

THE PEOPLES HALL

England & Wales · Charity number 241032

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1965-04-20

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Turnpike Cottage
Oldbury Road
Bridgnorth
WV16 5DY

Phone 01746764459

Website www.peoples-hall.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE HALL TO BE USED FOR PROMOTING THE SPIRITUAL MORAL OR SOCIAL WELFARE AND BENEFIT GENERALLY OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE LOW TOWN OF BRIDGNORTH. (FOR FULLER DETAILS SEE INDENTURE 21ST SEPTEMBER 1908).

Activities: The Peoples Hall is a local Evangelical Church affiliated to the F.I.E.C and EFCC for promoting the spiritual or social welfare and benefit generally of the people living in Low Town of Bridgnorth. The church has regular Sunday services and mid-week meetings open to all. The Church at time supports Christian Missionaries overseas.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BRIDGNORTH.
- Greece
- India
- The Bahamas
- Shropshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£57,883	£46,666	-	-
2024-12-31	£61,245	£72,445	-	-
2023-12-31	£39,480	£46,982	-	-
2022-12-31	£40,287	£39,298	-	-
2021-12-31	£35,017	£35,463	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PAUL WANKLIN		
Stephen Tull		2015-12-01

THE PEOPLE'S HALL

England & Wales - Charity number 241032

Accounts

People's Hall Evangelical
Church
Bridgnorth

Annual Reports
For
2025

Annual Meeting
Wednesday 25th March 2026

2025 Ministers Report for AGM, 2026

Look up.

It is very easy to look for our blessings here on earth. I think this is more so in the affluent West. At times Reformed and Evangelical preachers can almost sound as if they are advocating some of the Health Wealth and Prosperity gospel. All too easily it can be said (and I have heard it said) 'if you give generously to the Lord now, he will prosper you.' The Lord often prospers generous believers, and this can be seen in men like George Muller throughout church history. However, would that teaching work for Christians in Iran or other countries where martyrdom is a real possibility? Truth and true theology work in all situations and not only in some countries – for the truth will be seen to be true wherever the gospel is preached. To give to the church under the principle of earthly blessing can lead people to fix their eyes on the wrong blessings. We must not confuse the Lord giving many believers prosperity upon earth with a *quid pro quo* type of Christianity.

We should be looking upwards and not downwards – to our reward in heaven and not on earth. The Lord is a gracious Lord and often does give great blessings upon earth. However, consider Abraham – he did see blessings upon earth, but his life was far from one of ease. The Lord took him away from his home country and family, Gen 12:1; when he got to the Promised Land he was driven away by famine, Gen 12:10; Abraham virtually prostitutes his wife in trying to save his life, Gen 12:11ff (here his faith wavered and he sinned); he then wanders around for years and has to separate from his Nephew, Gen 13:5-9ff; He has to rescue his Nephew, Gen 14:14-16; he is childless in old age, Gen 15:2 (a difficult time of waiting for him); he begets trouble for himself in Ishmael, Gen 16:2; he has domestic strife, Gen 16:5; in continuing his travels he again is deceptive regarding his wife, Gen 20:1ff; after Isaac is born he is compelled to drive out his firstborn, Gen 21:9ff; he has to strive over a well, Gen 21:25-31; he is told to sacrifice Isaac, Gen 22:1 (although this is a test and Isaac is spared); and he does not possess the promised land but his descendants did. Some of Abraham's difficulties were caused by his own sin (i.e., calling his wife his sister), some by the sins of others (i.e. Lot's wanderings) and some by the providence of God (i.e., famine).

It is all too common to smooth over the difficulties of Abraham's life and romanticise it. The simple truth is that he had a very demanding and hard life on earth. It is encouraging to think on the end product, but we must be careful not to gloss over the hard path that many a believer has to tread. Hard, but not impossible, because the Lord will keep His people, Hebrews 13:5. If you would like to see how low a believer can feel then read Psalm 88. When the next time you feel low and a fellow believer tells you that as a Christian you are not allowed to, then show them Psalm 88. Of course we are not to stay in that state, there are plenty of Psalms to lift us up, but believers are not to pretend that there are no hard times (Job 1:21-22)! At such times look up – remember heaven.

Why was Abraham not overwhelmed? Because he looked up – beyond the troubles on earth to heavenly riches. "For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:10. Abraham had something greater in mind than an earthly promised land which is a picture of the real Promised Land! As real picture as the land and its capture etc was real. I am not arguing that Abraham was not blessed upon earth but that through all the strife and difficulties his eyes were fixed on something even higher. Abraham did not

stagger back from the promise of God as impossible (Romans 4:21-21) but he had faith in the Lord – that the Lord will complete what He started. Abraham did not see the fulfilment of the earthly promise as that was left to his descendants. By faith he looked to not only the earthly fulfilment but beyond that to the heavenly fulfilment.

Therefore, let us follow Abraham's example. Look up to that which is greater. We may strive and have a very hard life on earth as believers, many do, but we can look up and remember our reward. If your life is blessed with a measure of ease, then thank the Lord and use that ease for His glory and keep in mind that your earthly reward is but a small taste of the wonders of Glory! Believer, every which way, Look Up!

Over the last year we have had a number of blessings as well as challenges. And through it all the Lord has been with us and has kept us. The membership has remained stable, what we could term the ordinary work of the church has continued through the various meetings and events – which are covered in different reports.

However, through various trials, funerals, illnesses, joys and in the whole gambit of our human experience the Lord is with us and has kept us as a church. And as we looked up during these times so we will look up again by God's Grace.

Always remembering, we wait *for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God* Hebrews 11:10.

Elders Report 2025

The first thing to say about 2025 is that our God has been so gracious, kind and loving to us as a fellowship throughout the whole year. We have been so blessed and encouraged by the preaching and guidance of our Pastor Colin and others who have taken the services when required, particularly Bob on a monthly basis. We have so many willing and gifted people who continue to work so hard in so many areas of church life, not just in Ladies Fellowship, prayer meetings, children's work, men's fellowship, Wednesday People, delivering Good News papers around Low town but also faithfully cleaning, catering, maintenance of church properties and grounds, as well as those who use their gifts to lead our Sunday services worship time. All four elders would like to express our deep appreciation for your time and efforts.

Our numbers fluctuate during the year especially during the cold wet winter months which give health problems to the more elderly members, but we give God the praise that he enables the services and midweek meetings to continue week in, week out.

Lord, thank you from every member and attendee of the Peoples Hall for your loving hand on us and the finance (thanks Andy for your skill there) that you enable us to function.

Geoff, Paul, Steve, and Colin

2025 Men's Fellowship Report for AGM 2026

For more than a year we have been seeking the right format for a men's meeting. Initially it was in the evening and consisted mainly of testimonies – which was encouraging. And there was a curry night where two of the ladies kindly fed us very well; and the guest speaker spoke some encouraging words to us.

In the end the format is now established with our meeting on a Monday at 10.30 a.m. each month for an hour where usually one of the men leads us in a discussion study of the bible.

Thus far it has been profitable and encouraging. The numbers vary depending on availability, but we meet and the Lord is blessing us as a group. Different men lead the group and that too is a blessing.

It is good for men to meet around God's word and fellowship.

Colin Wilson

Fabric Report 2025

As the New Year opened, we were visited by a storm which tore the 1908 pottery ridge finial from the church roof, to dash it to the ground. Praise God that it happened in the early morning, so no-one was injured. But on its descent, it damaged other parts of the roof allowing water ingress down through the ceiling. Our roofing contractor made temporary repairs but informed us that other work would be needed later, requiring full scaffolding. This was duly carried out in the Spring.

However, the scaffold lorry damaged the brick wall and coping outside the hall, requiring replacement.

In due course we were able to patch and repaint the ceiling when it had fully dried out.

Although there was no full summer work day this year many small jobs have been carried out and our thanks to those who have helped. Outstanding tasks are still building up, and a day work-in will be planned later.

A big thanks to our teams of cleaners who do such a great job in keeping the place smart and tidy.

Further work and repairs were carried out on No 6 and the manse.

By the autumn our church piano was developing an intermittent fault, to the despair and embarrassment of the musicians. Being digital this could not be repaired and in view of its age (20+ years) a replacement was obtained in time for Christmas.

