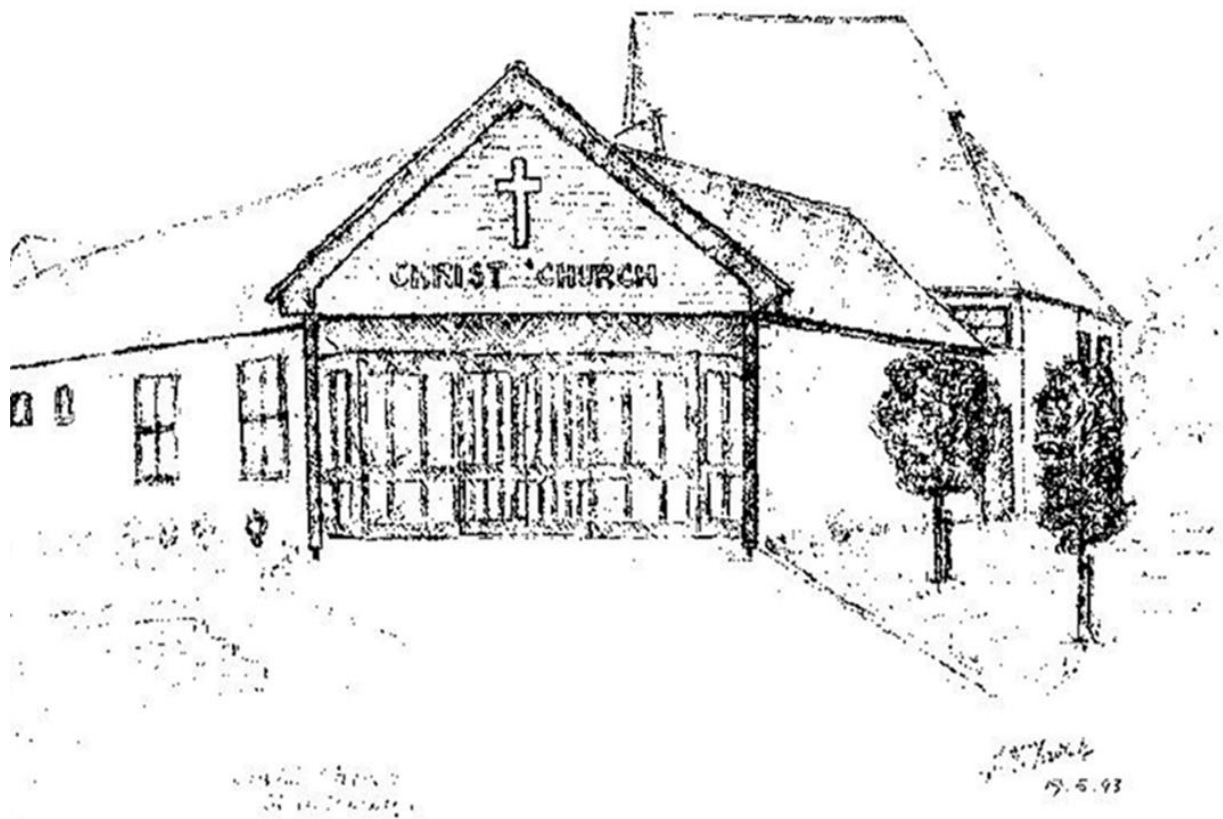


Christ Church Stantonbury Annual Report

2023



Congregational Leadership Team (CLT)

Minister – Rev David Haseldine

Administrator – Maggie Prisk

Treasurer and Churchwarden – Adrian Prisk

Worship Co-ordinator – Susan Gander

Team Member – Richard Solly

Churchwarden – Penny Miller

Minister's Report

It has been a privilege to have joined you as you walk with and in Christ. I was initially highly embarrassed to discover that you were going to have to put up with a Methodist minister whom you had not even met! Especially considering that the process of appointment for prospective Baptist ministers involves "preaching with a view" So thank you for your welcome and grace!

