



Modern Church
faith in the world

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 2021

**to be presented to the Annual General Meeting on
20th July 2022 at 2.15 p.m.
at High Leigh Conference Centre and on Zoom**

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Registered charity no: 281573

ABOUT MODERN CHURCH

Faith in the World

We understand that

- genuine faith is committed to the search for truth, wherever it comes from
- it is possible to think and talk about God in ways that make sense in our time and culture

We encourage

- open discussion: freedom to explore ideas, ask questions and change our minds without fear of disapproval
- critical scholarship: keeping up to date with good research, examining the implications of new insights and discoveries
- willingness to change: so that what we believe now can be expressed in the things our churches do and say.

We expect our theology to be

- public: talking the language of ordinary people, not that of a religious club
- relevant: engaging with what is going on in society, informing our faith and how we live
- respectful: willing to learn from others, within and outside Christianity, since we accept that we don't have all the answers.

Public benefit

As a charitable organisation we consider that our objects have the following public benefits:

- we have a duty within our present-day society to present Christianity in a way which can be understood by ordinary people
- we encourage all church people, both ordained and lay, to play a full part in the governance and activities of their churches and foster greater engagement with the mission of the churches to support the poor, sick and needy in society
- by engaging in research and study we can help our fellow Christians come to a deeper understanding of their faith and how it has developed
- our approach to theology will encourage people of all faiths to better understand one another thus promoting constructive relations between the faiths.

Report from the Chair

As a society, and in the church, we seem caught up in paradox – or is it contradiction? (Only a thin line separates the two.) Examples abound. We live in a democracy but the government seems determined to undermine the principles of accountability which are essential to any democracy. The pandemic is declared over but there are continuing high levels of infection everywhere. The promise of levelling-up has become a mirage. Governmental U-turns upon U-turns keep mounting up. On the church front, we follow the mantra that “we are all made in the image of God”, but that fails to translate into reality as the LLF process has been interminable, while LGBTQ+ “images of God” continue to feel shunned, marginalized, and patronized. Safeguarding culture intended to protect the vulnerable has turned into a nightmare for some who have been wrongly accused. The mission to seek imaginative theology fit for purpose gets reduced to a numbers game.

But we have no business becoming Eeyore. The progressiveness of Modern Church continues to make its voice heard and when it cuts through, the response is usually celebratory. For example, my preaching about the symbolism of the Christmas narratives in my local church last year elicited some thankful responses at the church door: “I’ve never heard that before, about the symbolism of the Christmas stories, and it was so refreshing, made my Christmas.” Perhaps this represents no major awakening for most of us, but it confirms me in thinking that there’s desire for progressive Christian thought out there and it’s for us – MC! – to parade it fearlessly. Over this last year, we have tried parading this fearlessly with our two inserts in the *Church Times* and generally the response was very positive. As was the reaction to our mini zoom series of issues in Christology, recalling the Girton College debate 100 years ago.

MC does produce stimulating materials – through our conferences, through *Modern Believing* and *Signs of the Times*, through our blogs, through local groups and the online Forum, through our emerging close relative, the Public Square group, through our Communications output, through the tireless work of the General Secretary, through the committed support of our President. There is much to feel pleased about – paradoxically! We have every reason to be profoundly grateful to all our officers, organizers, writers, and volunteers.

This is my last report as MC Chair of Trustees and Council. I have been in post for five years and feel privileged to have been part of an enterprise that is so vitally needed, given the near-anti-intellectualism of the church. Most of all, it is the stimulus provided by friends and colleagues in the movement that has been my most valued companion over this time. The suspension of the in-person annual conference for the last two years has been a loss, but hopefully that corner has now been turned.

For the future, there are some ongoing issues for the next Chair, General Secretary, Trustees and Council to confront – thorough analysis of our membership model, *Modern Believing* and *Signs of the Times* productions (online only or mixed mode?), the development

of new digital outlets for progressive Christian thought, possible new partnerships, to name just a small number.

