

# People's Hall Evangelical Church Bridgnorth

Annual Reports  
For  
2021

Annual Meeting  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Down

29<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday evenings at 730pm from 12<sup>th</sup> October.

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

We had a lovely Ladies Christmas meal at the Down on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2022. Living in His reward now really stood out.

We had a Ladies social event on the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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**

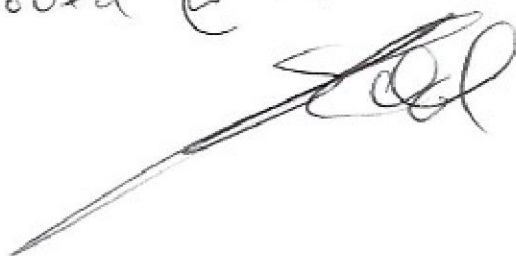
In accordance with your instructions, we have compiled these unaudited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

A J Millard and Co  
Chartered Accountants

Stone House Farm  
Bitterley  
Nr Ludlow  
Shropshire  
SY8 3HQ

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved @ AGM 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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

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

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>28,727</b>	<b>21,765</b>
 <b>Other income</b>	 <b>6,290</b>	 <b>5,052</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Employee Costs</b>	<b>11,552</b>	
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><b>35,463</b></u>	<u><b>11,867</b></u>
 <b>(Deficit)/surplus for the year</b>	 <u><b>(446)</b></u>	 <u><b>14,950</b></u>



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

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Fixed assets	2	13,676	13,676
<b>Current assets</b>			
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>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accruals		290	285
<b>Net current assets</b>		49,949	51,470
Loans due after more than one year		(3,395)	(4,470)
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>60,230</u>	<u>60,676</u>
<b>General fund</b>			
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 £
<b>Income</b>		
Collections at services and subscriptions	9,053	6,344
Covenants	19,674	15,421
Sales	-	-
	<u>28,727</u>	<u>21,765</u>
<b>Other income</b>		
Gifts and donations	1,485	234
Bank interest	5	18
Rental income	4,800	4,800
	<u>6,290</u>	<u>5,052</u>
<b>Employee costs</b>		
Salaries	11,098	-
Pensions	454	-
	<u>11,552</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Premises costs</b>		
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>
<b>Repairs</b>		
General repairs and renewals	<u>9,038</u>	<u>209</u>
<b>General administrative expenses</b>		
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>
<b>Legal and professional costs</b>		
Accountants fees	<u>290</u>	<u>285</u>
<b>Interest</b>		
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**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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  
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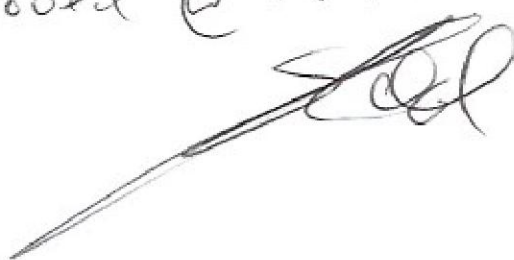
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Approved @ AGM 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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