You made good first impressions on me! I regret that mine for you were less impressive when just before my first service with you I crashed with stress and mild burnout. Praise the Lord for Maggie, the CCS Leadership Team and all of you as you continued to show your resilience, faith, hope, and love in abundance, not only that first Sunday but during my two phased return to full-time ministry since then. You have been displaying many fruits of the Spirit during the two interregnums for two ministers' posts in SEP. So, I give thanks to God for your: get on and do culture; house groups; service to the community; care for one another -practical and prayerful; care for the planet; making visitors welcome; and making space for all members.

Regardless of everyone's diverse experiences and views and contradictory convictions (and I recognise the ongoing nature and learning-from-mistakes of that calling). I also thank God for your worship which has strong aspects including prayer; flexibility, technology, and heart-felt and beautiful music and singing. I do enjoy worshipping God with you!

May you keep staying close to God and to one another as you face various challenges, changes, and opportunities such as: two appointments processes; and Paul Smith's retirement; exploring new roles for new ministers and all leaders; changes to the Stantonbury School; discerning and trying God's ways to help people in, on the fringes of, and beyond the CCS family, to grow in encountering, thinking about, and living differently in the light of God on the cross and in friend and stranger in the 21st Century in the UK.

God keep blessing you as you bless others!

Dave Haseldine.

Administrator's Report for 2023

'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope'. Jeremiah 29:11

I used the above verse from Jeremiah at the start of my 2022 report. It is just as applicable to us now as it was then.

This year has been a little less traumatic. I was very grateful when Nicola Martyn-Beck had offered to 'look after' Christ Church until the end of her tenure in Milton Keynes. She was able to give us one Sunday a month as well as being part of the Leaders Group, Worship Group and House Group, she when able joined in the drop in and coffee and cake, getting to meet and know the members of the church. At the end of July, she and Carol moved to Cornwall to begin their retirement.

We are very grateful to Nicola for her time and commitment she gave to us as well as some stability following David's retirement.

I am also very thankful for my colleagues who have been involved in leading worship for us, in particular Jenny and John Boxwell, Helen Rouse, Colin Taylor, David Nash and Lisa Kerry.

In August, some of us went to Lovett Hall to be part of the welcome and induction of Dave Haseldine. He was happy to take over from Nicola to be our overseer for at least a year, sadly for the end of 2023 and early 2024 this was for personal reasons on a part time basis, more than he is actually committed to giving to Christ Church. However he has been involved in leading one Sunday a month and like Nicola is joining with Leaders and worship group meeting.

On a practical level I have been able to get funding to replace the kitchen flooring and although it has been a convoluted process, getting a new cooker. We look forward to being able to use it to cater for social occasions.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed and continue to do so to the smooth running of the church and supporting my role.

As we look forward to the possibility of the two clerical posts being filled, the verse from Jeremiah remains relevant for us as we go into 2024.

Maggie Prisk

Administrator

Housegroups Report

The housegroups meet on a weekly basis, providing a valuable time for sharing, discussion, and prayer (with the occasional social activity). All are welcome.

We currently have 2 housegroups, meeting in person on Wednesday evenings and via Zoom on Thursday evenings.

Normal attendance is about 8 in the Wednesday group and 10 in the Thursday group. Memberships are a little higher, as not everyone attends every week.

During Lent we met together at church for the course "Thoughts of God", based on the film "The Man Who Knew Infinity".

Over time, we have noticed that people are more reluctant to come out to church in the evenings – particularly when its dark - so we stayed in our usual housegroups for Advent, where we looked at the course "Searching for Home" - looking at the plight of refugees.

During the summer break Roger arranged a ramble around Great Linford Manor Park, and we had a barbecue at the Prisks'.

Other topics studied over the year have included Elijah, The Holy Spirit, "Questions God Asks" and "Creation Matters" (looking at the effect we have on the global environment),

Roger Gander, March 2024

Christ Church Under 5s

The Under 5s group continues to meet in the church hall on Thursday mornings during school term time.

The group has continued to be popular and well attended during the year. There are several childminders who attend regularly, each one bringing several children, along with some parents and grandparents with their little ones.