Before ending this report, I must give a special thanks to Jonathan Draper who has been our General Secretary for the last five years. Jonathan is a person of many gifts, and MC has benefitted hugely from his period with us. He set about commending MC's outlook with great energy and intelligent imaginative flair. We are truly grateful. However, he is not disappearing, as trustees agreed that he would play a lead role in co-ordinating, designing and promoting our next year's conference on behalf of the Chair of Conference, the Revd Sonia Hicks, who is currently rather busy acting as President of the Methodist Conference for 2021/22. The MC conference will embrace themes of ethnicity, culture, colonialism, mission – and more. So, Jonathan, go well, but welcome back!

All told, I am more hopeful than ever about the future of Modern Church. There is no reason not to think that the future is bright. As I have said over the last two years, and in spite of pandemics, we are in good heart.

Alan Race, Chair, Trustees and Council

Report from the General Secretary

The period since my last report has continued to be one of (mostly) virtual activity. The irony, as I noted last year, is that meeting virtually has meant meeting about things more often. Like many others, we have become accustomed to Zoom...

Signs of the Times and Modern Believing

Signs of the Times has continued to flourish under the leadership of Anthony Woollard. Apart from some distribution issues, this continues to be a very good and important part of what MC offers, and it's good to see the circulation growing. New Affiliates have come (and some have gone). As with membership in general, retention is an issue. Trustees have begun to look at ways of having more direct control over our membership information, and our Communications Officer (Joe Priestley) has suggested useful technological responses.

A 're-launch' of *Modern Believing* took place on YouTube in January 2021. Rather more people 'attended' the re-launch online than might have done in-person (90-odd on the night with more viewing it on YouTube later). The re-launch of *MB* has been very successful in terms of design, policy, and content, and Adrian has done a splendid job of securing a wide range of scholars to write for us.

Sponsorship

In my last Annual Report I mentioned that I would say more about a sponsorship deal with the *Church Times* (CT). We have signed a deal which makes MC sponsors of all the CT Festivals: Preaching, Faith & Literature. This gives us a continuous presence on the CT

website, as well as good exposure during the festivals themselves. The deal remains in place until September 2022.

The success of the CT printed insert in October 2020 led the Trustees to do it again, this time in January 2022, with much of planning done in the latter part of 2021. Joe Priestley produced a visually attractive insert and we had a headline article from Martyn Percy and several others. This was not as successful as the previous one in terms of member-recruitment, but was widely read and helped to keep MC in the eyes of a significant group.

So, along with the insert, we have had many opportunities to be seen in the CT and on their website during 2021.

Other Organizations

We have made some slightly more ‘formal’ arrangements to cooperate with organizations we already do some work with: Inclusive Church (of which I am a Trustees on behalf of MC), One Body One Faith, Open Table, SCM, PCN. These organizations have together issued a Partnership Statement (it can be found on the MC website). We have also become a partner with a new organization called MoSAIC, working towards a more inclusive church (there was an article about it in the CT 26/2/21). At this point both groupings are ‘talking’ more than ‘doing’ anything, though our main grouping of Partners are looking to offer a range of resources for theological education which is a prime area for MC. We have been working towards the possibility of a joint day conference with The Campaign for Equal Marriage to follow up the Church of England’s LLF discussions. I have had about 15 (virtual) meetings with other groups during the course of 2021.

During 2021 a number of possible events have been discussed and the planning for them begun. I’ve mention one with the Campaign for Equal Marriage re LLF. We have planned and delivered a three-part lecture series (online) called ‘Christ and Controversy’ with three distinguished speakers (including our own Chair of Trustees) to mark 100 years since the Girton Conference; we have been discussing with Iain MacGilchrist the possibility of a two part series on neuroscience and the sacred. We have been planning our own conferences too, with a very successful virtual conference in 2021, and much planning for an in-person (with online attendance possible) conference in 2022.

