance 31.12.24 | - | 20,531 | - |
| | CCLA deposit account balance 31.12.24 | 2 | | |
| | 2024 income not paid in till Jan 2025 | 1,581 | | |
| | 2024 expenditure not paid out till Jan 2025 | - 2,661 | | |
| | Petty cash held | 250 | - | - |
| | | Total cash funds | 936 | 23,855 |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK | OK |
| | | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restrict ed funds to nearest £ | Endow ment funds to nearest £ |
| B2 Other monetary assets | Details | | | |
| | 4th quarter gift aid claim (tax reclaim) | 2,222 | - | - |
| B3 Investment assets (note 6) | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
| | C of E CBF Property fund (with CCLA) | Restricted and unrestricted | - | 39,230 |
| | C of E CBF Investment fund (with CCLA) | Unrestricted | - | 56,466 |
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use (note 7) | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
| | Fixtures and fittings (after accumulated depreciation) | Unrestricted | - | 2,629 |
| | | | - | - |
| B5 Liabilities | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
| | None | | - | |
| Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees | Signature | Print Name | Date of approval | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Notes to Financial Statements

| | | | Unrestricted funds | Restrict ed funds | May - end Dec 24 |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Note 1 - Other donations | Loose cash collections at services | | 6273 | | 6273 |
| | Collection box at reception | | 1088 | | 1088 |
| | Other donations | | 1244 | | 1244 |
| | | total £ | 8605 | | 8605 |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Note 2 - Grants | Baptist Union Grant towards Ministry | 1440 | 1440 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------|--|--------------|
| Note 3 - Ministry Expenditure | <i>Contribution to Parent Churches:</i> | | | | |
| | | Anglican | 16672 | | 16672 |
| | | Baptist | 0 | | 0 |
| | (Incl Safeguarding) | Methodist | 4450 | | 4450 |
| | | URC | 18050 | | 18050 |
| | | Churches Together MK | 1006 | | 1006 |
| | Total to Parent Churches | | 40178 | | 40178 |
| | | Clergy expenses | 2940 | | 2940 |
| | | Manse expenses | 4482 | | 4482 |
| | | Upkeep of services | 868 | | 868 |
| | Total Ministry expenses | | 48468 | | 48468 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Note 4 - Reclaimed Expenses | Clergy and Manse expenses are included within 'Ministry' in section A3. In section A1 it shows that £1262 of these expenditures have been reimbursed by URC. The following table provides more detail: | | | |
| | Our URC Minister works 75% for Cornerstone and 25% for URC. URC therefore reimburse 25% of our manse costs (council tax and water bills) plus 25% of telephone bills and all travel costs related to URC work. | | | |
| | Amounts reimbursed | council tax | 516 | |
| | | water costs | 178 | |
| | | travel expenses | 460 | |
| | | telecoms | 108 | |
| | | total | 1,262 | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Note 5 - Outreach | Citizens UK | 400 |
| | Living Wage Found. | 82 |
| | Young People's trip | 138 |
| | Petty cash | 10 |
| | total | 630 |

Note 6 - Investment assets

| | | | Value 1.5.24 | Value 31.12.24 | Increase in value over 8 months |
|----------------------------|--|--|--------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| CBF Property Fund (CCLA) | | | 37348 | 39230 | 1882 |
| CBF Investment Fund (CCLA) | | | 54537 | 56466 | 1929 |
| | | | 91885 | 95696 | 3811 |

Included in these assets is £20495 of restricted fund. (see later note)

Note 7 - Assets for own use

The net book value of our musical instruments is £38199 minus depreciation of £38199 = £0

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|-------------|
| For fixtures and fittings | | cost | | | 50340 |
| | | previous accumulated depreciation | | | -46661 |
| | | depreciation charge this year | | | -1050 |
| | | current net book value | | | 2629 |

Note - Liabilities

There are no unpaid invoices or outstanding debts as at 31.12.24.

0

Note 8 - Restricted funds
Restricted funds summary

Includes Flower and Hardship Funds shown in A1 and A3

| Fund | balance 30.4.24 | income 1.5.24 to 31.12.24 | expenditure 1.5.24 to 31.12.24 | total in fund 31.12.24 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Flower fund | 2180 | 130 | -1171 | 1139 |
| Hardship fund* | 10461 | 532 | -1239 | 9754 |
| MMRE*** | 4338 | 0 | 0 | 4338 |
| Decarbonisation* *** | 1250 | 0 | 0 | 1250 |
| Live streaming | 2005 | 0 | 0 | 2005 |
| Small Corners' | 100 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Toddlers** | | 872 | -108 | 764 |
| Totals | 20334 | 1534 | -2518 | 19350 |
| Restricted fund legacy plus gift aid | | 25000 | 0 | 25000 |
| | | total restricted funds at 31.12.24 | | 44350 |

Where are these funds?