So once again it is our Faithful God that we must praise and thank for providing the resources to enable us to look after His house.

Steve Tull

Media & Communications 2025

Over the past year we have purchased more toner for the photocopier.

Also, over the last year we have had an issue with Sermon Audio which has meant that sermons have not been able to be uploaded.

The monitor that is used by the singing group at the front on a Sunday morning has been damaged and will need to be replaced.

Andi Garbett

Outreach Report 2025

Friday Children's Club, Wednesday People, Little Treasures, Ladies Bible Study Meetings, Easter Outreach, Children's Summer Club, Family Services, MacMillan Coffee Morning, Harvest Supper, Carols by Candlelight, Co-op Carol Singing, Nativity Play, and more.

None of this outreach would happen if not for ordinary people doing things like putting tables and chairs out, putting toys out and putting them back, making the cakes to give away, making sure we have the right tracts to give out, piano and generator are moved. Cleaning the church and toilets, the flowers, the news sheet, giving out tracts, walking paths to deliver papers, inviting people, giving out bibles over coffee and our prayers praying for that neighbour. Sharing Christ with anyone is outreach.

We praise God for answered prayer.

Sometimes it is difficult, but when we are willing to depend on God to be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power we can go into all situations with courage and confidence even when we feel overwhelmed and unqualified. His presence and power can do amazing things in and through us.

Paul Wanklin

Good-News Papers 2025

At the start of the year the decision was taken to increase our allocation to 150 copies each month. This allows for a small number of papers to be left over after the normal distribution is made to homes in Low town by the regular team consisting of Anne, Marlyn, Mary and Geoff. The extras are then available for church members and friends to distribute and share wherever there might be a chance to share with neighbours, work colleagues and friends as an additional outreach. Sam Moineux is already using them in this way. Who knows how God might use that copy left in the takeaway (with the owners OK of course). So don't be afraid to take a copy from the back of church.

Our church contact details are attached and occasionally we get encouraging feedback from those receiving the papers, even though we might not have had opportunity to talk individually.

But for those of us who can't get out and about delivering, we can still remember this work in our prayers, asking God's blessing as we seek to win souls for Him

Mary Tull

The Friday Children's Club Annual Report April 2025 to March 2026

We are so thankful that we have now been running for almost 2.5 years, praise the Lord, since starting on 3rd of November 2023. We are very grateful for all the prayer, supporters, and contributions given to enable the children's club to run.

We are still having a steady 5-7 kids, and it has been great to have one child come up through Toddlers, and awesome to see how the children have welcomed the new 5 year old and help them with games to still be a part of what they are doing.

We raised the age range to 12 last year and were very pleased most of the older ones have chosen to still keep attending, continue to pray how we can better support and guide those starting or started high school and to accommodate the age differences. We have made all sorts of crafts from air dry clay modelling, weaving, painting to making yarn monsters and bristle bot robots. Pray we can keep the balance with our age range and perhaps develop into a Kids/ Youth club.

We have been very pleased with how our Christmas and Summer evenings have gone where we have invited the parents to join and seeing how they have really enjoyed taking part in some games and joining in with the celebrations eating lovely cakes, cooldrinks, or dairy free hot chocolate. It has given a great opportunity to get to know each other better.

We are very grateful to those who lead, come to help with the bible stories, setting up, helping the kids with the crafts, providing meals for the leaders groups every week, without all this we would not be able to run the kids club, and so we thank the Lord for it is only Him who enables us to ultimately do any of these things.

Lord Bless,

The Friday Children's Club Team

Little Treasures Baby and Toddler Group 2025

Well, it has been another busy year for our toddler group.

Matthew 6:31-32: "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them."

Week after week, God has continued to bless us in so many ways:

- A continued growth in numbers.(We now have between 17 & 22 each week)
- Develop relationships, and support families and carers who attend.
- Opportunities to share God's love both with the adults in conversations and sometimes prayer. Also, with the children through the activities and crafts put out each week.

As our numbers increased God met our needs and we welcomed Alastair and Maggie to the team, who slotted in very quickly to the business and face pace of toddlers. And in June we sadly said goodbye to our brilliant team member Esther, due to college commitments. Her help and support was a real blessing.

How wonderful it has been to see so many of our families attend other church events: The Easter Outreach and also the family services.... Praise God!

Our Christmas celebrations were particularly busy.... The session before our family service in church, was very well attended and each activity and craft was Nativity based, which gave us many opportunities to share the true meaning of Christmas with both adults and children.

A particular highlight was the Christmas Family Service, where a small group of toddlers came and took part in the nativity, singing and playing instruments.

For some of our families, stepping into a church service is incredibly daunting. But because, as a church, we continue to do outreach events, this has made the move from the back hall into church itself a really positive experience. All have said they have felt so welcomed.

Again, our Christmas party was a really busy, but fun time. Each child went home with a book (The Christmas Story) and each family had a gift bag which contained a Christian calendar, a bible tract, a Christian book mark and a candy cane with a poem attached about God's love. Thank you to Paul, our most talented resident Father Christmas!

New families arriving are hearing about our group by either Facebook, word of mouth or the posters they see around town. We continue to pop fresh messages out on Facebook most weeks, to give session details or as a reminder we are closed for a school holiday, which seems to be appreciated.

We would like to say how grateful we are for everyone who continues to pray for toddlers or help in any way. God hears our prayers and is ever faithful!

Little Treasures has been running for about two and a half years now, and from the very beginning we have seen God's love and faithfulness week after week. As a team we feel incredibly blessed and privileged to be able to serve our Heavenly Father in this way.

Please continue to pray for each family represented in toddlers, that they will see Christ in all we do and say and that they will want to know Him more and know Him as their personal saviour.

John 13:34-45

A new command I give you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Little Treasures Team:

Anne, Alastair, Mary, Maggie & Nina

Sunday School Report 2025

First we would like to thank you for all your prayers. The Sunday School team would not be able to carry on without them. We have had times when the children have told us the Bible story, but then we have been able to concentrate on the application. Please continue to pray for the children and the teachers, that God may make our teaching true to Him and a blessing to the children.

Sunday School Team.

2025 Ladies Fellowship report for AGM March 2026

April 2025 to March 2026.

The Ladies Evening Bible study group has continued to meet mostly once a month on the fourth Tuesday of the month, and the Ladies afternoon study group once a month on the third Thursday of the month. The aims and benefits of attending the ladies Bible study still remain and are:

- to develop and enrich our own faith building understanding & communication with our female friends
- to learn more about God, ourselves through reading God's word amidst meaningful discussion
- to discuss thoughts and opinions in a safe, open and confidential forum, to listen with patience and thought, with a desire to move forward making a difference to each other and our wider friends and family
- the meetings focus on God's word but will broaden out to discuss aspects of daily life allowing time to share about the struggles and successes of our lives - there is much laughter and occasional tears, and to receive encouragement
- It is also a time of prayer. We share concerns for our family, friends and the wider world issues. We thank God for His blessings to us.
- we gain insight, wisdom and knowledge about God's plan for us and our role in the church and helping others

Thursday Afternoon group:

We have been blessed to continue with our group of 7 for most meetings, one other following our theme remotely online.

We continued with our theme of Fruits of the Spirit. Discussing and strengthening how our own gifts and talents can be developed to serve God in as many ways as possible, also serving others. We encourage each other through talk and prayer.

Since October our focus has changed to a study of Ruth, with themes of trust, loyalty, obedience, relationships, the unchanging nature of humanity, faithfulness through trials. How our faith is tested, perseverance, childlessness, homelessness. We always seek to hear God's voice and to do His will, encouraging each other through difficult times, yet continue to move forward in what we can offer to the church and each other.

Tuesday Evening group:

We have continued in our study book on Philippians slowly, which is helping us learn to go deeper into God's word. We have now reached Philippians 2 v4 and have been reminded of the trials, difficulties that Paul went through, which has opened up discussion and sharing personal difficulties or sharing how God has brought us through these tough times, and how important it is to be like minded and united together meeting together as a Christian family and to support each other as we serve each other.