Each of these activities has, of course, a wide range of ‘sub-activities’ within them: meetings, emails, telephone calls, papers to write, and, even occasionally, time and space to think. In all of that I am grateful to Alan Race for his gentle and encouraging supervision of my work, and for the support and encouragement of the Trustees.

My time as General Secretary comes to an end at the end of August 2022, so this is my last formal contribution to the Annual Report. I have taken part in preliminary and preparatory discussion about ‘succession planning’ and want to wish Modern Church continued success in the years to come.

Jonathan Draper, General Secretary

Modern Believing

1. Re-launch

The journal was ‘re-launched’ on January 28th. Originally planned as a physical meeting at St Martin-in-the-Fields, the pandemic required instead a more modest occasion on Zoom and YouTube. The smart, contemporary design, with a distinctive palette (which colours the covers of each edition differently), a new typeface, and new article layout and spacing, is intended also to signal a change for the better, not only in appearance but also in focus, content, and the overall quality of contributions.

2. Editorial Policy

2020 was the first year in which the new editorial policy was brought into operation, viz.,

- i) to cease to rely on uncommissioned, peer-reviewed articles for the non-conference editions;
- ii) to invite articles from established scholars in accordance with themes for each edition, decided by the Editor; and
- iii) to provide a sharper focus for the journal, based on the need a) to update our readers with developments in the different branches of Theology, and b) to provide a progressive alternative to ‘theology-lite’ conservative assumptions and positions.

The policy has given rise to outstanding articles from well-known authors (including 4 members of the Board); enabled the future of the journal to be properly planned; and provided space for the work of emerging authors, particularly women and non-Caucasian women and men. Contributors receive no remuneration for their work, so the journal relies entirely on their good will. As the programme is now set for the next 3 years I continue to be surprised and pleased by the flow of kind and positive responses to my requests for specific contributions to the various themes of the different editions.

3. Content in 2021

62.1 was intended to be the edition reporting on Modern Church’s 2020 conference, ‘Living in Love and Faith: Theological Transformations’. The conference, due to covid-19, was cancelled, but four of the speakers presented their talks in article form in 62.1, and the edition, together with powerful blogs on Modern Church’s website, provided a constructive and critical contribution to the ‘discussions’ about sex in the CofE.

62.2 received praise for the ‘conversations old and new’ between theology and the sciences. Modern Church hoped to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Girton Conference with a day conference in the summer, but the pandemic resulted in a change of plan – a series of 3 on-line lectures instead. However, **62.3**, ‘Christology Now’, planned in 2019 in anticipation of the Girton anniversary, captured something of the progressive spirit of our predecessors. **62.4**, on ‘Postcolonial Theology’, began with strong advice from Board members about prospective authors and content, leading to an invitation to the Revd Dr Duncan Dormor to edit and contribute to the edition. His honest grappling with his

position as head of an Anglican mission agency and an advocate of contemporary postcolonial theology, was one of the highlights of the journal's year.

4. Content in 2022 and 2023

Both years are now full. 63.1 on Theology and the Climate Emergency; 63.2 God's Relation to the World: Discovering Panentheism; 63.3 Prayer: Interdisciplinary Perspectives; 63.4 The Holy Spirit; 64.1 Conference edition; 64.2 "He is Risen Indeed"; 64.3 Theology, Agriculture and Meat; 64.4 Celebrating Progressive Women.

5. Content from 2024 on

As always, I rely on suggestions from Board members, as well as from the Trustees and members of Modern Church to help set the programme. Inevitably planning for the new quinquennium is sketchy. The details so far are: 65.1 conference 2023 edition; 65.2 Theology and Poetry; 65.3 Recent Biblical Scholarship: (1) the Hebrew Bible; 65.4 World religions edition; 66.1 conference 2024 edition; 66.1 Recent Biblical Scholarship: (2) The New Testament.

