



BOOK OF REPORTS

June 2022

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

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PRAYER
LEARNING
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MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS

Our God is the God who was and is and is to come!

As I look back over the past year, I want to pinpoint some highlights that reflect what is past, what is present and what is yet to come...

GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR THE PAST

In October 2021 we were able to have a special service of thanksgiving for those who'd died over the previous two 'covid' years – Betty Beer, Di Double, Joyce Wells, Pat Goward, Phyllis Smith and Sylvia Roberts. Whilst we mourn our loss, we do not grieve like those who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). On the contrary, the service was a wonderful testimony to the faith and faithfulness of these servants of God. The service was well attended by both church folk and family members, which meant we were able to belt out some classic hymns; it was the first time since covid struck that the church felt full and that the praise was loud. With contributions from various folks, we remembered, amongst other things, Di's humble organ playing, Pat's warm welcome, Phyllis' compassionate care, Joyce's passion for social justice, Betty's gift of nurturing and Sylvia's tenacious prayer. And at the end January 2022, at a similarly well attended and praiseful service, we gave thanks for the life of Phil Philips her infectious faith.

What a wonderful legacy they have all left us! May their example continue to inspire us and spur us on.

CELEBRATING IN THE SPIRIT TOGETHER IN THE 'PRESENT'

Over the last year our ways of doing things as a church have gradually returned to some level of 'normality'. And there seemed to be a culmination of that during Holy Week and on Easter Day with our 'usual' suite of services: Maundy Thursday's reflective communion, Good Friday's Walk of Witness (this year down the High Street!) and Easter Sunday's Sunrise Service, Ansell Centre Breakfast and All Age

Service with blossoming the cross. The sense of spiritual fellowship and hopeful celebration on Easter Day was a true blessing. Throughout the pandemic we proved that we don't *have* to come to a building on a Sunday morning to be church, but it did feel good to be together in this way, didn't it?

And then in May we welcomed five of our congregation into membership: Barbara Breeze, Joy Bull, Jean Probert, Michael Tillett and Janice White. Although they had all been worshipping with us at Great Meeting for some time, it was heartening to see them take this step of commitment to the local church.

It certainly feels like there is a renewed sense of life and love amongst us at present.

FOLLOWING JESUS INTO THE FUTURE

We do recognise, however, that some of us are not able to get back on site and enjoy this sense of worship and fellowship. Print services continue to be delivered each week, some watch the service online and others have engaged with the launch of an 'online worship' page on our website. Providing and partaking in worship has changed in recent years – and this was something we acknowledged at the special vision day held in October, with previously and presently elected elders.

The vision day led to the formulation of an Action Plan, which was adopted by church meeting in December. This provides us with an exciting focus for how we want to follow Jesus as a Church into the months and years ahead of us. And it's been encouraging to see how many steps towards achieving the goals have already been taken over the last few months (see report on this). We now need to build on that momentum; I believe the future of this church will be directly related to the realisation of those goals.

So, as we look back over the last year, let us give thanks for those precious followers of Christ, the current sense of God in our midst and our clear vision for the future.

AND FINALLY...

And let us also give thanks for all the other many ways that God has been at work amongst us over the last year, including: Harvest offerings, the Shoebox appeal, the *ShelterBox Nativity* (with visits from schools and Christmas services geared around it – and donations to fund three boxes!), the *Trail for our World* during COP26, the return of *Thinking & Praying Ahead* forums (covering 'buildings management' and 'equal / same-sex marriage', which has led to a new exploration of marriage and sexuality as a church family), mid-week prayer (both onsite and online!), regular maintenance mornings, *Messy Church* sessions, as well as the ACC initiatives through which many of us are faithfully serving (e.g. Memories Café, Lunch Clubs). And you can find reports on some of these events and ministries inside. Thank you to all those who lead these and help out behind the scenes!

Personally, with my wider URC hat on, it's also been a blessing as 'interim moderator' to guide the Ipswich and East Pastorate through their process of discernment over a prospective minister, resulting in a calling for Adam Earle, who will join Revd David Rees in July.

There's much that's happened over the last year, much that's ongoing and much that's still to come. And as a church and denomination we continue to feel somewhat stretched in terms of human resources – especially with life now returning to the levels of busy-ness that we had pre-covid. So, let's pray that God will raise up 'workers' where needed and give us the wisdom to prioritise those things that will be most fruitful for the kingdom.

May God bless you as you continue to play your part, whatever and wherever that may be. Grace and peace, *Bryn*

SECRETARY'S REFLECTIONS

During one of our pastoral meetings Bryn led us in our devotions thinking about 1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 20 & 27 – 30. "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ... *Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.*" Our Church at Great Meeting is the body of Christ and we are all working in different ways, using our different gifts to share the love of Christ with each other and to witness to this love to those who we live and work with. Thank you to each and every one of you for the work that you do – whether it be a job 'in the public eye' or a job hidden away but of equal importance.

A special thank you to Bryn for the way in which he has continued to lead the Church during the last year, which again has proved to be extra challenging because of COVID19. The worship has been varied and spirit filled and I have continued to learn much. He has also worked hard preparing and leading meetings and representing us at Churches Together in Hadleigh, South Suffolk Area Partnership and Synod meetings. Thanks to all the Elders, both those who are serving Elders at present and those who are serving in the background but without whom we would not be able to function as a Church. Our Action Plan has helped us to focus on where we would like to see the Church developing and how we will fulfil this purpose.