Our Social events: - Our ladies afternoon tea on the 30th August was a blessed time as sisters in Christ enjoying fellowship together and learning a little more about each other and enjoying eating too much delicious food - We finished the year on Nov 22nd with our Ladies Christmas bring and share Lunch at the Fisher's house, and we had lovely hot chocolate made by Esther, various lovely cakes, snacks and finding out a few of our favourite things like colour, flavour of crisps, holidays etc.

Conferences: A group of us attended the EFCC's Women's Conference on building a life of Godliness with speaker Linda Allcock 21st -22nd March 25. The conference is usually a time of refreshing, and great fellowship with ladies from other EFCC churches. We are looking forward to our next women's conference on Walking with the Father speaker Jane McNabs 6th to 7th March 2026.

Please continue to pray for the Ladies Bible study groups, that we can continue to encourage each other. Phil 2v4 " Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Jan & Vicky

Wednesday People 2025

We continue to meet twice a month on the first and third Wednesday, and we are now in our tenth year. Prayer is an important part of the work, and we always have a prayer time at 10 am, over a coffee before our visitors come in.

During this year Terri was not able to meet with us for some time due to health issues, but the meetings continued thanks to the rest of the team. Particular mention needs to be made of Ruth and Derek who get everything set up before the meetings and have made sure that the kitchen is always supplied with tea, coffee, etc., and who kept things going throughout the year. Anne Lloyd and Rachel Garbett also helped out when needed.

Thanks also to Nina who has kindly been helping to promote the meetings on local Facebook pages.

Numbers attending have kept quite steady, and a friend of Mary's has been coming regularly with her very well-behaved little dog.

We gave out the usual Christmas gift bags at the last gathering before Christmas, and these were well received.

We are only a small team and always happy to welcome anyone who would like to be involved. We would very much like to be able to meet every Wednesday, but we feel that a second team is needed for that to be considered. Please talk to us if you would like to join the team, or even just pop in one Wednesday for a chat.

Wednesday People Team

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People's Hall Evangelical Church Bridgnorth

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Wednesday 26th March 2025

Ministers Report, AGM, 2025

So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Your word, Psalm 119:42.

There are times in our lives when people will *reproach* us, that is, who will defame or attack us – in particular because we are Christians who seek to live in accordance with God’s Word. It may be because we will not behave as they do, we do not blaspheme, swear, get drunk – or even tipsy, our humour is clean and not rude, we don’t gossip and slander people and then the part they can really hate – we follow our saviour and worship Him!

As Shedd expressed it: “Holiness in a fellow creature sometimes makes wicked human anger hotter and more deadly. The Jews gnashed their teeth in rage at the meekness and innocence of Christ.”¹ Believers should not expect any better.

Yet, we are encouraged to ***be holy for I am holy***,² which will lead to people reproaching us – to not follow our saviour as we ought, to loosen up, to partake in their lifestyles and so on. But our calling is not to be like the world, but to be *in* the world but not *of* the world. A Christian life will stand out: ***If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.***³ And Jesus goes on to say that we are not greater than our master.

But if our life outside of Sunday and church activities is simply the same as the world then where is our obedience to Jesus Christ? We do not look for trouble, but our simply having a different lifestyle will lead to an effect – if we can carry on with our lives without any difference between ourselves and the world then what does that say about our faith?

But when we are reproached then we have an answer, it is in God’s Word! But that implies we need to know God’s Word to be able to make use of it! Therefore, we are not only to live a right life before God we need to know His word to firstly, know how to live, secondly, to know how to answer those who reproach us!

Let us be encouraged in the year ahead to move forward in our Lord. For some 2024 has been a very hard year between bereavements, illness and other concerns. As a fellowship we need to continue to pray and look out for and help each other. May the Lord strengthen us, for we can only do so with His help.

As a church our work continues, with the children’s works, Wednesday people, ladies’ meetings, special events and evangelism events, baptisms, new members, and all our general church life and activities, including what is often called the *mundane*. Our seeking to honour our Lord in every part of our church and personal life. May the Lord continue to be our strength and help in all these endeavours.

Indeed, who cannot still say, as my report in 2023: ***Hitherto has Yehweh helped us.*** 1 Samuel 7:12.

¹ WGT Shedd, *Dogmatic Theology*, 1888-1894, one volume ed, 2024, p.707.

² Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7, 26; 21:18; 1 Peter 1:16.

³ John 15:19.

Elders Report 2024

How quickly 2024 seemed to fly by but when we reflect on that year, we can see God's hand has been guiding us and protecting us.

On a practical sense we saw No 6 restored after the previous year's accident and large-scale repairs and refurbishments to the Manse.

We give great thanks to the church maintenance team for arranging this and to the treasury team for keeping their hands on the finances and gaining a large grant from EFCC towards the cost of the Manse repairs.

Colin's ministry throughout the year has been strong and biblically sound and we thank him for his hard work in preparing sermons on most weeks of the year.

We have been blessed with quite a few new people joining us particularly on Sunday mornings due to them finding Colin's sermons on the internet and wanting to come and have fellowship. We regularly get around 40 people on a Sunday morning now, but numbers in an evening are usually around mid-teens or lower. Please pray for evening services as long, cold, wet winter months mean people not coming out, particularly if they have distances to travel.

Children's work (Little Treasures on Wednesday, and Friday Children's Club) continue to be well attended and our thanks go to all involved. Sunday School/Bible class numbers are lower, but we thank the teachers who weekly prepare lessons and please everyone keep praying for families and children to come.

As elders we say thank you for the love and fellowship you show each other and visitors each week.

Thank you, Lord, for your tender mercy and love to us as a Fellowship of Christian Believers.

Paul, Steve and Geoff.

Outreach Report for 2024

Friday Children's Club, Food bank, Wednesday People, Little Treasures, Good News Papers, cakes made, refreshments made, singing outside the Co-op at Christmas, invitations and tracts given out. Many other activities.

Who are the people planning and working to make all these things happen?

They don't get paid and many times items are given free of charge.

The question in the world would be "Why?"

We are all God's servants. To serve God in any way, big or small, is a blessing. The Bible tells about a Master that went away giving three of his servants talents of money. Two servants worked and doubled their money, but the third servant buried his talents in the ground, which produced nothing. (Matthew 25 v14-30)

We all have gifts, big or small, if we use our gifts for the Lord, it is treasure in heaven.

It says on our notice sheet "To Know Christ, to Show Christ, to Share Christ". When we serve the Lord, we are showing Christ and sharing Christ.

When we come face to face with the Lord, will the words be "good and faithful servant"?

We press on to fulfil all that God wants us to do.

Paul Wanklin

Fabric Report 2024

Our major project in 2024 must surely have been the replacement of three-quarters of the roof on the manse. Occasional water ingress and damp problems had made this work essential and although expensive, God blessed us with a considerable gift from the EFCC. It soon revealed that the wooden dormer window and structure on the top floor was also completely rotten and had to be replaced at the same time. Other work in the manse was a partial bathroom refit and replacement shower, as well as modifications to the kitchen plumbing.

For the first time we have had to employ a contractor for all of our gas safety work in the church, manse and no 6 consisting of four heating boilers, two gas fires and a gas-cooker. This threw up several issues so as to comply with current standards, particularly with both fires and one cooker being condemned. Consequently a new electric cooker has been installed in no 6 and the two fires will be replaced shortly.

Our thanks to Alastair & Karen for their efforts on the no 6 garden makeover which has really improved the appearance

Another church work-day took place in the summer, mainly concerned with tidying up and our thanks to all those who took part. These prove to be a mix of fellowship and good-natured banter.

At last we were able to complete the strengthening of the car-park fence. By using concrete buttresses we were able to retain the timber posts which were perfectly ok above ground level and only patch repairs needed on the fence panels.

Many other routine jobs were carried out throughout the year as needs arose and thanks to all who were involved, no matter how small a contribution, also not forgetting those on the regular cleaning rota.

God has given areas of service to us all, but he is the great provider of the necessary means and resources but once again He has not failed us.

Steve

The Friday Children's Club

Annual Report April 2024 to March 2025

We are so pleased that we have now been running for 16 months since starting on November 3, 2023. We are very grateful for all the prayer, supporters, and contributions given to enable the children's club to run.

We began with 2 children and have grown to 9 with a steady 5 some weeks up to 11, as some children have brought friends along and have gone on to continue coming.