In the next quinquennium I would like to place more emphasis on our stated aim 'to update our readers with developments in the different branches of Theology'. *I appeal to Board members* to contact me (at apath@sky.com) with their suggestions for any themes, topics and suggestions for authors (and perhaps guest editors), as long as they pursue 'the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public', and the 'open and critical study of the Christian faith and its relevance in the contemporary world'.

6. Reviews

Once again, the Revd Dr Michael Brierley has spared no effort in editing over 100 reviews in 2021, always matching an appropriate reviewer to a particular book. Since each edition became thematic, Michael has arranged the production of reviews so that the bulk of them support the edition's theme. For example, in 62.4, the first 14 reviews all supported the postcolonial theme of the edition, greatly adding weight and importance to it.

7. Gender and ethnicity of authors

Progress towards equalization regarding the gender of authors is slower than I had hoped. This year 12 authors were male, and 6 female. (The two authors who were unable to contribute due to covid-19 were both female.) In 2022, there are 15 male and 8 female contributors. However in 2023, the position will be reversed – 6 male, and 15 female contributors. Initial invitations to write are equal between women and men. No statistics are asked for or kept about ethnicity. However, it will be obvious that a growing number of writers are non-white and non-European.

I record my thanks to all Board members for continuing to lend their esteemed names to the journal, to provide advice, and often articles and reviews as well. I thank the Trustees of Modern Church for their support and enthusiasm for the changes of the last 3 years, and also to the smaller group of Trustees (the 'Editorial Team') who together with the Reviews

Editor help to manage the journal's quotidian affairs and share a spirit of optimism about its future.

Adrian Thatcher, Editor Modern Believing

Membership Report

2021 was the eighth full year for which the subscriptions to Modern Church were managed by Liverpool University Press (LUP) and operating on a calendar year subscription. The management of membership has now been taken inhouse by LUP. Modern Church has continued with its Affiliate member scheme as well. The numbers of subscribers for the three year previous period were as follows:

Subscription Type	2019	2020	2021
Individual Member	218	199	194
Joint Members	21	16	14
Life Members	8	8	8
Honorary Members	0	0	0
Affiliates			45
Total Members	252	223	216 Full members 45 Affiliate members

The breakdown of Membership figures can be explained as follows:

Subscription Type	Total	Notes
UK member	118	
USA member	1	
Rest of world member	1	
Concessionary member	70	
Joint UK member	7	
Joint UK concessionary member	7	
UK student member	4	
Free	2	Comms Officer & Administrator

Ian Munro , Administrator & Finance Officer

Modern Church Forum

The Modern Church Forum was first convened a year ago. It is designed to give members a platform of their own from which to give papers or speak on any subject that interests them and is in keeping with the Modern Church ethos. The Forum meets online once every six weeks and is convened by Lorraine Cavanagh.

Lorraine Cavanagh, Forum Convenor

Signs of the Times Report

During a year which continued to be dominated by the pandemic and restriction to online-only activities for much of the time, our quarterly newsletter continued as a vital means of communication with our membership and others, particularly as we developed the new category of Affiliates for whom this is the principal point of contact.

Two themes dominated the year. Living in Love and Faith was addressed in particularly by a fine article from Dr Charlie Bell, one of our Council members and a medical scientist. The second theme, rightly occupying much more space, was the climate crisis, on which our online-only Annual Conference focused; from articles by Jonathan Clatworthy to a very rich account of Conference itself by Hugh Bryant, it was made clear that this issue was the most fundamental “sign of the times”. Space was found also for such items as a sermon by Chris Savage on the 50th anniversary of his ordination – a trip down memory lane for many of us who are of his generation, but hopefully thought-provoking to those who are younger.

Along with our website, *Signs* has become in a real sense our principal “shop window”. As well as being distributed to members and affiliates, it can be made available to enquirers as well as those attending other events in which we are involved. If any members would like extra copies to distribute to enquirers in their own church or neighbourhood, or at events which they attend, they should request these from our administrator (office@modernchurch.org.uk) who will try to accommodate them.