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Metro account | 20531 |
| Unity Trust acc. | 3324 |
| Investments acc | 20495 |
| | 44350 |

**Hardship fund figures include income / expenditure for refreshments after services.*

***Toddlers group had £872 in the old Metro account which was transferred to the Unity Trust account in 30.8.24*

****MMRE fund is for maintenance, repair, renewal and enhancement of assets.*

*****Decarbonisation fund is to assist in fulfilling commitments as an EcoChurch.*

Note - Staffing

The Ecumenical Partnership employs 2 part time staff - a Music Director and an Administrator. Their salaries are included in the 'Music' and 'Administrative' costs shown in A3.

Note - Properties

The Ecumenical Partnership does not own any property. The Diocese of Oxford provides housing for our Anglican Minister and is responsible for any repairs or maintenance plus Council Tax.

The URC provides housing for our URC Minister. Our Ecumenical Partnership is responsible for day to day repairs/ maintenance and Council Tax costs (Shown within 'Ministerial Costs' above.

COMPARISON OF 2023 AND 2024

The CIO (Christ the Cornerstone Ecumenical Partnership) became operational on 1st May 2024. The accounts shown in this document are therefore for the 8 months from 1st May to the year end (31.12.24).

The income and expenditure figures for 2023 are taken from the end of 2023 accounts of the 'Ecumenical Partnership of Christ the Cornerstone'. (The charity that closed once the current CIO became operational on 1st May 2024.)

To compare expenditure between the years, an estimate of 8 months income and expenditure for 2023 has been made in the table below. (Please note that as some expenditure is due quarterly, some estimates below may not be directly comparable)

| | 2023 whole year figures | 2023 whole year x 2/3 = estimate of 8 months figures | 2024 figures for 8 months (1.5.24 to 31.12.24) | difference (8 months 2023 with 8 months 2024) |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Income | | | | |
| planned giving | 73,542 | 49028 | 55367 | 6339 |
| cash at services | 8,435 | 5623 | 6273 | 650 |
| reception collection box | 2,248 | 1499 | 1088 | -411 |
| Easy fundraising | 286 | 191 | 55 | -136 |
| other donations | 2,731 | 1820 | 1244 | -576 |
| fundraising | 1,646 | 1097 | 1138 | 41 |
| parochial fees | 127 | 85 | 500 | 415 |
| gift-aid | 21,347 | 14231 | 15504 | 1273 |
| Baptist Mission Grant | 1,500 | 1000 | 1440 | 440 |
| Restricted - hardship, flower, toddlers | 1,706 | 1137 | 1534 | 397 |
| legacy plus gift aid | - | | 25000 | 25000 |
| reclaimed expenses | 2,164 | 1442 | 1262 | -180 |
| contra | 6,606 | 4404 | 3612 | -792 |
| less income belonging to previous charity | | | -455 | |
| short term loans to open new accounts | | | 8000 | |
| total income | 122,338 | 81557 | 121562 | |
| | | | | |

| Expenditure | | | | |
|--|---------|-------|--------------|------|
| Anglican | 25,473 | 16982 | 16672 | -310 |
| Methodist (inc. Safeguarding charge) | 3,866 | 2591 | 4450 | 1859 |
| URC | 23,527 | 15684 | 18050 | 2366 |
| Churches Together MK | 678 | 452 | 1006 | 554 |
| clergy expenses | 3,744 | 2496 | 2940 | 444 |
| manse | 3,670 | 2447 | 4482 | 2035 |
| upkeep of services | 1,427 | 951 | 868 | -83 |
| premises service charge | 35,254 | 23503 | 23107 | -396 |
| music | 8,972 | 5981 | 6564 | 583 |
| administration | 6,679 | 4453 | 4568 | 115 |
| bank charges | 276 | 184 | 261 | 77 |
| outreach | 601 | 400 | 630 | 230 |
| restricted - hardship, flower, toddlers | 4,209 | 2806 | 2518 | -288 |
| contra | 6,606 | 4404 | 3612 | -792 |
| repayment of short term loans | | | 8000 | |
| expenditure incurred by previous charity | | | 1923 | |
| total expenditure | 124,982 | 83334 | 99651 | |

Note - Cornerstone Christmas Appeal

All income for the Cornerstone Christmas Appeal has been paid into a separate Metro Bank account named 'Cornerstone Christmas Appeal'. There has been no expenditure from the appeal since May 1st 2024.

The Christmas Appeal 2024 accounts will therefore be presented separately and are not included within the figures in this document.

The Church of Christ the Cornerstone

300 Saxon Gate West, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2ES

Tel: **01908 237777**

Charity Number 1202248

Email: admin@cornerstonemk.co.uk

Website: www.cornerstonemk.co.uk