



Annual General Meeting

21st July 2020

Book of Reports



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Office Holders, Leaders and Team Coordinators 2020-21

Minister: Rev Bernard Fidler

Families and Children's Worker: Avril Leyton

Serving Elders: Val Cannon (2015) Malcolm McIntyre (2015)
Peter Hollander (2018) David Spires (2018)
David Cobb (2018) Caroline Camp (2019)
Chris Wilson-Sharp (2019) Janet Wilson-Sharp (2019)

Church Secretary: Val Cannon (from 2012) Caroline Camp from AGM 2020

Treasurer: Peter Hollander **Gift Aid:** Janet Wilson-Sharp
Offering: David Cobb Linda Cawsey

Administrator: Alice Wilson-Sharp

Safeguarding: Sue Wenham **Deputy:** Linda Cawsey

Authorised for Weddings: Linda Cawsey **DBS checks:** Malcolm McIntyre

Church Flowers: Liz Hopkins Gwen Empett

Fabric Team

David Spires Robert Deakin Hugh Marsh Peter Hollander

Group Leaders

Sonbeams Avril Leyton
Young Church Avril Leyton
Oasis Café Church Chris Marsh + Core Team coordinated by Alice Wilson-Sharp

Church Representatives

Synod Val Cannon
Christians Together in Canterbury Sue Marsh
Christian Aid Vacancy
Food Bank Kate Bassett
KidzKlub Peter Hollander Fiona Clegg (Leader)
Prospects (Harry & Alison Mc Donald, SMB) Kate Bassett
Street Pastors (David Clegg)
World Day of Prayer Caroline Camp

MINISTER'S REPORT

Dear Church,

Here is the Annual Report of 2019. However, as I am writing this it is already July 2020 and the year of 2019 seems long gone. We may look back at last year and think it was wonderful as at least we could worship in the building, have coffee, tea or lunch in the Oasis Café or come to the Life Group there. We may have even sat in the garden at this time of year. Often the building was well used and this document contains the reports from us as well as the other users of the building. Unfortunately, at the moment we cannot be in the building due to all the social-isolation measures that have been put in place in order to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Last year we started with completing our preaching series on Gateways of Empowered Ministry in which we learned how we can cooperate with the Holy Spirit, and being filled by Him and empowered by Him for the mission of the Church. We then focused on Elijah and Elisha and saw how God worked wonders in their time, while the people of Israel were continuing to draw away from God. And in the latter half of the year we focused on the letter of 1 John, which can be summarised by the hymn: “A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another, as I have loved you.”

And I believe that over time I got to know you and the situation of St Andrews better. And I learned that as a congregation you love to come together for worship and fellowship, that some of you love to pray and and pray together. That, as a congregation, we are proud of how many different Christian groups and initiatives are using our building and started to use it more: The Chinese Church Congregation, City Church, Street Pastors, Friends International, Kidzclub (to name a few). We have our own mission initiatives with the OASIS Café, being well used by us and by non-Church members, and Messy Church led by Avril Leyton, which started to draw in more children and parents. At times we found ourselves wanting more volunteers to help in the Café or to help cleaning. Fortunately the Chinese Church helped us out there.

Personally, I was able to work more with the leaders of Christians Together in Canterbury and we had a few evenings in the Abode Hotel or in different venues, looking at what the Spirit is saying to Christians in Canterbury and as result started to focus on seeking the Father's heart for Canterbury. Alice Wilson-Sharp also organised a few evening reflective / prayer services for Christians Together in Canterbury that were well received.

However, I did notice that one aspect of church life was not well developed out of the four disciplines of a healthy church: Evangelism (the other three are Worship, Leadership and Discipleship)¹, and when the URC offered us to take part in the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC) Learning Hub, we as a church decided to take part in that. Whilst in 2019 a small group of us attended the training sessions, the LICC teaching formed

¹ Neil T Anderson, *Setting your Church Free* (1994, 2005), p50.

the basis of a lot of the teaching and preaching we provided this year. I believe that if I ask you now where your frontline is, that you will at least know what I mean and that hopefully you can also give me a reasonable answer! LICC teaches us that in this day and age evangelism is not effective as church centric activity, but more effective as personal activity. Each of us have a life outside of church, and know people who do not know Jesus Christ. These do not want to come to our church events, but they do want to get to know us and understand what our motivations are. It is by being Christian disciples in our relations with them that we can be Advocates of Christ.