Articles by members (and indeed others) about contemporary issues of Christian faith and practice, likely to be of interest to our readership, are always welcome, though it may not always be possible to find space for them at once. The management of book reviews remains in the capable hands of Trevor Pitt. Trevor is always looking for books to review and people to review them, and your suggestions will be appreciated.

Thanks are due to him, and to the other members of the editorial team – our General Secretary, our Communications Officer, and Lorraine Cavanagh and Helen Burnett – and to our designer Richard Remington; but above all to our contributors.

Anthony Woollard, Editor, Signs of the Times

Treasurer's Report

Covid continued to rule our actions and meetings throughout 2021. As a result both our Council meeting in March and our Annual Conference in July were held via Zoom on-line as was our Annual General Meeting. Our expenditure throughout 2021 was correspondingly less than would otherwise have been expected.

Legacy

We began the year with just under £125,000 of the original amount which was set aside for special projects. During the course of the year we spent approximately £30,000 of our planned spending over a five year period on designated legacy projects including spending on SOTT, the relaunch of MB and the salary of our General Secretary. This leaves just under £96k of the legacy for continuing projects which have started or for new ones. During the course of the next year, Trustees and the new General Secretary will need to review the legacy and reserves policies to ensure that we can continue to work with other organizations and fellow travellers to bring the insights of Modern Church to a wider audience, as well as protecting the continued existence of the Society.

Signs of the Times

This continues to be sent to all members and affiliate members in its new design format. It is currently costing just under £7,000 pa.

Modern Believing

Adrian Thatcher, a Trustee, is paid an annual honorarium of £2,500 as Editor as previously agreed by Trustees. The cost of printing and posting out of MB has gone down by approximately £1,500 – due to a reduction in membership numbers. This is disappointing, although royalty income from sales to libraries is about the same.

Subscriptions and Membership

Income from membership subscriptions is down again this year. Affiliate members are listed separately to enable comparisons to be drawn in future years.

Conference

High Leigh conference centre has treated us very well over the enforced cancellation of the 2020 annual conference due to Covid-19 and initially agreed to transfer our deposit to 2021. This deposit has now been held over for another year for the 2022 conference.

Future Treasurer

I have continued to hold the role of Acting Treasurer over the last year, with the help of some bookkeeping on the part of our Administrator, Ian Munro, who was appointed in the spring of 2021. I am now very pleased to be able to propose Diane Kutar as our new Treasurer at the AGM. Diane will be familiar to most of you through her previous role as

Administrator and I am most grateful to her for being willing to stand for election at this AGM. She has excellent credentials in the field of finance and bookkeeping and has the advantage of knowing the workings of Modern Church from the inside.

Policies

Legacy Policy

MC has been very fortunate to receive a number of fairly substantial legacies from former members over the years for which Trustees are very grateful. We wish to encourage members to continue to remember the Society in their wills in this way to help ensure that the work continues for future generations of church people. In 2017 we received two significant legacies from former members of MC - £231,000 from Paddy Lewin and £5,000 from Joan Dorrell.

Reserves Policy

In light of the receipt of substantial legacy funds in 2017 and the decision to pay a salary to our General Secretary, it was agreed to modify our Reserves Policy for the time being. Thus the legacies received during 2017 have been considered as a project fund to pay for the General Secretary's salary and expenses and to provide the necessary support for him to develop the work of MC over the five years of his contract. It was agreed at this time that the reserves held by MC previous to 2017 and which provided an annual income towards the day-to-day running expenses of MC of over £8,500 should continue to be held as designated reserves.

Data Protection Policy

Modern Church adheres to Government guidance on data protection. We pay an annual registration fee to the Information Commissioner. Our membership records are managed by Liverpool University Press who publish and distribute *Modern Believing* on our behalf. Affiliate member records are managed in-house.

Independent Examiner

I am grateful to Jonathan Rudge once again for agreeing to act as our Independent Examiner and his report is attached.