We are grateful to those who have come to help with setting up and helping the kids with the crafts, doing a bible story, and providing meals for the leaders groups every week to enable us to be able to run from 6-7pm. It has been heartening to see the children's excitement to return each week and missing the club over the holidays.

We do know that the majority age of the group are 10 years old so we have raised the age range to 12, but please pray for us to have guidance to look at how we can support this change with year 7's starting high school we will need to accommodate those changes, and continue to pray for the ability to start up a youth club.

Lord Bless,
The Friday Children's Club Team

Ladies Fellowship

Annual Report March 2025

April 2024 to March 2025

The Ladies Bible Study this last year has been blessed with a new group starting. Jan was conscious of the struggles of getting to evening meetings and thought the times might prevent some ladies from attending and felt led to start an afternoon or late morning ladies' study. A questionnaire was passed around to find who was interested and what would be the best day and time, and quite a few were very interested, and the time all lined up for 2:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month. First meeting took place 16th May and numbers varying from 5 to 9 ladies and the meeting is open to all.

The Ladies Evening Bible study group has continued to meet once a month on the fourth Tuesday of the month starting a bit earlier at 7pm. We are very thankful to all those who volunteered to lead a bible study and open to all.

What are the aims and benefits of attending the ladies Bible study:

- to develop and enrich our own faith and build understanding and communication with our female friends
- to learn more about God, and ourselves through reading God's word amidst meaningful discussion
- to discuss thoughts and opinions in a safe, open and confidential forum, to listen with patience and thought, with a desire to move forward and make a difference to each other and our wider friends and family
- the meetings focus on God's word but will broaden out to discuss aspects of daily life allowing time to share about the struggles and successes of our lives - there is much laughter and occasional tears, and to receive encouragement
- It is also a time of prayer. We share concerns for our family, friends and the wider world issues. We thank God for His blessings to us.
- we gain insight, wisdom and knowledge about God's plan for us and our role in the church and helping others

Focus in the daytime group has been on the fruits of the spirit; how we have been blessed with gifts and talents to serve God and others. The evening bible group chose to do a study book on Philippians for women, which takes

us through Philippians slowly opening us to dig deeper in our understanding and to know the joy of knowing what God has called us to do and think as His children: after 7 studies we are at Philippians 1 v18 (turning into Bob on Exodus 😊). Overall, both groups are helping us to think on the Lord and not ourselves.

Social events: This year we held several social events. They were all lovely:

- a ladies breakfast 18th May with loads of delicious food cooked by the men in church. It was so good to have a talk on Psalm 103 and singing Psalm 23 to finish the morning.
- a ladies afternoon tea on the 24th August which blessed us as sisters in Christ to fellowship together.

We finished the year with our Christmas meal at the Down on 19th November. We were so pleased to have visitors coming along to all 3 events.

Conferences: A group of ladies attended EFCC's Women's Conference Living sacrificially in a Self-Centred World on 26th-27th April, open to all attenders of our church. We were all challenged!

We are looking forward to the EFFC's 2025 women's conference on Building a Life of Godliness with speaker Linda Allcock 21st -22nd March.

Please pray for the Ladies Bible study groups, to know how we can best encourage each other as women of the church. Proverbs 31 v30 "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised"

Jan & Vicky

Sunday School Report 2024

2 Chronicles 15 v 7 But as for you be strong and do not give up for your work will be rewarded.

This year has been much the same as previous years, but week by week we teach the children about who God is, what he has done for us and how we should live, Everything is taught from God's word.

Please pray for the teachers as they study ready to teach. Please pray for the children to know more and more about our Lord and Saviour.

We did have our Christmas Party last year and great fun was had by all. Thanks are given to Dave Wilmot who spoke to us.

Ruth Garbett

Media & Communications Report for 2024

Over the past year we have had issues with one of the microphones we use regularly. It has managed to be fixed. We have had two microphones donated for use also. We have purchased more toner for the photocopier.

Over the past year 1916 people have played sermons on Sermon Audio reaching 18 countries including United Kingdom, United States of America, Martinique, Taiwan and Spain. The most listened to sermon is "Listen to God" from the 25th February with 57 plays. The day with the most plays was March 10th with the most listened to sermon being "God will have His way" from the same day.

Andi Garbett

Little Treasures Baby and Toddler Group

Well, it has been another busy year for our toddler group.

We have been blessed by having someone new join our team, Esther Fisher. Her help and support have been a real blessing.

Week after week, God has continued to bless us in so many ways:

- A continued growth in numbers.
- Develop relationships, and support families and carers who attend.
- Opportunities to share God's love both with the adults in conversations and sometimes prayer. Also, with the children through the activities and crafts put out each week.

How wonderful it has been to see so many of our families attend other church events : The Easter Outreach and also the family services.....Praise God!

For some of our families, stepping into a church service is incredibly daunting. But because, as a church, we continue to do outreach events, this has made the move from the back hall into church itself a really positive experience. All have said they have felt so welcomed.

Our Christmas celebrations were particularly busy.... The session before our family service in church, was very well attended and each activity and craft was Nativity based, which gave us many opportunities to share the true meaning of Christmas with both adults and children.

The following week was our Christmas party where we had so many children we didn't have enough chairs (what a fantastic problem to have), so party food was done 'picnic style'. Each child went home with a book (The Christmas Story) and each family had a gift bag which contained A Good News Paper, a bible tract, a Christian book mark and a candy cane with a poem attached about God's love.

New families arriving are hearing about our group by either Facebook, word of mouth or the posters they see around town. We continue to pop fresh messages out on Facebook most weeks, to give session details or as a reminder we are closed for a school holiday, which seems to be appreciated.

We would like to say how grateful we are for everyone who continues to pray for toddlers or help in any way. God hears our prayers and is ever faithful.

Thanks to Alastair who has stepped in to help when we need it....he is a massive hit in the play kitchen area with the children. And Paul....our most talented resident Father Christmas!

Little Treasures has been running for about 18months now, and from the very beginning we have seen God's love and faithfulness week after week. As a team we feel incredibly blessed and privileged to be able to serve our Heavenly Father in this way.

Please continue to pray for each family represented in toddlers, that they will see Christ in all we do and say and that they will want to know Him more and know Him as their personal saviour.

John 13:34-45

A new command I give you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Little Treasures Team:

Anne Lloyd, Mary Tull, Esther Fisher & Nina Waterhouse

Good-News Papers

Circulating the Good-News papers remains an important part of our church's outreach. A decision was taken to increase the number of papers to 150 each month, which has allowed us to have some spare copies to offer to folks attending Wednesday People and to parents bringing children to the clubs. Members and friends have also been able to give them to friends and neighbours. These are people who might not otherwise have been reached.

Another use for them is to leave a copy in waiting areas such as a take-away (with the owner's permission!) They are usually pleased to receive some free reading material to amuse their customers.

The spare copies are left at the back of church, so please help yourself if you feel you can use them.

We would like to further extend the number of homes receiving them, by perhaps creating a new round. However, we currently have just a few people delivering them, so more helpers would be welcome.

But just giving them out is not enough. We must also pray that God will challenge and encourage what is being read.

Our thanks to Anne, Mary and Marlyn, currently helping to distribute and to Geoff for travelling to Shrewsbury to collect them.

Wednesday People Report for 2024

We meet twice each month, the first and third Wednesday, and we are now in our 9th year, having started in 2016.

Our aim, as always, is to provide a safe space for anyone to drop in for friendship and a chat. We have our regulars, some occasional visitors, and others who have just dropped by when passing. All age groups have been warmly welcomed during 2024, from babies to those in their nineties. We've been visited by a homeless man, and a traffic warden. Everyone is welcome.

Once the room is set up, we have a short prayer time before visitors arrive, always acknowledging that this is God's work and praying for opportunities to share the Gospel with those who come in. We always have some Christian literature on the tables for people to read or take away and a few books available free of charge.

Our team consists of Derek & Ruth Garbett, Steve & Mary Tull, Paul Wanklin and Terri Childs, and we have sometimes been helped by Esther Fisher and Anne Lloyd. We are also very grateful to Margaret Cox for her delicious baked goods, cheesy puffs being a firm favourite. If anyone is interested in joining our team, even on an occasional basis, please have a chat with Terri or Mary. Even if you're not able to join the team, come along and have a cuppa with us!