As Church Secretary, I am responsible for inviting people to lead worship and I am very grateful to those who have agreed to lead worship and for the time and commitment they have given to provide us with meaningful worship, many of them offering their services completely free of charge.

Highlights for me during the last year include the Shelter Box services during December and having the opportunity to welcome classes from the local schools to visit our Church, our Easter services, the

communion service when we formally welcomed five people into our membership, the youth service, the developments in Messy Church and the service of thanksgiving in October when we were able to give thanks for the life of members of our Church family who had died from March 2020 to October 2021- this service helped me to realise how much we had lost during the last eighteen months but also to celebrate the lives and witness of our dear friends.

Ongoing challenges continue to be how we can fulfil our mission with the resources that we have available. These resources are people and financial. We have lots of ideas as the Action Plan identifies but we need resources to move forward and allow us to realise our dreams. As the United Reformed Church celebrates its golden jubilee let's continue to commemorate the past, celebrate the now and create the future. How is God calling you to continue to support Great Meeting Church to "provide family, celebrate diversity, serve the community through and for the love of Jesus Christ"?

Claire Coster

ACTION PLAN

In the course of the past year, we have committed ourselves as a church to an action plan – a set of goals and actions that are aimed at helping us build on our strengths (family, diversity and service) and address our challenges (fewer resources and a shrinking congregation).

The Action Plan goals emerged from a vision day with elders old and new in October 2021. These were developed, shared and adopted by church meeting in December.

The **5 goals** are about inviting people to become followers of Jesus Christ, cultivating stronger relationships with local community groups, developing pastoral care for all user groups, encouraging further

diversification of worship/events and establishing relationships with growing churches.

Since then, we have already made some significant steps towards realizing these goals. Through January and February 2022, Sunday worship explored each goal in turn and considered how passages in Luke's gospel gave us encouragement and direction for achieving them. The talks for these are still available on our website Talks page and on our YouTube channel.

At elders' meeting each month we have been including a special Action Plan item on the agenda to check on our progress and consider what still needs to be done.

Below you can see some of the steps already taken as they relate to each of the 5 goals:

⊙ **Invite people to become followers of Jesus Christ – see new Christians in our congregation(s)!**

- ✓ We considered at Dec'21 church meeting the ways in which we had become Christians
- ✓ We ran a 'Focus on 3' prayer initiative in Lent, praying daily for 3 people who don't know Jesus
- ✓ We ensured some services have been 'accessible' to those who wouldn't normally go to church – Easter Online (on website) in April and Easter Day All Age service
- ✓ We gave opportunity for people to sign up for Alpha on the Easter Online page
- ✓ We have planned 4 workshops to increase our confidence in telling the good news

⊙ **Initiate and cultivate stronger relationships with local community groups that are working in line with kingdom values as well as other groups that are instrumental in connecting the community**

- ✓ We introduced to the elders' agenda a stranding item asking what events are going on in the community that we can be a part of
- ✓ We produced a new brochure giving info about some of the key community groups that use the Ansell Centre
- ✓ We asked JustFood Foodbank (now Hadleigh Community Support) for info about their activities (some included in this Book of Reports, some to be included in a future newsletter)

◎ **Develop a stronger network of support and pastoral care for all user groups of our premises (a kind of 'chaplancy')**

- ✓ We conducted an 'audit' at Dec'21 church meeting to gauge which groups we already have involvement in and links with
- ✓ We formed a task group to develop ideas of how to deepen out links with user groups and produced a remit for Link Persons as a result
- ✓ We are actively seeking Link Persons from within our congregation
- ✓ We are planning ways that users can ask for prayer and be prayed for

◎ **Encourage the further diversification of worship and events for specific target groups**

- ✓ We have launched a new initiative called Online Worship, a page on our website that is similar to the kind of interactive choice-based worship that Bryn produced during lockdowns (so far with three editions – Lent, Easter and Pentecost)
- ✓ We have enjoyed a Sunday morning service prepared and led by Hadleigh URC youth
- ✓ The Worship Group discussed the use of Facebook and how this might be improved – a task group will take this further
- ✓ Elders have started exploring options for having Café church actually in a café!

© **Establish relationships with 'growing churches' and learn from their approach**

- ✓ Elders had an initial conversation with the moderator about this in November
- ✓ Elders discussed ideas about churches and people we can approach about this (E.g. Halesworth URC, Chelmsford URC, Dan Morrell re Hybrid Church)
- ✓ We have asked for feedback from you about any of the churches you visit in the coming months (see June newsletter)

Some of these steps already taken need to be consolidated and enhanced whilst other steps still need to be taken. But it is encouraging to see that in the space of a few months we have already gained a healthy momentum towards achieving the 5 goals. Let's keep them in our minds and prayers over the coming weeks and months!

Bryn and the elders

PASTORAL CARE

Everyone in our Church family is involved in pastoral care for each other and it has been great that we have been able to spend longer chatting to each other in person rather than over the telephone.