We greet the children and carers when they arrive and offer the adults a drink while the children play. We have a good selection of toys and equipment some of which are put out each week and other items are swapped to give variety. There is also a craft activity which links to the week's Bible story that the children can take home. We pause for snacks, stories and singing and then there is time to resume playing before the session ends.

When the weather is suitable, we also have outdoor play in the patio area.

At Christmas each child was given a present of a Christmas story book and the adults were given Christmas cards.

It takes a team effort to keep this group running. Each week Joyce welcomes the adults with drinks (and remembers their preferences), Cherill provides a wide range of crafts for the children to enjoy, Penny leads us with music and singing and Susan reads the stories. We have been grateful for Anne's help which enables us to keep running while other members are on holiday. Other offers of help, on a regular or occasional basis, are also welcome.

We are also grateful to Roger and Barry for their help in setting up and clearing away too.

Susan Gander, March 2024

Worship Group

The group has met regularly during the year to help plan and support our shared worship.

We continue to meet to worship on Sunday mornings and as well as the congregation in the building we have people who regularly join us on the livestream. This is a provision that is especially welcomed by those who have difficulty getting out and it is particularly helpful when they leave a comment so we know who has joined us and can greet them during the service. We continue to be indebted to Anne, Jamie and Roger for the time they spend enabling us to do this and also to Matt and Steve on the PA rota.

We are grateful to Adrian, Penny and Magdalene for sharing their musical skills which contribute so much to our worship.

Once again, the church was beautifully decorated as we celebrated Christmas, and we thank everyone who contributed to this and special thanks to Bev and Karen for the displays in the church and hall entrances.

Since Nicola Martyn-Beck retired at the end of the summer we have welcomed Dave Haseldine to take pastoral care of Christ Church.

We have also been blessed with a wide variety of other people leading services, mostly from within our partnership and a few from further afield. Many thanks to Maggie Prisk all her work arranging this.

Chatting over refreshments after the services is also a valued part of our worship together and we thank everyone who helps with setting up, serving, washing up and tidying away.

Our worship isn't restricted to Sunday mornings and our Congregational Facebook page has been well used to keep us in touch. Thank you to everyone who has inspired, challenged and encouraged us with the daily prayers and reflections. The page has also been invaluable for sharing news and prayer requests and it is always helpful to have updates and know how prayer is being answered.

There is also opportunity to meet up for a chat - and a communal quiz – on Wednesday mornings at the drop in as well as our monthly Saturday morning Coffee and Cake.

Susan Gander, March 2024

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

Following on from last year's report when the new CIO had only just been registered, the planned structures are now mostly in place. 6 trustees were elected at the AGM in April, though one subsequently resigned in August. There will be a vacancy at the AGM and one of the existing trustees is standing for re-election.

The former church councils or leaders teams are now known as 'Congregational Leadership Teams' The former 'Stantonbury Ecumenical Council' has become the 'Partnership Council'. There is also a Partnership leadership team which combines the clergy and a few other lay members, and this has taken on the roles of the former 'Standing Committee.'

The trustees are effectively the guardians of the finances, governance and safeguarding. We meet around four times per year. The Partnership Council follows more or less the same pattern as the former SEC.

Much attention has focused on the appointments to the ministerial vacancies. We currently have a potential recruit to the Baptist post which we hope to fill in the summer or early autumn. The Anglican post has proved more of a challenge. The original part-time post was dropped in favour of a full-time unlimited contract and the focus has changed because of Paul Smith's imminent retirement in September and the need to appoint a team rector. This will be advertised again shortly, having not been filled last year. We certainly hope to fill that before the end of this year.

To encourage a sense of 'togetherness' in the Partnership there have been some joint services and general meetings with particular focus on 'green' issues and 'inclusion' something that has cascaded down to individual congregations. We continue to share various resources in the form of huddles.

Maggie has been the 'stand-in' safeguarding lead and Diana Stammers is the trustee in charge of safeguarding, but we do need someone to undertake management of the DBS checks and to be involved when incidents happen.