At Christmas we gave out gift bags which included invitations to our Christmas services, a Christmas card and a Gospel tract, together with a small gift for each recipient.

We look forward to another year of welcoming local people in and pray that we will see people coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ through this ministry.

Wednesday People Team

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church

Accounts

31 December 2024

A J Millard and Co

Chartered Accountants

Stone House Farm, Bitterley

Nr Ludlow

Shropshire, SY8 3HQ

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church

**Accountants' report on the unaudited accounts
to The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church**

In accordance with your instructions, we have compiled these unaudited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

A J Millard and Co
Chartered Accountants

Stone House Farm
Bitterley
Nr Ludlow
Shropshire
SY8 3HQ

Date _____

**The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church
Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income	41,986	39,480
Other income	19,259	5,974
Expenditure		
Employee Costs	19,051	17,325
Premises costs	11,445	13,691
Repairs	28,567	3,730
General administrative expenses	13,571	11,724
Legal and professional costs	320	310
Interest	(509)	200
	<u>72,445</u>	<u>46,982</u>
Deficit for the year	<u>(11,200)</u>	<u>(1,526)</u>

**The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Fixed assets	2	13,676	13,676
Current assets			
Bank current account		19,627	12,043
Bank deposit account		15,000	35,139
Missionary account		510	116
		<u>35,137</u>	<u>47,298</u>
Current liabilities			
Accruals		<u>320</u>	<u>310</u>
Net current assets		34,817	46,988
Loans due after more than one year			(971)
Net assets		<u>48,493</u>	<u>59,693</u>
General fund			
Balance at start of period		59,693	61,219
Deficit for the year		(11,200)	(1,526)
		<u>48,493</u>	<u>59,693</u>

**The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

1 Profit and loss account analysis

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income		
Collections at services and subscriptions	11,610	12,094
Covenants	30,376	27,386
	<u>41,986</u>	<u>39,480</u>
Other income		
Grants	12,000	
Interest	664	77
Gifts and donations	1,795	1,897
Rental income	4,800	4,000
	<u>19,259</u>	<u>5,974</u>
Employee costs		
Salaries	18,144	16,500
Pensions	907	825
	<u>19,051</u>	<u>17,325</u>
Premises costs		
Light and heat - Church	2,004	2,764
Light and heat - Manse	4,547	5,724
Rates and insurance	4,804	5,113
Cleaning	90	90
	<u>11,445</u>	<u>13,691</u>
Repairs		
Property repairs	28,135	
General repairs and renewals	432	3,730
	<u>28,567</u>	<u>3,370</u>
General administrative expenses		
Telephone	1,333	1,947
Stationery and advertising	1,242	480
Conference expenses		450
Gift allocation	6,402	5,145
Outreach	784	975
Subscriptions	2,503	1,981
Sundry expenses	587	746
Internet Costs	720	
	<u>13,571</u>	<u>11,724</u>
Legal and professional costs		
Accountants fees	320	310
Interest		
Interest	<u>(509)</u>	<u>200</u>

**The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

2 Other fixed assets

	2024	2023
	£	£
Freehold property	2,500	2,500
Church extensions	10,548	10,548
Investments £628.18 2½% Consolidated Stock – at cost	628	628
	<u>13,676</u>	<u>13,676</u>

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church

Accountants' report on the unaudited accounts
to The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church

In accordance with your instructions, we have compiled these unaudited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

A J Millard and Co
Chartered Accountants

Stone House Farm
Bitterley
Nr Ludlow
Shropshire
SY8 3HQ

Date

26/3/25

Accepted & Approved C. PHC Ag^m
26/3

THE PEOPLE'S HALL

England & Wales - Charity number 241032

Accounts

1.

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church

Accounts

31 December 2023

A J Millard and Co

Chartered Accountants

Stone House Farm, Bitterley
Nr Ludlow
Shropshire, SY8 3HQ

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church

Accountants' report on the unaudited accounts
to The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church

In accordance with your instructions, we have compiled these unaudited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

A J Millard and Co
Chartered Accountants

Stone House Farm
Bitterley
Nr Ludlow
Shropshire
SY8 3HQ

Date _____

Adopted @ Church
Sgd Chairman

Meeting 10/4/24
Colin H. Wilson
Rev. COLIN H. WILSON

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church
Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income	39,480	35,107
Other income	5,974	5,180
Expenditure		
Employee Costs	17,325	16,800
Premises costs	13,691	10,688
Repairs	3,730	1,040
General administrative expenses	11,724	10,040
Legal and professional costs	310	300
Interest	200	430
	<u>46,982</u>	<u>39,298</u>
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	<u>(1,526)</u>	<u>989</u>

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Fixed assets	2	13,676	13,676
Current assets			
Bank current account		12,043	14,966
Bank deposit account		35,139	35,059
Missionary account		116	116
		<u>47,298</u>	<u>50,141</u>
Current liabilities			
Accruals		<u>310</u>	<u>300</u>
Net current assets		46,988	49,841
Loans due after more than one year		(971)	(2,298)
Net assets		<u>59,693</u>	<u>61,219</u>
General fund			
Balance at start of period		61,219	60,230
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		(1,526)	989
		<u>59,693</u>	<u>61,219</u>

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Profit and loss account analysis

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income		
Collections at services and subscriptions	12,094	11,019
Covenants	27,386	24,088
	<u>39,480</u>	<u>35,107</u>
Other income		
Interest	77	
Gifts and donations	1,897	380
Rental income	4,000	4,800
	<u>5,974</u>	<u>5,180</u>
Employee costs		
Salaries	16,500	16,000
Pensions	825	800
	<u>17,325</u>	<u>16,800</u>
Premises costs		
Light and heat - Church	2,764	2,055
Light and heat - Manse	5,724	4,237
Rates and insurance	5,113	4,276
Cleaning	90	120
	<u>13,691</u>	<u>10,688</u>
Repairs		
General repairs and renewals	3,730	1,040
General administrative expenses		
Telephone	1,947	1,755
Stationery and advertising	480	438
Conference expenses	450	200
Gift allocation	5,145	4,932
Outreach	975	620
Equipment Expensed		
Festival Costs		
Subscriptions	1,981	1,000
Sundry expenses	746	1,095
	<u>11,724</u>	<u>10,040</u>
Legal and professional costs		
Accountants fees	310	300
Interest		
Interest	200	430

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023

2 Other fixed assets

	2023	2022
	£	£
Freehold property	2,500	2,500
Church extensions	10,548	10,548
Investments £628.18 2½% Consolidated Stock – at cost	628	628
	<u>13,676</u>	<u>13,676</u>

THE PEOPLE'S HALL

England & Wales - Charity number 241032

Accounts

People's Hall Evangelical Church Bridgnorth

Annual Reports for 2022

Approved by membership

Annual Meeting
Wednesday 26th April 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Hill', written in a cursive style.

Minsters Report, AGM, 2023

it has certainly been a busy year. Of course, we all have busyness of life in the general sense but also many have struggled with illness, bereavement, and other things. These challenges can be quite wearing at times and can be exhausting. Nevertheless, through all these trials can we not say with Samuel: ***Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.*** 1 Samuel 7:12. For, even though we may struggle greatly at times it is to the Lord that we turn and look to for help. He is always with us during our trials, even the most severe of them, even when we don't always feel it – or He ***will never leave or forsake you!***

As a church we have had a busy time, with evangelism very much to the forefront, which is very encouraging. We sow and look to the Lord that we may also reap – but these things are in His timing while we seek to patiently pray and be obedient to our Lord.

As the minister I find it encouraging to see people in the congregation pulling together to help and be there for each other and we can all pray that we continue in that way as a congregation. For each believer has their talents and we are all a part of the church, which is the people of God, none greater or lesser worth than anyone else.

It has been encouraging to see the membership grow and continue to do so – it is the Lord that builds His house, so it is to Him that we give the glory and thank for our being strengthened.

Considering the way our nation and many churches are increasingly walking away from God and promoting sin as good and good as sin we do need to be prepared as a church for difficult times. The Christians in countries like South Sudan and others will testify that God ***will never leave or forsake you*** despite what they are going through. Equally, knowing that the purpose of God is to take all His people heaven to that end they will also testify ***Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.*** That does not make such times easy and I'm sure Christians in these places must get weary and feel worn out. However, as the Lord keeps them so He will also keep us. And we can pray, that the Lord would turn our nation back to God!