The Pastoral Core Team of Bryn, Claire Coster, Barbara Dixon, Elizabeth Meeks and Ann Swallow have met to share concerns about members of our fellowship and to pray for them. We are also delighted that the wider pastoral support group have met twice together – in March and May 2022. We welcomed Barbara Breeze, Joy Bull and Janice White to the team and have reorganised the lists so that the load is more evenly spread.

During the last two years the major developments in Pastoral Care have been:

- safeguarding is now a standard item on the Elders' and Church Meeting Agenda
- transport – there is a list of people willing to offer transport and Ric holds a record of their documents
- there are pastoral visit cards available that can be left in the home of someone, as a record of the visit

The wider team aim to meet once during each school term and have some training and share our pastoral concerns and pray for those in special need of prayer at the time. We plan to consider:

- offering prayer ministry again after Church on a Sunday
- how to support newcomers and give them pastoral care
- set up a 'bereavement team' who support Bryn in his work, by visiting families after a funeral

If you feel in need of pastoral support, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Bryn or Claire or any of the Elders or Core Team. If you don't know who your special Pastoral Visitor is, please ask Claire for their name. All requests are confidential.

Claire Coster

(Pastoral Care Team Convenor)

WORSHIP GROUP

The Worship Group was convened in the Autumn of 2021 with the aim of discussing and exploring different aspects of worship at our church.

The broad aims of the group are to:

- To discuss the key aspects of worship at Great Meeting
- To act as a means for the wider congregation to share their views
- To reflect on the impact of worship in our community

So far we have had 3 meetings where our topics have included reflecting on worship during the pandemic, the changing patterns of

church attendance (particularly by families with children), the scope for online worship and social media, and how we can reach out to the community who do not come to church often or even at all. We have also begun to look at aspects of Sunday worship and the key elements of our services.

It is not always possible to accurately ascertain the impact of worship initiatives beyond Sunday services, but it is clear that family patterns mean that, even if families would like to come to Sunday services, the calls on their time are great. However, we know that live feeds of the services have regularly been viewed beyond the pandemic. Bryn has been using his skills to produce modern and appealing, wholly online services to reach those for whom formal Sunday worship may not be what is needed. The monthly 'Messy Church' style of worship has grown and fills a need in the community.

The feeling is that we need to keep offering opportunities for worship in a range of ways and let people know we are here. The redevelopment of social media such as Facebook is something we will be exploring over the coming months.

We don't always know what the impact has been...and who knows, it may be a seed sown that will come to fruition later.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank the members of the group for their contributions to this aspect of our church. It is valued.

Jane Tillett

MID-WEEK PRAYER

Our prayer service held on a Wednesday morning continues to be a hybrid service with people meeting in the Church and via Zoom. Ronnie has joined us from Oxford and Barbara and Janice even joined us while on holiday in Madeira!

Thanks to the nine people who have volunteered to lead the services. We have had a variety of themes and ways of leading and this has enriched those of us who have attended. Every service includes praying for those who have asked for prayer.

On the second and fourth Wednesday we now have refreshments afterwards.

If you are free on a Wednesday morning, why not come along and join us? You would be most welcome.

Claire Coster

MESSY CHURCH

It has been another year of worship and outreach at Messy Church with fun activities, games, fellowship and Bible exploration. We have enjoyed the company of our regular Messy Church families and have also been joined by new families, some of whom have now become regulars. We started the year still with our socially distanced set up in place but have gradually eased that to allow for closer interaction, joined activities and sharing of food around one table.

During these months we have had a wonderful array of topics. We celebrated Harvest by exploring tastes and practising generosity through a food collection for FIND. Then the children focused on light in October as they went around a trail around the church neighbourhood. In December, we celebrated Advent and the True King of the World; the children made advent calendars with acts of kindness and verses to read every day. February was a suitable month to talk about love and how it manifests itself from God through us. Following that we helped the children think about true friendship and see how Jesus is our best friend. We had a fun afternoon in April, where our Junior Church and Messy Church children came together for a party

with all the must-have components - pass the parcel, relay races and party food! In the lead up to Easter, we had a truly special morning of remembering the Easter story, thinking about Jesus' sacrifice and triumph and reflectively making Easter gardens - one to display in the church building and small individual ones to take home. And last month, we enjoyed time around the firepit - first acting out Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the beach, then enjoying with fishfinger wraps and s'mores!

It is wonderful to see the children engage with the stories of the Bible and respond to the teachings of Jesus in their lives.

Lilly Rickards

JUNIOR CHURCH

This has been a positive year for Junior church. We began to work with the children again in summer 2021 and by the autumn were able to offer two sessions a month again. We continue to have a small core of regular attenders and it is lovely to welcome the grandchildren of some members of the congregation when they are visiting.

In the autumn, as well as preparing for Christmas, we looked at a number of countries in Africa, learning about how children there live. We used a lovely book, 'Africa is not a country', because the children have raised money for *Build Africa* over the years and we hoped to give them a better understanding of the richness and diversity of the continent. The children were part of a special Christmas service too.

Over the spring term we looked at parables from the gospels, which we explored through films, games, activities, art and discussion.

In April we held a party for the Junior Church and Messy Church children and a great deal of fun was had by everyone.

We continue to be grateful for the team of people who regularly work with the children and would be very happy to receive new folk into the

ranks! We are also grateful to those parents who support us and to the wonderful children we have the chance to work with for their enthusiasm and curiosity.