Adrian Prisk – March 2024

Eco Church

We have been awarded a Bronze Eco Church award. We were assessed for this in 5 categories: Worship & teaching, Buildings, Land, Lifestyle and Community Engagement and are now working towards our Silver Award.

The church committees on behalf of the whole church always consider protecting the natural environment and measures to limit our energy use and other areas that affect climate change when making improvements to our Buildings and Land. In Worship and Teaching we regularly pray for our better stewardship of the earth that God has given us and have followed the course 'Creation Matters' in House Groups. With regard to Community Engagement, we are aware of making our church more inclusive which is our current focus in House Groups and as a church we look for ways to engage with our local community.

However, the Lifestyle category involves us all individually. Through the monthly Eco Tips reported in the CC newsletter and also put on the church noticeboard under 'Creation Care' we are encouraging all church members to look at our individual lifestyles that can contribute so much to protecting the natural environment and reducing greenhouse gases.

If you have ideas for how we can demonstrate our care for creation either at church or individually, please let Anne, Nancy or Margaret know.

Anne Slee, Margaret Broadhurst, Nancy Warner March 2024

Treasurer's report

It is good to be able to report that the finances for 2023 remain in balance. We thank the generosity of members for helping to maintain the level of Gift Aided income. I have, for comparison kept the figures for the Gift Aid claims to four quarters. The consolidated accounts will include the claim for Q4 of 2023 as we have to accrue that in the charity accounts. This will add £2,087 to the 2023 income.

In 2023 the rental income has increased to ~£18k from £11½k in 2022. The 'UK Presbyterian Church of East Africa' have proved very good partners and have contributed generously to the finances in addition to their rental. The Chinese church have continued to use the building extensively at weekends.

We have replaced the projector with screens at the front and the back. The kitchen floor was renewed, and we purchased a new cooker for the kitchen. There have been some additional repairs to the roof.

The SEP finances have improved with savings during the Baptist interregnum, but we continue to pay a large Parish Share to the Diocese despite having had an Anglican vacancy since November 2021.

The improved controls for the heating have helped to keep utility costs down despite more extensive use of the building.

As always, we thank God for his provision to us.

Adrian Prisk

March 2024

| Christ Church Stantonbury | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Balance Sheet | | | | | | | |
| As of 31 December 2023 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 31 Dec 23 | 1 Jan 23 | £ Change | |
| ASSETS | | | | | | | |
| Current Assets | | | | | | | |
| Other Current Assets | | | | | | | |
| | | Prepayments | | 372.72 | 0.00 | 372.72 | |
| | | Receivables | | 183.93 | 0.00 | 183.93 | |
| | | Total Other Current Assets | | 556.65 | 0.00 | 556.65 | |
| Accounts Receivable | | | | | | | |
| | | Accounts Receivable | | 3,800.00 | 2,745.25 | 1,054.75 | |
| | | Total Accounts Receivable | | 3,800.00 | 2,745.25 | 1,054.75 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | | | | | | |
| | | CAFCash Current | | 5,297 | 6,093 | (796) | |
| | | Cash | | 137 | 0 | 137 | |
| | | Cash2 | | 8 | 13 | (5) | |
| | | CFB Deposit | | 4,781 | 4,601 | 180 | |
| | | Total Cash at bank and in hand | | 10,223 | 10,707 | (483) | |
| | | Total Current Assets | | 14,580 | 13,452 | 1,128 | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | | | | | | | |
| | | Accounts Payable | | 1,263 | 0 | 1,263 | Includes £900 to Mission |
| | | Total Accounts Payable | | 1,263 | 0 | 1,263 | |
| | | Total Current Liabilities | | 1,263 | 0 | 1,263 | |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 13,317 | 13,452 | (135) | |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 13,317 | 13,452 | (135) | |
| NET ASSETS | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 13,317 | 13,452 | (135) | |
| Capital and Reserves | | | | | | | |
| | | Children/Youth Grants | | 1,394 | 994 | 399 | |
| | | Cross & Stable Charities Grants | | 211 | 211 | 0 | |
| | | General Fund | | 6,149 | 6,683 | (534) | |
| | | Legacy | | 5,000 | 5,000 | 0 | |
| | | Parish Council Grants | | 564 | 564 | 0 | |
| Shareholder funds | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 13,317 | 13,452 | (135) | |