May the Lord keep us as a church for the coming year and beyond, ***The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.*** Numbers 6:22-

27

Elders Report

If we were to describe the year 2022 on behalf of the Peoples Hall Church, it would have to be the faithfulness of our God to us and the consistency of love for each other within the fellowship. Our Pastor Colin, wife Vicky and children are settled, and we have been blessed with faithful preaching from Colin. The Ladies' group are forming a special bond with each other.

Financially we have never been so blessed, but our Lord is always in charge of planning and the events to no. 6 early in 2023 and massive increases to heating bills in 2022 meant those funds would be needed!!

The Covid epidemic slowed down a little in the past year and we were able to be open morning and evening each Sunday. Many are still feeling the effects of Covid in their health, but the Lord continues to have His loving hand on us.

We have been blessed by new people such as Andy and Nina; Mike Davies; Fran; Matt, Rachel, Beth and Esther Fisher, all settling into regular fellowship with us, and again we thank the Lord for this.

Our missionaries David and Wilma Lyttle visited us in June, and Mark and Carol Lacey together with daughter Pam and granddaughter Esther, were with us in December for the carol concert and it was great to have fellowship with them.

Yes, 2022 was a year of great encouragement to the Elders as you will see from other reports of activities within the church, and we praise Him for all He has done for us.

Colin, Geoff, Steve and Paul

Fabric Report 2022

After all the panic of 2021 to get the manse prepared, 2022 seemed comparatively quiet, but still lots of routine jobs took place behind the scenes, as being responsible for the church & hall buildings as well as two properties is an ongoing commitment.

- The side elevation facing the street of no. 6 was repainted by Alastair and demonstrates to the local residents that we do care. Some further repairs were necessary at the manse requiring a new back door and emergency repairs to the boiler. A leaking roof has been identified and will need considerable further work this year.

Alastair has also taken on the role of fire officer, performing the monthly testing and inspections.

We had our annual Saturday work day and a lot was achieved as well as fun & fellowship. In particular the car-park vegetation was cleared and the fence repaired and strengthened. Some trees were spectacularly lopped, luckily with no health & safety executives present to witness our lack of a risk assessment! Tidying and cleaning up of the kitchen and storage cupboards also took place.

As always, we are grateful to everyone who assists in the day to day jobs, often unnoticed, but in particular we must thank the routine cleaning teams who keep the place looking so nice. It was good to have additional people joining on-board the cleaning roster and an encouragement to Marlyn who has overall responsibility.

That was last year. We could not have imagined the road traffic accident that was to take place in January this year damaging no. 6 and the inconvenience and work that this would bring us. But God directs and controls, more about this next time.

In the meantime, praise God for his provision of our resources and for giving us the wisdom to be good Stewards.

Derek, Steve.

Outreach Report

It's that time again. Report time. Looking back to see what we've done – no, to see what God has done through His people.

It all started with the Queen's Jubilee and Commonwealth Baton Relay, with children's activities, refreshments and tracts given out. We even saw the Commonwealth torch being carried.

Macmillan Coffee Morning is not just about raising money for Macmillan but also inviting people into church.

John Procktor came along with the "Anchored" Youth Event with a full day of games and Gospel sharing with children.

We had a church social evening with food and entertainment. A time we could invite friends to come along.

The Christmas Lights switch on is always a fun time with tracts, hot chocolate and cake given out.

Our visit to Danesford Grange Residential Home when carols were sung and a word was shared to the residents. It is always a blessed time.

Carols at the Co-op was a real blessing with good voices and smiles, plus opportunities to give out tracts and invitations, plus prayer.

Family fun day, a day of fun for all the family to come along, have a cup of tea, play hopscotch, have your face painted and much more. Lots of contacts made. A day God blessed us.

Our Wednesday People is always well supported and we get people coming through the door by inviting them from the bottom of the drive.

Finally, but not least, every house in Bridgnorth has received a Gospel tract. Over 5,000 tracts have been delivered.

We pray God will bless the work.

Paul Wanklin

Ladies Bible Study group- April 2022 to March 2023

The Ladies Bible study has continued to meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month when possible, and we have had up to 13 ladies meeting together to learn, share and pray together and for each other.

We are very thankful to all those who volunteered to lead a ladies bible study, and it has been wonderful to have some who have never led previously. We have just completed our series on Old Testament Characters where we covered Jonah, Hannah, Samuel, Abraham, Caleb, Joshua, Elijah, Achan, Saul, Daniel, Esther, David and Moses. The studies were deep, reminding us to love our enemies, justice is with the Lord, saying yes to God, Praying in pain and more.

This year we held social events again, with some game nights and a different event for Christmas where we were welcomed into the Fishers' home, with a bring-and-share buffet, and tea served to the Ladies. Rachel gave a little talk sharing some of what the Lord had been doing in their lives since moving to Telford, and she then read her beautiful poem which touched us all. We are also very pleased to have Beth now join us for our studies.

We attended the EFCC's Women's Conference again this year on 24th & 25th March with 9 of our ladies attending and providing cakes, cupcakes and kindly also by some who were not able to attend this year. We were really blessed by the talks from Helen Thorne (Director of Training and Resources at Biblical Counselling UK) on 1 Peter 4 v 1-19 "A Call to Faithfulness", and so we will be going through these recordings at our April and May meetings, for those who could make it and to be blessed again! Please pray for us to grow as Women in Christ, as we Trust Him, and to be Faithful to our Lord.

Vicky

Carers' Report

The Carers' meeting is held on 2nd Monday in the month, in the Church Hall. We talk about drugs and drink addiction. We sometimes have guest speakers. We go out to share news like having meals or garden centres. There is about eight people who attend.

Lynne Beddow and Eve Lamont

Sunday School Report

During last year we have been looking at Moses and Jesus work on earth. We have been teaching the children the importance of trust in Jesus, living in obedience, and how we can trust God to help us in our lives.

The week before Christmas we had our Christmas Party, we had fun and games and Paul came to round it off for us.

Thank you for all of those who pray for us, please continue, as teachers we need your prayers when we study. The children need your prayers that they may learn to trust in God and live their lives through Him.

Ruth Garbett

Media and communication report

We have made a purchase of a new headset mic for when somebody is leading on Sundays instead of the using just the mic by the lecturer. The new mic is a headset mic which is located on the cheek meaning the audio is picked up better than a lapel mic as it is closer to the mouth.

I would like to express thanks to Andrew and Nina who have helped with the audio-visual side, once a month, over the past year.

Over the past year on Sermon Audio we have had 1998 total plays with visits from multiple countries like the United States and Australia but also ranging to countries like the Philippines, India and the United Arab Emirates. The most listened to sermon has had 95 listens.

Andi Garbett

Wednesday People 2022

We are constantly amazed at how God is blessing our regular Wednesday People coffee mornings. We continue to meet twice a month in the church hall and find that whatever the weather we have people coming in to join us.

We try to make the room look as welcoming as possible, tablecloths and flowers on each table to make it look bright and cheerful and we all do our best to make everyone feel at home whether they are visiting for the first time or come regularly.

Once the room is set up, we sit down for a time of prayer before visitors arrive, asking God to bless our gathering and to help us in our interactions with the visitors and with one another. We always acknowledge that this is the Lord's work and not ours.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers and must acknowledge the contribution made by Ruth and Derek who have been stalwarts right from the day we first began this work. Alastair has joined us and regularly stands at the bottom of the church drive, in all weathers, inviting people in.

We have continued the use of wrapped biscuits for reasons of hygiene, and we also try to limit access to the kitchen for safety and hygiene reasons. Margaret regularly brings some of her lovely baked goodies which are always very popular.

The main aim of these meetings is of course the Gospel and friendship, and we do have some good conversations with our visitors and sometimes we have opportunities to pray with them. At our last meeting of 2022, we had a very well attended Christmas themed morning and gave out little gift bags with a card, a tract, and a small gift.

Thank you to all those who come and help in any way.

If you are free on any first or third Wednesday each month, do come along and enjoy fellowship with us. Also, if anyone is available and would like to be part of our little team, please speak to Terri or Mary.