Karen Harman

STREET CHILD

(with which *Build Africa* has amalgamated)

Street Child amongst other initiatives, work with local partners to ensure every child has access to education, especially in low resource environments & emergencies.

In March 2021 we held a Covid safe afternoon tea, fundraiser, in which an amazing £302 was raised, I was so pleased, as unfortunately in 2020 we had no event to fundraise for them.

This year on March 26th we held a joint fundraiser with the shoebox appeal, raising £100 for each charity. This event was at the last minute due to a covid infection, taken up and run by Karen & Claire. My sincere thanks go to them & the helpers.

The £100 sent to Street Child will be helping children in the Ukraine.

Street Child's website is: www.street-child.org

Hilary Crisp

BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBBOX APPEAL

Last year, 2021, our service of blessing for 337 filled boxes took place on 31st October. The majority of our boxes were made up in Sudbury by our friend Fran & her loyal team of helpers, some were able to attend the service & told us how very pleased they were to be present.

With no fundraising held in 2021, people's thoughtful & kind generosity enabled £330 to be sent to help with transportation. Our 2021 boxes were delivered to those in need in Moldova & Serbia.

This year a joint fundraiser with Street Child took place on March 26th. £100 for each charity was raised. Thanks go to Claire & Karen who stepped in at the last minute to run this for me, as covid had arrived in our household.

Thanks also go to those who took up meeting the collection van for the filled boxes & fillers in November, as Nigel & I had an earlier than planned isolation time with our son & family before their emigration to Australia.

Blythswood Care are very grateful for the filled boxes and extra fillers gathered by our church and friends in the community. One local lady, who has been involved with helping us for many years was determined to knit 100 pairs of gloves and she successfully achieved her goal!

Each year Blythswood send a letter of thanks alongside a certificate.

Blythswood Care are suggesting that if shoeboxes are difficult to get hold of, we can send items in a drawstring shoebag instead. The dimensions for these is 12 x 15 inches. We shall be making some.

I leave you with one of Blythswood's quotes:

'Time and time again, I've seen the reaction of children & adults as they discover the gifts that you have so kindly provided for them. Despite the difficulties that they face day to day through poverty, illness, disability or other disadvantage, receiving a shoebox brings such joy, that their faces light up with huge smiles.'

May God be gracious to us and bless us, so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations (Psalm 67:1-2)

Blythswood Care shoebox appeal website: shoeboxappeal.org

Hilary Crisp

OPEN THE BOOK

Open the Book is run by The Bible Society, local Christians go into their local schools telling dramatized biblical stories that the children can be part of.

The ecumenical Hadleigh Team is now in its 8th year of ministry. With the Covid 19 pandemic, Nigel has been faithfully supporting us with filming & editing our assemblies. The schools are grateful for this continued input & support during the pandemic. It is now over 2 years since we last went into schools. We are eager to be back with the children, twice plans to re-enter schools were stopped as covid cases in schools were still making us cautious. We sincerely hope to begin again in person, from September when the new academic year begins, attending on the 2nd Friday of the month. We shall be continuing in Hadleigh Community School & shall make our 1st regular in person visit to St Mary's Primary School.

We have been asked to help at Hadleigh Community School in the 2nd half of this summer term with an RE day for year 2 children

You can view our assembly efforts by searching: OTB Hadleigh

Hilary Crisp

MONKS ELEIGH

At the end of June 2021, we had our first Sunday afternoon service in the chapel since covid. It was lovely to be able to come back together again for this time of worship and reflection, which included people from the village, worshippers from the benefice and some folk from Great Meeting, Hadleigh. We've had two more services since then: one for Harvest (raising funds for Tearfund as usual) and a carol service in December, for which Bryn brought the ShelterBox and some of its

contents, along with baby (doll) Jesus (Mary and Joseph stayed in Hadleigh in case they fell to pieces!).

We've also organised two awareness-raising / fund-raising events for *Samara's Aid* (for Syria) – an afternoon tea in November and a coffee morning in February, the latter raising over £300. There was opportunity to hear more about the work of Samara and pray for the needs of the Syrian people.

A major loss of the last year has been the death of Sylvia Roberts. She was one of the pillars of the chapel and was, till the very end, prayerfully expectant of what God may yet do in the village. Sylvia and Maureen Morris were the two remaining 'regulars' at the chapel, with our monthly services being held in Sylvia's home (the old manse next to the chapel) because she was housebound.

As Maureen is also very involved with St Peters and the benefice, it is now a critical time to (re)consider what the worship and witness of the chapel should be in the future.

The chapel building continues to be offered as a day retreat centre (as H.O.M.E. – Heart of Monks Eleigh) and it was encouraging to hear that the leadership team of a church in Ipswich had recently enjoyed having their vision day there.

Maureen Morris and Bryn

CAMPUS MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

The Management Group has the responsibility, through the elders and congregation, for the buildings and grounds of our church. We meet roughly every 6 or 7 weeks. Our delegates represent both the church and the ACC. We are also responsible for the Saturday Morning Team. Jan Dicks is our secretary.