And it has been really interesting to see how the LICC teaching has come into its own during the lock-down period. As we could not meet in the building, we met via Zoom, or via the telephone and sometimes via letter. But instead of meeting with each other, we met with our neighbours when clapping for the NHS or when we did our daily exercise, and suddenly we found that our frontlines were shifting and that God brought new people on our path to become friendly with and to be a Christian disciple to.

But we also remained Church, praying for each other, contacting each other and encouraging each other, even though we could not be in the building. And although this is not what we ideally want to do, I think we have become stronger as a Congregation.

This AGM we will also need to decide when and how we are going back to meeting physically, knowing that it will be very restrictive and that not all of us are comfortable attending a physical service due to the risk to our health. Also this is a time with we feel has been given to God to us to review who we are and what we do as a Church. Is God challenging us to be Church in a different way (as we are doing today) or should we go back to what we used to do as soon as possible? What is God calling St Andrews to be and do after the Corona Virus crisis has run its course? As Minister and Elders we are thinking, praying and listening to God what that might look like. And hopefully we will find a time and place to do this together as well. As God is not only calling us as individuals but also as a Congregation.

Yours in Christ – Revd. Bernard Fidler, July 2020

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18). Most of the reports in this booklet were written before our circumstances changed, but that advice from Paul is all the more relevant now that we are in lockdown and our frontline has become our immediate neighbourhood.

One big reason for giving thanks, especially in this time of coronavirus, is for Bernard and Adriana who have become an integral part of our church family here in Canterbury, which has made such a difference to the spiritual and pastoral life of St Andrew’s. Bernard also has responsibility for the Sandwich URC congregation, and this year he has taken over the

additional role of East Kent Synod Area Leader from George Kalu. That might easily have become too heavy a load, but Bernard can look for guidance to a favourite passage of his in Matthew 11: 28-30, leaving his burdens with the Lord and finding rest in Him.

We have a strong group of serving Elders to support Bernard in his ministry, having added Chris WS, Janet and Caroline last year and Peter, David S and David C the year before. Malcolm and I will be standing down at the AGM, having reached the end of our 5-year term, and I am pleased to report that Caroline has agreed to take over the role of Church Secretary. Jonathan has accepted the nomination to stand for election as Elder at the AGM and will strengthen the team further, bringing fresh skills and a younger viewpoint.

Alice and Avril complete the staff team, supported by Linda and myself alongside Bernard. Alice has broadened her role this year to include research and preparation of materials for creative prayer events and teaching series for Oasis Café Church. She continues to liaise effectively with groups hiring the building and with fabric, finance and cleaning helpers who enable everything to run smoothly. Alice's work has come to a halt since the closure of the building during lockdown and so we are putting her onto the government's furlough scheme until we are able to resume normal service. Avril has been encouraged through a meeting with the URC youth and children's team to explore creative ways of continuing the children's work through Zoom, and we hope that this outreach will bring contacts with new families.

We were sad to lose two valued church members during the year, but were pleased to be able to join with family and friends in services of thanksgiving for their lives. Pearl Summersby's funeral service took place at St Andrew's in September and her work for the Canterbury and District branch of the Samaritans was remembered with thanks, together with her reliable presence as a faithful worshipper, Life Group member, Café helper and friend. Peter Ward's life was celebrated in a service in November at the parish church in Barham where he had moved to be close to his family. Peter had suffered ill-health since moving down from the Wirral and so had not been able to attend St Andrew's as regularly as he had hoped. Those of us who were able to attend his funeral service were happy to learn what a fruitful life he had lived and how close his family ties were. Since going into lockdown we have also lost our long-term member and dear friend Adam Tait. We were thankful to be able to support Catherine and the limited number of close family allowed to attend the funeral by joining in the live streaming of the beautiful service conducted by Rev Sue Marsh.

We have been very pleased to welcome new friends who have attended regularly in the time since Bernard and Adriana joined us, and we look forward to adding more members when we are able to resume public meetings. Joan, Lydia, Donald, Findy, Peter from Korea, Judy, Mike and Val & Andrew have all been made very welcome. During lockdown we have been grateful that Bernard has enabled us to meet together each week in virtual church and life group on Zoom, and it is a joy to see and hear each other to share encouragement, worship and teaching and to know that God is with us for protection, guidance and spiritual growth.