| Christ Church Stantonbury | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Income & Expenditure by Fund | | | | | | | | | | |
| January through December 2023 + Budget 2024 | | | | | | | | Accrual Basis | | |
| | | | 2a5 Small donations | Children & Youth | Cross and Stable Charities | General Fund | | TOTAL | Budget 2024 | |
| | | | Jan - Dec 23 | Jan - Dec 23 | Jan - Dec 23 | Jan - Dec 23 | Jan - Dec 22 | Jan - Dec 23 | Jan - Dec 22 | Jan - Dec 24 |
| Income | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coffee donations | | 523 | | | | 5 | 523 | 416 | |
| | Coll Gen Fund (Gift Aided) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Cheques/BACS | | | | | 707 | 2,415 | 707 | 2,415 | 700 |
| | Other | | | | | 20 | | 20 | | |
| | Standing Orders | | | | | 22,078 | 23,490 | 22,078 | 23,490 | 23,000 |
| | Tax Reclaimed - Gift Aid | | 251 | | | 6,104 | 6,188 | 6,354 | 6,522 | 6,500 |
| | Total Coll Gen Fund (Gift Aided) | | 251 | | | 28,910 | 32,093 | 29,160 | 32,427 | 30,200 |
| | Total Coll Gen Fund (Not Gift Aided) | | | | | 2,401 | 2,792 | 2,401 | 2,792 | 2,500 |
| | Total Collections - Special | | 830 | | | 900 | 308 | 1,730 | 1,578 | |
| | Donations | | | | | 1,050 | 40 | 1,050 | 40 | 500 |
| | Donations to Children's work | | | 576 | | | | 576 | 422 | |
| | Grants | | | | 900 | | 1,039 | 900 | 1,039 | |
| | Total Interest | | | | | 193 | 32 | 193 | 32 | 210 |
| | Rent | | | | | 17,830 | 11,589 | 17,830 | 11,589 | 18,000 |
| | Total Income | | 1,603 | 576 | 900 | 51,283 | 47,898 | 54,362 | 50,335 | 51,410 |
| Expense | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Bank Charges | | | | | 60 | 81 | 60 | 81 | 60 |
| | Total Cleaning | | | | | 3,398 | 3,380 | 3,398 | 3,380 | 3,920 |
| | Gifts | | 130 | | | | 60 | 130 | 736 | |
| | Insurance | | | | | 1,349 | 1,241 | 1,349 | 1,241 | 1,350 |
| | Total Junior Church and Youth Work | | | 176 | | 13 | | 189 | 196 | |
| | Total Maintenance | | 525 | | 900 | 10,050 | 6,087 | 11,475 | 6,591 | 6,500 |
| | Total Ministry | | | | | 350 | 700 | 350 | 700 | 400 |
| | Miscellaneous Expenses | | | | | 164 | | 164 | | |
| | Total Mission | | 939 | | | 1,620 | 1,620 | 2,559 | 2,958 | 2,500 |
| | StantEcPartnership | | | | | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| | Subscriptions | | | | | 216 | 232 | 216 | 232 | 230 |
| | Utilities | | | | | | | | | |
| | Broadband | | | | | 414 | 398 | 414 | 398 | |
| | Electricity | | | | | 1,222 | 841 | 1,222 | 841 | |
| | Gas | | | | | 2,613 | 2,209 | 2,613 | 2,209 | |
| | Total Utilities | | | | | 4,249 | 3,448 | 4,249 | 3,448 | 4,500 |
| | Worship | | | | | 348 | 382 | 348 | 382 | 350 |
| | Total Expense | | 1,594 | 176 | 900 | 51,816 | 47,231 | 54,487 | 49,946 | 49,860 |
| | Surplus (Deficit) for the Year | | | 399 | | (534) | 667 | (135) | 389 | 1,550 |