Typical of the things we have been doing, or are planning to are:

- in the process of purchasing and installing some security cameras in important locations around our buildings
- responsible for reporting and repairing faults e.g. blocked drains
- our users tend to acquire quite a lot of equipment and accessories. These can become hazardous. So, in collaboration with the Saturday morning group, we attempt to maintain a modicum of tidiness
- although the school house yard is not our direct responsibility, we work with the Saturday morning team to keep it tidy

I have given just a flavour of what we have been doing over the past 12 months. Leafing through the minutes, I counted over 30 matters requiring our consideration.

For the ***Saturday Morning Maintenance Team*** our numbers are drawn from the church, the ACC and beyond. Anyone who has a heart for the good order, repair and tidiness of our buildings is welcome to join us. We meet on the first Saturday of the month. Occasionally some kind soul brings along some home baking to eat during our break.

Typical activities are:

- Keeping the back rooms of the church tidy.
- Doing the PAT electrical testing.
- Weeding and keeping the grounds tidy.
- Maintaining our first aid supplies up to date.
- Repairing broken pipes, taps, doorhandles and the like.

Indeed, anything that needs to be done, we will do if within our competence.

Do please come and join us. But come with ideas that you have for things (repairs, weeding, etc.) that need to be done.

Ronnie Howson

(Group Convenor)

FINANCE

This is a Summary for Year Ended 31 December 2021.

We opened the year with a total of £33,121 at the bank and ended the year with £37,237. Our major payments were £34,527 to Ministry and Mission, £8,615 on administrator and cleaner wages, £7,975 on buildings maintenance, £3,689 on gas and electricity and £4,278 on insurance. Income mainly consisted of £30,270 offering plus £3,437 refund from Gift Aid, £13,064 from lettings and £11,500 from the School House rent. Income from lettings was still low throughout the first part of the year due to COVID but started to pick up around the Autumn. We were able to claim a total of £2,540 in 2021 from the government job retention scheme to help cover a large portion of our administrator and cleaner's wages. We also successfully claimed £8,000 back from our insurance company to cover income loss in 2020 due to COVID, with a further payment coming in 2022. Our premium will go up a little for the next few years but we will still benefit from this significantly. Many thanks to Nigel for his work with the insurance company.

It should be noted that the operation of the church's finances is very much a team effort. In particular, George looks after incoming payments such as banking the weekly offering, Sammy looks after outgoing payments and Mervyn looks after all our energy contracts. Ronnie has also been a great help with all sorts behind the scenes and I am very grateful to all of them for their constant hard work.