Despite the challenges of the current circumstances, we have much to be thankful for and many lessons still to learn, particularly if we use the present opportunity to gain in maturity and wisdom, seeking to live as children of light and understand the way of the Lord in our lives (Ephesians 5: 8,17). Some verses from Song of Songs 4: 12, 15-16 have spoken to me recently: "You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; You are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain..... You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon. Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden that its fragrance may spread abroad." We need discernment from the Lord to see which parts of our individual

and church lives have been locked up and shut away, so that we can look to Him to open up new avenues of ministry and service. The second part of the passage reveals the enormous potential of lives open to all the elements of the power of the Holy Spirit as we follow where He leads, and the “fragrance spread abroad” reminds us of the frontline ministry that we are all engaged in. May we be alert to the new opportunities that open up to us as we engage more with our local communities and wider family, while at the same time drawing closer to those in the fellowship who need our love and support.

Val Cannon

LIFE GROUPS

Our three Life Groups plus one Bible Study are now firmly established and have met throughout 2019. Two groups have been meeting at the manse for which we thank Bernard and Adriana for their hospitality. We also thank Avril, Sue Wenham and Liz for continuing to host their groups. Although each group normally follows a study series of their choice, for five weeks in February/March the Life Groups used the LICC Small Group Outlines based on the Frontline series of sermons preached by Bernard on the previous Sunday viz. All the difference in the world; Wherever we are; Whatever we do; Whoever we are and Together we grow. It has been encouraging to know that the other groups were following the same theme and something we may consider for the future.

We have been pleased to welcome new people to our groups and continue to offer pastoral support to one another as we build close bonds of friendship through prayer and study together. Work and other commitments mean that for some members it is their main source of fellowship as they are unable to get to the Sunday services.

Life Group Leaders have continued to meet but on a less regular basis than previously.

Our Life Groups provide a more intimate level of support and encouragement than is possible in our larger church meetings and we do encourage you to consider coming along to one of the group meetings with no obligation to join. Details of the groups may be found elsewhere in the Book of Reports.

Linda Cawsey

YOUNG CHURCH

Young Church this year has been a great time of teaching, craft, worship, prayer, games and quite often involved food in some form.

Sophie, Rosie and Emerson are our three regular members of Young Church, but we do have visitors from time to time such as the 2 children from Chinese Church on our joint Sunday service. Sadly for us Ian and Shelby moved to St Peter’s Methodist Church as that’s where he is hoping for Shelby to attend school in September.

It amazes me how little I have to explain once we have had the teaching and quite often they answer my questions even before I’ve asked them. Young Church are always keen to get involved with whatever we are doing during that morning and enjoy sharing what they have learnt with the rest of the congregation.

Our morning starts with a chat about our week followed by a game or activity related to the morning’s theme. We then have the bible teaching, sometimes a reading and sometimes a video. Next, we discuss the teaching and ask questions. This is followed by activities to go

alongside the teaching such as drawing/colouring, making and sticking and eating food. We have even made slime! During the morning we also pray and spend some time worshipping. Those that help out with Young Church are Linda, Sue M, Val C and myself who lead the children, with Colin, Kate, Kim and Liz also coming out to help. Findy is also going to be taking a turn at leading the children.

The teaching material is still from Roots which continues to be a good resource that caters for all ages. It covers prayer, teaching, craft, songs and games.

Young Church have also continued to help on a Sunday morning with serving and leading the welcome on occasions.

Thank you to everyone that continues to help with Young Church.

Avril Leyton

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is a such a joy to be a part of and a fantastic time is always had by the children that attend. It has been lovely getting to know regular families that attend most if not all of the Messy Churches. Relationships are being formed with the children and the parents or other adults that bring the children. It is just as lovely welcoming new families that haven't attended before. It has also been great to see some of the families from Sonbeams starting to attend.

About two to three weeks before each Messy Church flyers are given out to local schools, Sonbeams and Kidz club. There are also Flyers in the café and on the Church noticeboard.

Messy Church starts at 3.30pm with helpers arriving at about 3pm to allow time to pray beforehand. We begin with signing in and then a welcome activity related to the theme of the afternoon. The theme is usually a bible story or Messy Easter or Messy Christmas. Then we have a time where the children can move around tables doing craft, games or activities. These are also related to the afternoon's theme. They are able to do as many or as little as they choose within the time and collect a sticker for each table they visit. The food table is always popular. This is then followed by a story, worship and prayers. We finish our time by eating together in the hall. This is normally things such as pizza or sausages.

Thank you again to the wonderful team that make Messy Church happen whether that's with set up or clear up, welcome, sound, activities or the cooking.