Rosalind Lund, Acting Treasurer

Modern Church

Receipts and Payment Accounts to 31 December 2021

		Note	2021	2021	2020	2020
			£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS						
Subscriptions	Members		9,071		11,234	11,234
	Affiliates		695			
Gift Aid				9,766		
Investment Income			14,688	14,688	15,061	15,061
Conferences	Annual Conference	1	1,410		2,949	
	Council Residential		0		1,354	
	Other conferences		0		0	4,303
				1,410		
Miscellaneous	Donations	2	295		125	
	Publications (MB royalties)	3	1,153		1,113	
	Other inc book sales		70	1,519	0	1,238
TOTAL RECEIPTS				27,383		31,836
PAYMENTS						
			2021	2021	2020	2020
			£	£	£	£
Legacy Project	Gen Sec		17,500		17,500	
	Greenbelt (due 2020 from 2019)	4	0		6,598	
	Projects (Inc Church + CT project)	5	3,750		6,352	
	Gen Sec Travel Expenses		0		846	31,296
				21,250		
Publications	Modern Believing		4,809		6,374	
	SOTT (Legacy project)	6	6,949		5,825	
	Editors		2,500		1,267	
	Other - purchase of books inc MB copies etc.		690		0	
				14,948		13,466
Communications	Comms Officer		6,448		6,985	
	Website costs & advertising	5	1,651		1,613	
				8,099		8,598

Admin	Administrator		8,634		7,296
	Accounting fees		420		430
	Trustees room hire		0		210
	Admin Expenses (inc post re		1,193		2,073
	Affiliates and insurance)				
	Other		235		35
				10,482	10,043
Conferences	Annual Conference	1	1,275		2,950
	Council Residential 2022		300		1,700
	Other			1,575	4,650
TOTAL PAYMENTS				56,354	49,411
SURPLUS/DEFICIT				-28,971	-17,576

Notes to the Accounts for 2021

1. Conference 2020 was cancelled - some people who had paid deposits or full fees chose to have them transferred to set against the 2021 conference, now carried forward to 2022; others chose to make a donation to MC's general funds. High Leigh agreed to transfer the deposit paid for accommodation in 2019 to 2021 and a further roll-over has been agreed to take us to 2022. A total of £2076 has been transferred towards the 2022 conference (a mixture of deposits and full payments). Conference 2021 was held on-line only and is accounted for here.
2. Donations - as a result of the cancelled conference for 2020 (for which payments were made in 2019 and 2020) a total of £1,006 was most generously donated. No donations towards student bursaries at conference were received in 2021, however a total of £170 was received in donations towards a leaving gift for our retiring Administrator, Diane Kutar.
3. Modern Church receives payments from LUP in relation to subscriptions from libraries and institutions, referred to as royalties.
4. Greenbelt was cancelled in 2020, but MC had already decided to focus on other projects for 2021. The payment shown for 2020 relates to a late invoice received from Greenbelt for 2019.
5. Legacy Projects - in addition to the expenses relating to the work of the General Secretary, limited in 2020 and 2021 by Covid. The re-launch of Modern Believing including a redesign under the Editorship of Adrian Thatcher actually took place in 2021 and was held on-line. We supported Inclusive Church with their campaign to get more liberal members of General Synod. We have started another Legacy project with two sponsorship arrangements with the Church Times. The cost of Legacy Projects (including SOTT since re-design) totalled £28,199 in 2021 (Legacy projects + SOTT).
6. Signs of the Times (SOTT) continues to show high costs since a re-design in 2019 and is considered as part of our Legacy Project.

7. Investments - 2021 was a good year for the stock market and the shareholding ended with a higher value than it started with. We withdrew a total of £20,000 in value during the course of the year to pay for our Legacy projects. There is no guarantee that in future years our investments will continue to increase in value.