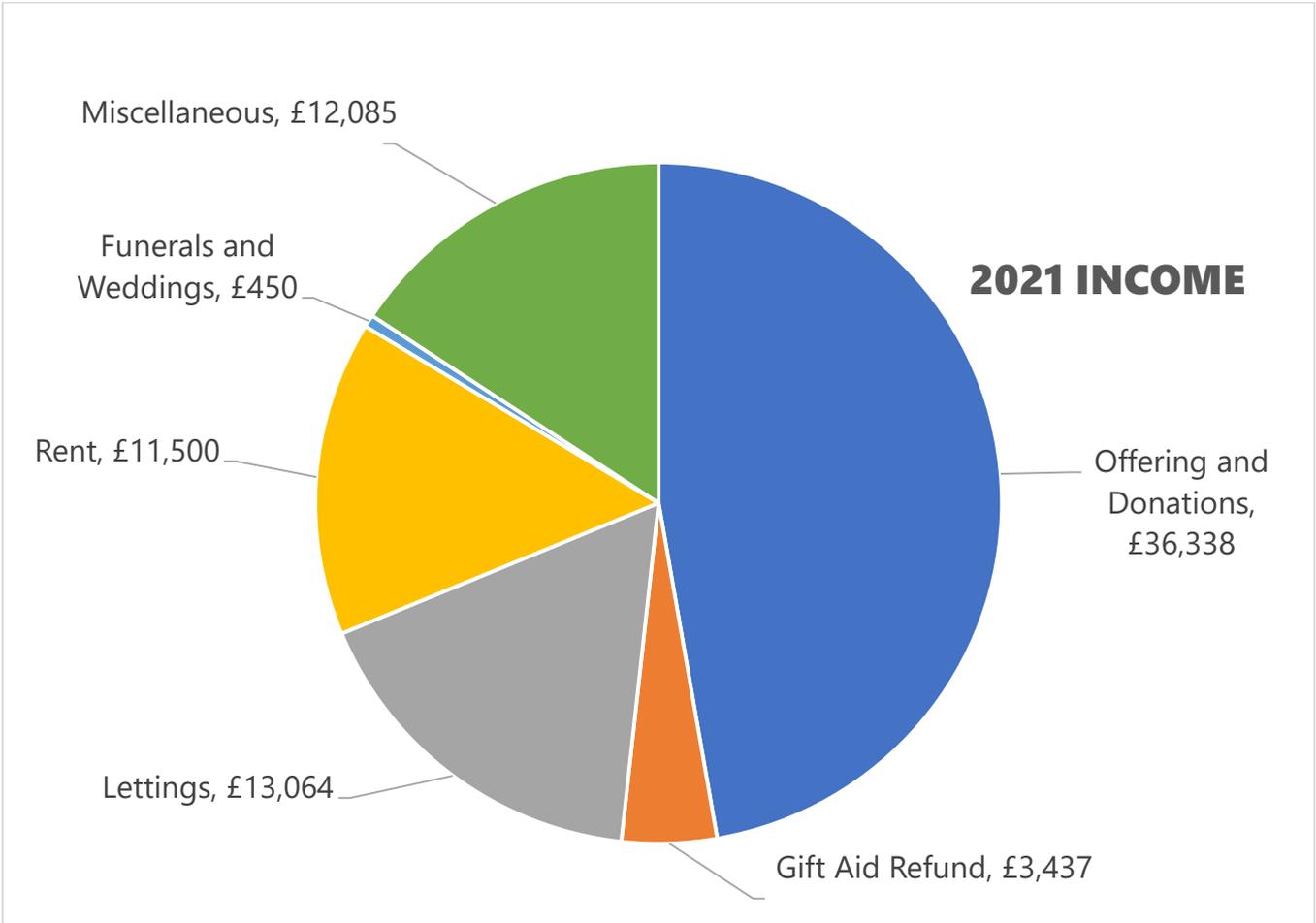
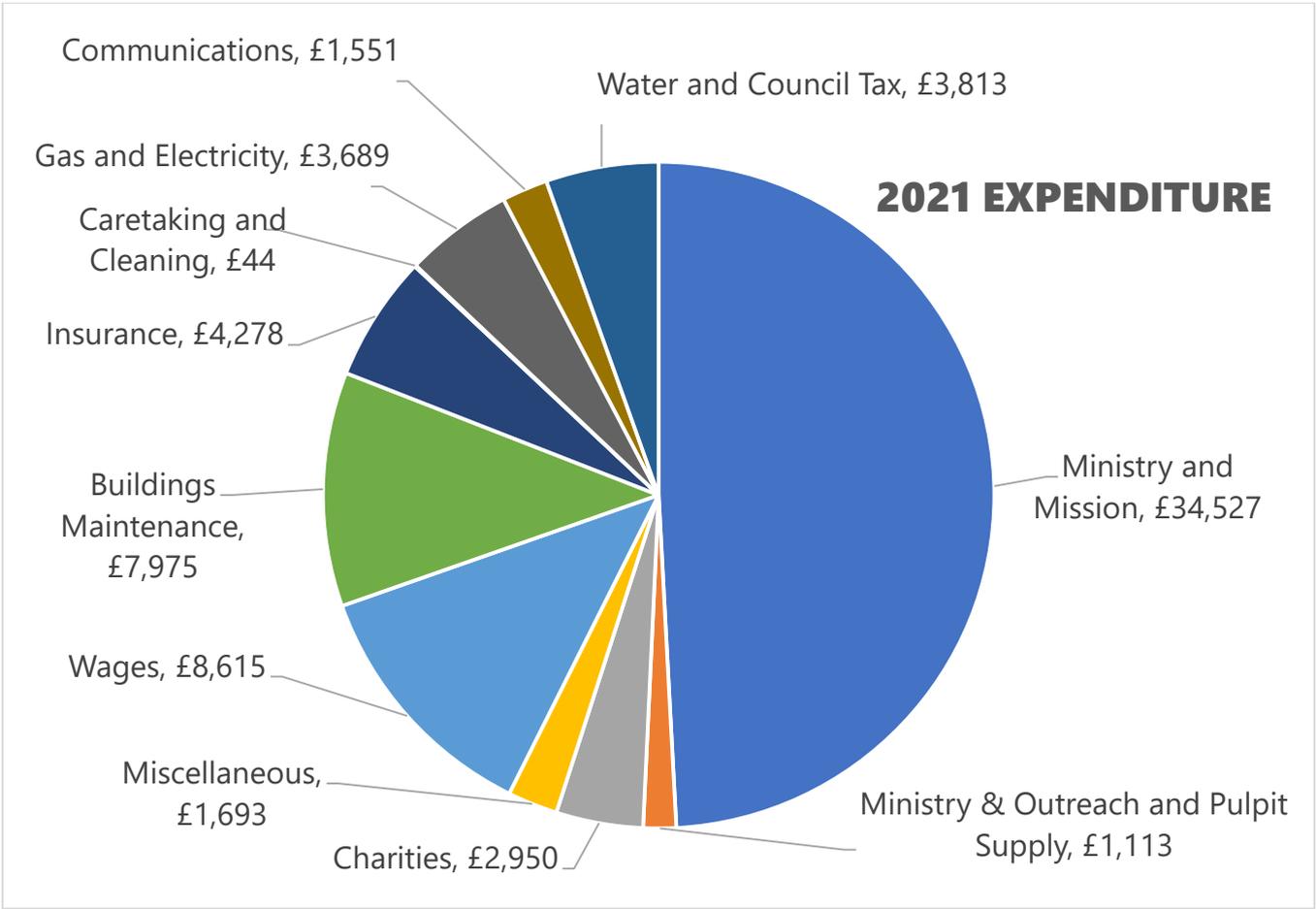
The following tables and graphs show a summary of income and expenditure for 2021.