Terri Childs, Mary Tull.

Good News Papers 2022

In these times it is often difficult to have opportunities to share the gospel, as people seem to have little wish to listen. Contact on a one to one basis is therefore important, but so is the use of printed material such as tracts and the Good News papers (GNB), as these can often have access into homes and to people otherwise unreachable.

Currently we purchase and distribute 125 copies each month and this helps to support the wider ministry of the GNB organisation, particularly their taking the gospel and Christian witness into the prison system.

During 2022 Bob Paggett had to step down from distributing the papers but we are grateful for his years of faithful service. Marlyn has kindly taken on his 'round' and others have also recently expressed an interest in joining the team in 2023. But there is room for more! We only reach a small part of low town at present and would like to extend this.

How do we measure the success or otherwise of this ministry? It is difficult, but popping a paper through someone's door often leads to a conversation introducing ourselves, the church and what we are about. On at least one occasion we arrived very shortly after a family bereavement and were able to share comfort. Others have made a point of saying how much they appreciate the read each month.

We believe God would have us continue this work and we must be faithful as his servants.

The Good News Paper Team

THE PEOPLE'S HALL

England & Wales - Charity number 241032

Accounts

People's Hall Evangelical Church Bridgnorth

Annual Reports
For
2021

Annual Meeting
Wednesday 9th March 2022

Down

29th June

Pastor's Report

"O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!" Psalm 71:12

This report is from April to December 2021 as we came to Bridgnorth in March and I started as the Pastor of the church in April 1st.

During that period there was an initial settling in time of getting to know people. This was made unusual as the Covid restrictions that were in place was quite strict so we can thank the Lord for modern communication methods. We tend not to think of the telephone as modern but in the span of human history it has not been around for very long at all! Nevertheless, pastoral visitation by telephone is not the usual method.

Sadly, during that time I was involved in helping to officiate at four funerals, Bob Pullen, Geoff Radford, Jim Higgins and Martin Derrick Whitney. All four are still missed by family, friends and members of the People's Hall and further afield. As an Eldership we continue to pray for and seek to be there for those who have lost loved ones.

There are a small number of people who have not been visited physically as they are still isolating because of the continued Covid advice for those who are medically vulnerable.

It has been encouraging to see new people coming to church and settling with at the People's Hall.

There are many medical needs in our fellowship for which we seek to remember during our various services in prayer. As an Eldership we visited people although during some of that period physical visitations were very limited due to the restrictions. This is, and will be expected to be, an ongoing pastoral need within the People's Hall and prayer as well as visitation will continue.

I would say, it is a privilege to be here as your minister and as a family we have and are enjoying the warmth and care of fellowship.

May the Lord continue to be with us all

Colin Wilson.

Elders' Report 2021

Despite starting 2021 with the Covid 19 Pandemic still rampant, we as a church were full of anticipation in what the Lord had planned for us. We continued with having just the 10.30 am services taken by friends of the church, as well as members of our own congregation, and God's word was faithfully proclaimed each week.

On a practical side we were so blessed in the January-March period by so many of our fellowship using their skills in carpentry, plumbing, plastering, floor/carpet laying, painting and decorating, cleaning, gardening, and many other things that were required to be done to bring the Manse up to standard and ready for our new Pastor and his family to move into. Our thanks to you all.

Our new Pastor, Colin Wilson, his wife Vicky and children Phebe and Samuel, moved in at the end of March and Colin's ministry began with the Easter morning service on the 4th April with 31 people attending. The following Sunday, what a joy and encouragement it was to Colin and the whole church when a new family of Matthew, Rachel, Beth and Esther Fisher attended the service and have continued to regularly worship with us since. We continued through the summer with the 10.30 services, mainly taken by Colin, but Bob Paggett also continued to bless and encourage us with his sermons and ministry once a month. Autumn and winter saw the 6.30 pm evening services start up again, and October saw us enjoy Colin's induction into the Pastorate when Rev Tom Brand led the service (Tom was the one who originally recommended Colin to the Elders for our Pastor). It was wonderful to also have Rev. David Fraser (Colin's former Pastor/Tutor) from Scotland; Rev Matthew Jones from Wall Heath (who had been a tremendous support to us in our time without a Pastor) and Rev. Jackie Brown (our former Pastor) and his wife Lila, take part in the service.

Yes, God has been faithful and very loving to us in 2021. We have seen new people, Stuart, Sue, Mike, Andy and Nina, join in regular fellowship, and everyone getting involved in the work of our church.

We have so much to praise the Lord for about 2021. We stayed open to worship, we have a new Pastor and family, we have new people, we were kept Covid safe.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Geoff Lloyd
Paul Wanklin
Steve Tull

Outreach Report

It has been another difficult year with Covid restrictions, but nothing hinders God's work.

Good News Papers are delivered every month, come rain or shine. We are encouraged that God's Word is in houses we would never reach.

God is blessing Wednesday People with different people coming to the twice monthly coffee mornings. We chat, we listen, we pray, and we invite people to come to church.

A new venture for us in 2021 was the town's Christmas lights switching on event. This gave us the opportunity to give out hot chocolate drinks and mince pies at the entrance of the church to the people making their way up to Hightown. Tracts and invitations were enthusiastically given out by Samuel and Phebe and others.

It was good to be invited to Danesford Grange Care Home in December to sing carols and share the word. Who knows, perhaps the words of the carols stir the hearts of those residents and staff who heard.

Our Christmas visit to sing carols outside the Co-op supermarket is always met by people wanting to give us money. We always decline but it gives us opportunities to share the Gospel and give a tract and a calendar. Over 200 calendars with scripture verses were given out and are now in homes. God's word in all sorts of places.

Please pray that God will encourage us to reach out more to share his Gospel.

Paul Wanklin

Fabric report 2021

Perhaps it is rather difficult to focus back on the period under review, particularly as last year's AGM was delayed until towards the end of 2021. Therefore we will also include an update up to the present time.

The first quarter was taken up with frenzied activity in getting the manse ready to receive Colin and family. In addition to the specialist contractors, decorators and electricians etc, this involved efforts from most of the church family, for which we were really grateful. In the middle of all this a serious flood occurred in the church hall from a burst pipe in the toilet area which had been leaking unnoticed at full pressure for several days. Thanks to all who helped with the clean-up and drying operation and praise God that there appears to be no long-lasting damage to the fabric.

After all this, it was decided that a church work-day would not be appropriate given the Covid precautions then in force, but some work was carried out to prepare for Colin's induction in the autumn.

However, day to day maintenance continues and we must thank the cleaning teams and in particular Marlyn who organises them, all of whom do such a good job in keeping the church so presentable.

As legislation changes more and more tasks have to be undertaken by accredited companies and the work certified. However there is still much we can do ourselves. A recent example is our fire system and provision. Following the routine service we received a quotation for further updating work in excess of £700, but we will be legally carrying this out ourselves for less than £300.

Other planned work for the spring will be car-park fence repairs, construction of a new gate, external repairs to the hall as well as minor jobs in the manse; so watch the news-sheet!

But we must give thanks and praise to our God, for all his provision in finances and the skills & abilities of our friends and members. Remember that it is His house and we are the 'caretakers'

Derek & Steve

Media and communication report

Over the past year there have been problems with updating the church website which has meant that people have not been able to access it. It was decided to stop paying for the website and to change our online presence to Facebook and a website called Sermon Audio, this means that we can upload more sermons as there is more space.

The Microsoft Office version that we bought when we updated the computer ran out and it has been updated to Office 365 which is a monthly subscription. The presentation software, Opensong, was updated but due to technical problems it was taken back to a previous version, the version of the Bible that we use has been changed to the New King James Version to correspond with what is read by the Pastor.

We have also made purchases for a new mic for the speaker to use on Sundays instead of the lapel mic. The new mic is a headset mic which is located on the cheek meaning the audio is picked up better than a lapel mic as it is closer to the mouth.

I would like to express thanks to Jan, Terri and Vicky who have assisted with the audio-visual side in church over the past year.

Andi Garbett

Sunday School Report 2021

This year we can give praise to God "we have a Sunday School"! Not only the twins, owing to Colin and Vicky joining us, but also Esther. It's been really great teaching the children, and leading them through Genesis.

Please pray that all these lessons may be knowledge in the heart and not just the head.