<u>Bank and Investment Balances at 31 December 2021</u>			2021	2021	2020	2020
			£	£	£	£
FUNDS STATEMENT - Members' Funds						
Opening Balances						
Undesignated			145,731		110,908	
Designated		Reserves	263,429		263,429	
	5	Legacy Projects	124,929		163,247	
Restricted		Student bursary fund	776	534,865	451	538,035
Surplus/deficit Cash Flow			-28,971		-36,217	
Unrealised holdings gains/losses			72,494	43,523	33,047	-3,170
Closing Funds			<u>578,388</u>		<u>534,865</u>	
Represented by						
Undesignated			217,483		145,731	
Designated		Reserves	263,429		263,429	
		Legacy Projects	96,730		124,929	
Restricted		Student bursary fund	746		776	
Total Funds			<u>578,388</u>		<u>534,865</u>	
Members' Assets						
CAF Bank			18,892		28,086	
Paypal			122		135	
CCLA Deposit	1		1,331	20,345	1,330	29,551
CCLA Shares (NB £20,000 withdrawn 16 Nov) - revaluation at 31 Dec to £558,043	7		558,043	558,043	505,314	505,314
Total			578,388		534,865	

Annual Conference Current Year (2021)

			2021
			£
Receipts	Conf fees		1,410
Payments			
	High Leigh Deposit moved to 2022 (£2,247)	1	
	Advertising and expenses inc repaid fees		1,402
Net			8
cancelled 2020 conference	1		
	Conference fees received	5,819	5,819
	Repaid conference fees (2020/1)	2,737	
	Donations (2020)	1,006	
	Rollover to 2021/2022	2,076	
	Total accounted for		5,819
Student donations			
	Brought forward to 2021	776	
	student place	-30	
	Total available at Dec 2021		746
Legacy projects (see Note 5 on p.13)			
	Funds brought forward	124,929	
	Spending in 2021	-28,199	
	Funds remaining		96,730

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of The Modern Church
For the year ended 31st December 2021
Registered Charity no. 281573

Independent examiner's statement

I report on the accounts of the Modern Church ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on the attached pages and show a cash deficit of £28,971, together with funds totalling £578,388.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Rudge', with a horizontal line underneath.

Jonathan H. Rudge MA FCA
20 Blackthorne Close
Solihull B91 1PF
21st April 2022

Modern Church Officers and Post-holders: 2021

President	Professor Elaine Graham
Chair of Council	Canon Alan Race
Vice Chair of Council	Mr Anthony Woollard
General Secretary	The Very Rev'd Dr Jonathan Draper
Secretary	Rev Dr Jan van der Lely
Acting Treasurer	Mrs Rosalind Lund (from June 2020)

Vice Presidents:

Prof Paul Badham
Prof Elaine Graham
Rev Dr Nicholas Henderson
Dr Peter Mills
The Most Rev Barry Morgan
The Very Rev Prof Martyn Percy
The Rt Rev Dr John Saxbee
The Rt Rev Brian Smith
The Rt Revd Tim Stevens
Rev Canon Richard Truss
The Rt Rev Martin Wharton
Rev Jonathan Clatworthy

Council Members during 2021

Rev Dr Jeyan Anketell ¹

Mrs Jean Barnett

Dr Charlie Bell ¹

Hugh Bryant

Rev. Helen Burnett

Rev Dr Lorraine Cavanagh

Rev Jonathan Clatworthy ¹

Rev Canon David Driscoll ¹

Rev Ruth Fitter ¹

Prof. Elaine Graham

Rev David Howard

Rev David James

Rev Tom Keates

Rev Diane Kutar

Rev Tim Laundon ¹

Mrs Rosalind Lund

Rev Stephen Parsons ¹

Canon Trevor Pitt

Canon Dr Alan Race

Prof. Adrian Thatcher

Rev Dr Miranda Threlfall Holmes

Richard Truss

Rev Dr Jan van der Lely ¹

John Vickerman

Mr Anthony Woollard

Rev Sonya Wratten

¹Term of office ends at the 2022 AGM but can stand for re-election

In bold – current trustees