Tom Gordon

(Treasurer)

	2021			2020		
	Restr.	Unrestricted	Totals	Restr.	Unrestricted	Totals
INCOME						
Offering and Donations		£36,338	£36,338		£25,036	£25,752
Gift Aid Refund		£3,437	£3,437		£3,187	£3,351
Lettings		£13,064	£13,064		£13,509	£27,307
Rent		£11,500	£11,500		£11,500	£11,500
Funerals and Weddings		£450	£450		£180	£140
Miscellaneous		£12,085	£12,085		£6,425	£2,879
Educational and Young People		£0	£0		£375	£421
TOTAL INCOME		£76,873	£76,873		£60,212	£71,350
EXPENDITURE						
Ministry and Mission		£34,527	£34,527		£37,443	£36,953
Pulpit Supply		£175	£175		£140	£280
Ministry & Outreach		£938	£938		£1,211	£2,320
Charities		£2,950	£2,950		£515	£4,560
Training and Learning		£0	£0		£0	£531
Miscellaneous		£1,693	£1,693		£2,134	£1,052
Wages		£8,615	£8,615		£8,788	£8,773
Buildings Maintenance (Excluding Manse)		£7,940	£7,940		£1,550	£6,308
Buildings Maintenance, Manse		£35	£35		£182	£10
Insurance		£4,278	£4,278		£4,048	£3,832
Caretaking and Cleaning		£44	£44		£854	£0
Gas and Electricity		£3,689	£3,689		£4,622	£6,445
Communications		£1,551	£1,551		£1,969	£2,460
Water and Council Tax (Including Manse)		£3,813	£3,813		£3,653	£3,663
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£70,248	£70,248		£67,109	£77,187
CASH FLOW		£6,626	£6,626		-£6,897	-£6,897

	2021			2020		
	Opening Balance	Cash Flow	Closing Balance	Opening Balance	Cash Flow	Closing Balance
Current Account	£13,396	£9,114	£22,510	£19,142	-£5,746	£13,396
Savings Account	£19,725	-£4,998	£14,727	£19,708	£17	£19,725
Creditors Payable	-£1,168	£1,168	£0	£0	-£1,168	-£1,168
Debtors (Unpaid Invoices)	£0	£1,342	£1,342	£0	£0	£0
Total	£31,953	£6,626	£38,579	£38,850	-£6,897	£31,953



ENERGY

Currently, Hadleigh URC is responsible for monitoring six energy meters, three of which are gas SMART meters. All our tariffs are on Business and not Domestic rates. As a Registered Church Charity we do not pay the Climate Change Levy (CCL) and our VAT on all energy invoices is 5%.

The total cost of the energy invoices for the year end December 2021 was £3452.56. This is a decrease £783.24 over the previous year. In the main this reflects a reduced usage of both the Church and the Ansell Centre by Community Groups because of Covid. However, lettings are now back to normal levels in 2022. Since October 2019 all three gas readings have been collected remotely by SMART meters.

The total of £3452.56 for all Energy Invoices Jan – Dec 2021 can be illustrated as follows:

Gas to the Church Community Rooms	341.46
Gas to the Ansell Centre kitchen +HW	170.51
*Gas heating to both the Church and Ansell Centre	1163.27
Electricity to Monks Eleigh Chapel	218.33
Electricity to the Ansell Centre	670.25
Electricity to the Church and Community Rooms	888.74

*The gas supply to the church and the Ansell Centre heating is controlled by one meter as shown above.

In recent years new heat efficient central heating boilers have been installed in the Church/ Ansell Centre, Ansell Centre entrance inc. toilet areas and Church Community Rooms. Nigel has played a major role in providing the technical specification for these heating installations. Most recently this has involved a substantial upgrade to the heating system in the Ansell Centre. We should also thank Ric and others for matching the lettings to the heat programme to save costs.

Contracts for the supply of energy are currently provided by two companies, Regent Gas and SSE. We work with our brokers Cost Advice based in Chesterfield. This is to ensure that we get the best tariffs through the URC Eastern Synod group bargaining deals.

The Church Elders, at their meeting held on 7 October 2019 agreed to adopt Green Electricity Tariffs for contracts which commenced on 01.11.20.

The church is not immune to future serious increases in energy charges. Our current gas contracts end on 31.07.22. We await new tariffs to be notified in June. It would not be unreasonable to expect an increase of 100-150% increase in gas charges. At present upwards of twenty suppliers are being asked to tender for future contracts which are likely to be for 2-3yrs. The good news is that our current electricity contract provided by SSE since 2020 does not run out until 31.10.23 so this is acting as a cushion to our energy bills. We shall eventually have to face the music when new electricity tariffs are negotiated in mid-2023. The increase in gas charges will pose the need for the Elders and AC Committees to review their letting charges.

I am grateful to David Cammack for sharing the responsibility for reading the electricity meters.

All church and community users should aim to reduce our energy costs by switching off the lights and heating controls as soon as events are finished and when there is sufficient natural light entering the buildings.

Mervyn Cort

ROOM HIRE

Although we lost some major lettings as a result of the COVID pandemic we have gained some other groups for regular lettings. We have invoiced a similar amount during 2021 (£12,648 from 144 bookings) as compared to 2020 (£11,287 from 91 bookings). In year 2019 which was the last 'normal' year before COVID we invoiced £30,318 from 208 bookings.

It has been problematical in keeping the calendar up to date as last minute cancellations, due to illness, and rebooking are taking place more often. Among the lettings we have 'lost' are Leading Lives, Sing Out Saturdays, Lip Reading, Alcohol Anonymous and Disability Advice Bureau but have gained Dog Training, U3A Art Group, HEAT, Hadleigh Optimists and Mother Union. Some of the leavers will have gone for the foreseeable future while some are still unsure of returning because of COVID. Of the new hirers some are for the winter only and the other 'full time'. Another new addition was the food bank 'Just Food'. With the 'loss' of Leading Lives we were able to offer their old office (Ansell Centre far right hand side room) as a storage place for Just Food to operate from. As part of the churches giving Just Food pay a small fee to use the room.