Pray for the teachers: Vicky, Gina, Rachel and Ruth as they prepare. May they also learn more from God's Word.

Hebrews 4 v 12: "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Ruth Garbett

Wednesday People 2021

As 2021 began we were very unsure about when it would be safe to restart our twice monthly "Wednesday People" coffee mornings. Our last meeting had been on Wednesday 18th March 2020, just as the whole country was going into the first lockdown when all church meetings closed. We had no idea how long this would last.

Roll forward to 2021, and things were beginning to change. We were regularly checking government guidelines to see how and when church events could be held safely. Restrictions were slowly being lifted and eventually we had a Wednesday People team meeting on 6th October 2021 to discuss when to recommence, and what we needed to do in order to ensure the safety of all those attending. We decided on a few small changes – instead of plates of uncovered biscuits on the tables we would purchase packs of wrapped biscuits. Access to the kitchen would be restricted to no more than two or three persons. We also took care to keep the hall ventilated by keeping the door or windows open. Initially, masks would be worn by those serving drinks.

When we opened for our first meeting on 20th October we really didn't know what to expect. We set up the room, had our time of prayer, and waited for people to come. Soon the room was buzzing with chat and it was just as though we hadn't had a break of 19 months! Everyone seemed happy with the new arrangements.

Sadly, there were some of our previous regular attenders who had passed away during the time we were closed, but we have also welcomed new visitors to our gatherings. One of our ladies, Margaret Cox, often brings some of her freshly baked goodies which are very well received. Some Christian books and CDs have been donated which we are planning to lend out to anyone who wishes to borrow them.

We do like to remind ourselves of the original purpose of these gatherings, which has not changed.

"The main purpose of the meetings is the Gospel and Friendship: to provide an environment where people who do not attend church services can come in for a cup of tea or coffee and companionship. The purpose behind this is to have conversations with those who come in, and that as we get to know the people we can look for opportunities to share the Gospel with them, on a one-to-one basis."

If you are free on any first or third Wednesday each month, do come along and enjoy fellowship with us. Also, if anyone is available and would like to be part of our little team, please speak to Terri or Mary.

Terri Childs
Mary Tull

Women's Fellowship Report 2021

Proverbs 31v30 "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised"

The Ladies meeting resumed with an informal meet up on the 7th of September 2021 to consider how to proceed following the Covid-19 restrictions preventing the ability for the Ladies to meet since the start of the pandemic in March 2019. We had lovely cake and tea evening on 27th September, and as a group selected the study "Joy in Suffering receiving your rewards" by David Lambert. This was a series of six sessions and agreed to resume the Ladies meeting 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings at 730pm from 12th October.

- 1) Standing strong - 12th October 2021
- 2) Obeying God rather than man – 26th October 2021
- 3) Suffering as a Christian – 9th November 2021
- 4) Responding to your enemies – 11th January 2022
- 5) Fixing your eyes on Jesus - 25th January 2022

We had a lovely Ladies Christmas meal at the Down on the 23rd of November, well attended and gave opportunity to get to know each other more with quite a few new Ladies now attending church. We decided to not hold any meetings in December due to Christmas. Leading of the studies were shared out by volunteering for each study, with the last study "Receiving your Reward" held on the 8th of February 2022. Living in His reward now really stood out.

We had a Ladies social event on the 22nd of February which went down well with buffet style bring and share food and fun with games involving much exercise retrieving the table tennis ball for special individuals. Board and card games with Darts count up, enabled us to just enjoy time together having some fun! We look to resume studies on the 22nd of March 2022, which will be a new series on either Old or New Testament characters. We are hoping to encourage each other as we study the bible together.

People's Hall Ladies

Good News Papers

Each month 125 Good News Papers are collected from our distribution point in Shrewsbury. Stickers are then attached stating who we are and advising our various activities. The papers are then split into 3 rounds which enables us to distribute to Palemeadow, Severn Street area and Lodge Farm. A few copies are retained at Church for passing on to visitors and friends.

This is an important ministry because it has enabled the Gospel to reach homes and families which would otherwise have no other connection with our Church. In some cases we have been able to engage in conversation and some have specifically requested that they continue receiving the paper.

At present the distribution is carried out by only 3 people and we would really welcome further help as it would be good to be able to distribute to even more homes. All that is involved is putting the papers through a list of letterboxes at any convenient time. If you could help please see Mary, Anne or Bob.

The Good News Paper Team

Carers Group

The carers meeting is a group all about drug abuse and people who have drinking problems. There is nine in the group and we meet every second Monday in the month.

We go out for a meal at Christmas.

We would like to thank the church for letting us use the room.

Lynne Beddow

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church

Accounts

31 December 2021

A J Millard and Co

Chartered Accountants

Stone House Farm, Bitterley

Nr Ludlow

Shropshire, SY8 3HQ

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church

**Accountants' report on the unaudited accounts
to The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church**

In accordance with your instructions, we have compiled these unaudited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

A J Millard and Co
Chartered Accountants

Stone House Farm
Bitterley
Nr Ludlow
Shropshire
SY8 3HQ

Date _____

Approved @ AGM 9th March 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ZCP', written over a horizontal line.

**The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church
Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
Income	28,727	21,765
Other income	6,290	5,052
Expenditure		
Employee Costs	11,552	
Premises costs	6,464	3,843
Repairs	9,038	209
General administrative expenses	7,669	7,074
Legal and professional costs	290	285
Interest	450	456
	<u>35,463</u>	<u>11,867</u>
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	<u>(446)</u>	<u>14,950</u>

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Fixed assets	2	13,676	13,676
Current assets			
Bank current account		14,449	16,376
Bank deposit account		35,059	35,053
Missionary account		731	326
		<u>50,239</u>	<u>51,755</u>
Current liabilities			
Accruals		290	285
		<u>290</u>	<u>285</u>
Net current assets		49,949	51,470
Loans due after more than one year		(3,395)	(4,470)
Net assets		<u>60,230</u>	<u>60,676</u>
General fund			
Balance at start of period		60,676	45,726
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		(446)	14,950
		<u>60,230</u>	<u>60,676</u>

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2021

1 Profit and loss account analysis

	2021	2020
	£	£
Income		
Collections at services and subscriptions	9,053	6,344
Covenants	19,674	15,421
Sales	-	-
	<u>28,727</u>	<u>21,765</u>
Other income		
Gifts and donations	1,485	234
Bank interest	5	18
Rental income	4,800	4,800
	<u>6,290</u>	<u>5,052</u>
Employee costs		
Salaries	11,098	-
Pensions	454	-
	<u>11,552</u>	<u>-</u>
Premises costs		
Light and heat - Church	1,354	1,106
Light and heat - Manse	2,097	386
Rates and insurance	2,919	2,184
Cleaning	94	167
	<u>6,464</u>	<u>3,843</u>
Repairs		
General repairs and renewals	<u>9,038</u>	<u>209</u>
General administrative expenses		
Telephone	1,555	599
Stationery and advertising	385	517
Conference expenses	(160)	140
Gift allocation	2,655	3,000
Outreach	495	-
Equipment Expensed	443	122
Festival Costs	-	-
Subscriptions	1,538	1,000
Sundry expenses	758	1,696
	<u>7,669</u>	<u>7,074</u>
Legal and professional costs		
Accountants fees	<u>290</u>	<u>285</u>
Interest		
Interest	<u>450</u>	<u>456</u>

**The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

2 Other fixed assets

	2021	2020
	£	£
Freehold property	2,500	2,500
Church extensions	10,548	10,548
Investments £628.18 2½% Consolidated Stock – at cost	628	628
	<u>13,676</u>	<u>13,676</u>

The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church

**Accountants' report on the unaudited accounts
to The Peoples Hall Evangelical Church**

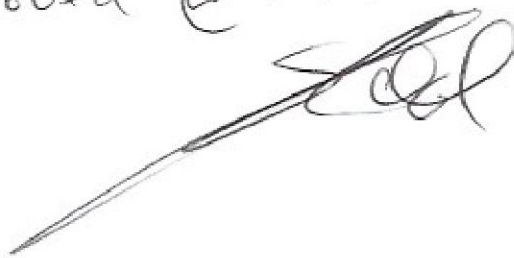
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