Our weekend birthday parties are picking up again after the fall due to COVID and to date none have had 'jelly and ice-cream' which has meant I haven't attended. But I always ask if it's on the menu. It seems that today's children don't want 'jelly and ice-cream'. What a shame that is.

We are looking forward to a better year in 2022 and hope that the lettings continue to increase. At the time of writing, we have invoiced £6,151 from 110 bookings for 2022.

Ric Lambert

ANSELL CENTRE CHARITY

2021 was a difficult one for many reasons. In particular, the fact that our chairman, Tom Tebbutt, was sadly taken from us in July. He had bravely battled cancer for several years but had always been there for support in his quiet, generous way. We miss him greatly.

Eve McCoid took on the role of temporary chair until the AGM in October, when we were delighted that Ruth Rowland agreed to become chairman. We were also pleased to welcome Andy Guest as a new trustee. The trustees are made up of URC and non-URC members/adherents.

Our three main activities survived through lockdown and restrictions and are returning to some normality.

Both **Lunch Clubs** remained closed until August/September when we were able to invite members for a full meal. Members had regularly been contacted by phone during the period of restrictions to check they were coping and were keeping well. Then afternoon teas were organised in May and June when members were very pleased to be back meeting up with friends again

'Friday Lunch Club' [FLC] decided to change their day to the first Wednesday in the month. This was due to the closure of Market Place on Friday for the market, thus causing difficulty in dropping off members. They are now called 'First Lunch Club' [FLC].

Memories Café is going from strength to strength and is providing a much needed weekly meeting place for those living with dementia and their carers, as well as others who live alone and who enjoy the opportunity for a chat, a shared lunch and the option of taking part in a variety of stimulating activities. During lockdown Sue, our Café organiser, produced a 6-sided newsletter which was delivered by hand to 30 members together with a bun baked by our cook. A further 5 newsletters were posted to members living outside Hadleigh. The

newsletters and buns were delivered by Sue and 5 Café Trustees enabling them to have a chat with members and check that they were coping.

As soon as Government regulations allowed, Sue and the Trustees met with 4 or 5 members in the URC garden each week for a cuppa and a chat whilst still delivering newsletters to those who weren't able to come in person.

It was a very difficult year for ***Hollywood in Hadleigh***. As with all mainstream cinemas, we were forced to keep our doors firmly closed for the first 5 months of 2021. This was not only disappointing for our patrons, but disastrous for the ACC's bank account, because it is the profit from our film evenings which subsidise all our other activities. However, we were delighted to show our first film of the year 'Little Women' in June, with an afternoon as well as an evening screening. All seats had to be booked in advance and a list of names and contact details filed for 'track and trace' purposes. We no longer need to set the chairs 2 metres apart so have returned to an evening screening only and have started serving choc ices again! Since April, seats no longer have to be booked in advance. Unfortunately, numbers coming to the digital cinema haven't picked up to their pre-Covid level. For this reason, we are still showing only one film a month for the time being.

None of these activities would be able to go ahead without the wonderful volunteers. The help and support they give to the trustees at these activities mean that each event is the great success that it is.

We hope that we will be able to continue to serve the Community with our events held at the Ansell Centre for many years to come.

Eve, Jan, Janice, John and Karen

HADLEIGH COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOODBANK

(formerly JustFood)

Situated in the Ansell Centre, the foodbank is managed by Neil J Bevis (Founder/Organiser) and Julia Hepworth (Organiser). Food and household products are stored in readiness to be organised into food parcels to help the local community. The AC room has proved to be ideal, as it is racked and laid out for easy picking and convenient for people who live in Hadleigh. Parcels can be organised ready for pick up outside or they can delivered in the donated foodbank car, if the individual or families have no transport.

We are currently supporting over 30 families in Hadleigh and surrounding villages. Some of this is regular support, where families are helped on a weekly basis and, for others, it may be on an ad-hoc basis, or at certain times of the month where they may be struggling financially.

We often support the Lunch Clubs in the Ansell Centre, mid-week, if we get surplus supplies as many of the attendees are very happy to take bananas and other fresh vegetables home with them. We also share our produce with *Bildeston Community Support* and if we are short of particular food items, they share with us.

We would like to thank Hadleigh United Reformed Church for giving us the opportunity of using the Ansell Centre room at a peppercorn rent so that we can offer this service to support our local community.

Neil J Bevis and Julia Hepworth

A multi-sensory, multimedia trail to help us reflect on the beauty of the world, our use of its resources and how we can better look after it



Still available to view on the HURC website (scan the QR code).

*Providing Family,
Celebrating Diversity,
Serving the Community,
Through and For the Love of Jesus Christ*



This series of strategic talks from Sunday worship in January and February 2022 is still available on the **Talks** page of the HURC website and on our YouTube channel.



ShelterBox Nativity Appeal December '21



Pumpkin Carving at October '21 Messy Church



Easter Day '22 All Age Worship with Blossoming of Cross





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