Avril Leyton

SONBEAMS TODDLER GROUP

Sonbeams toddler group is a Thursday morning group for preschool children running from 9.30 -11.30 am. We regularly have around 20 children, sometimes more and sometimes less. We lost some children due to them starting school in September but have welcomed many new families. We have a mix of mums, dads and grandparents all coming along. Relationships continue to grow and it's been lovely getting to know all of them and finding out more about them and their families.

Our morning begins with a time of play until around 10.30 when we have snacks and a story. This is a great time to engage the children and chat to them about the story. This is followed by more play while the parents, grandparents and carers can have a tea/coffee and biscuits, although there are always little hands keen to get the biscuits. There is also a table out for a

craft each week such as sticking, painting, playdoh or something else like puzzles. We finish the morning with singing and musical instruments.

At the end of each term we have a party with games and party food. Each family brings food from a sign up list to share with the group.

The team we have on a Thursday morning are Joan, Kay, Rebecca and myself. Thank you to the team.

Avril Leyton

OTHER EVENTS

Over the last year I have regularly been meeting with other Children's Workers from churches in Canterbury as a group for fellowship, prayer and also to support each other with help and ideas. As a group we have hosted two events this year for children in Canterbury. The first event was a Crazy Science Praise Party which taught the children about God through crazy science experiments with prayer and worship. The other event was called Alive and taught the children about how we can love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and with all our strength, again with prayer and worship.

Avril Leyton

LITTLEBOURNE FAMILY MATTERS

The Family Matters groups have continued to thrive and grow over the last 12 months. We have continued to offer two toddler groups on a Monday – each based around a Christian theme, our Family Praise after school club on a Wednesday and on Thursday, our Music Box session. Numbers on a Monday morning average at 14 children and 6 on a Monday afternoon. The same 2 families attend our Family Praise session and on average 21 children come along to Music Box each week. We have just over 60 children who have been signed up this year.

Just over a year ago we agreed to hire the chapel out to an exercise group each week. The income from this has allowed us to buy some new toys and other equipment.

For our end of year celebration last July, the Monday groups decided to have a short play session in the chapel followed by a picnic in Turner's Orchard just up the road. This proved to be a great idea and we will probably repeat this. Thursday Music Box held a 'Bring and Share' lunch, after enjoying some songs and games.

As you probably know, I have decided that this will be my final year running Family Matters. I have learnt a lot and grown a lot in my time here. I have made many friends, built happy memories and had so many laughs. It is such a privilege to play a part in the lives of children – watching them develop and grow, hearing them say your name for the first time, or choose your knee to sit on for a horsey ride or to row the boat. I will miss all this and more and am so grateful to Sue Marsh and Liz Hopkins and the rest of the team for their continued encouragement and support.

Fiona Clegg

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care has continued to be dependent on the support, visiting and contact by individual members, the Pastor and Elders. The Life Groups also offer care and support to their own members. Special thanks go to those who have continued to support those needing hospital appointments and visiting, the terminally ill and their families and those in nursing homes and housebound. Prayer requests continue to be circulated by Chris Wilson-Sharp via the prayer chain and Bernard and the Elders are always grateful for receipt of confidential information in respect of individual needs. We are also grateful to those of the fellowship who provide lifts to church on Sunday mornings to those with transport difficulties. Oasis café also continues to offer a welcome hub for members and their families to meet with others to enjoy friendship and fellowship.

Linda Cawsey

NEW YEAR PRAYER

Testimonies of God's provision, grace and help were shared during the morning worship on December 29th, along with a challenge to once more open our hearts to Christ and to gossip the gospel to others.

At Listening Prayer on Friday 3rd January, we laid down our hopes, dreams, ambitions and expectations for 2020, as individuals and as a fellowship, and were encouraged to 'let God move the mountain.' Several people shared what they felt God was saying and a fuller version is available, but two things stand out: 'Worship Willingly' and 'As I travel through the bad and good, Keep me travelling the way I should, Where I see no way to go, You'll be telling me the way, I know.'

On Wednesday 8th we had a Creative Prayer Evening which we opened to other churches. Sadly, we didn't have the inter-church crowd we hoped for, but a good number came and were blessed by the worship and different areas set up where we could spend time with the Lord. A particularly interesting idea was the 'Poncho of Praise' - a garment on which we were invited to write our praises to remind us that God gives us 'a garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness' (Isa.61 v 3).

Christine Wilson-Sharp

OASIS CAFÉ

Great food, great service, good value'; 'Friendly, reasonably priced and they make a good cup of tea'; Good food at reasonable prices, and the staff very friendly' ;'Lovely quiet spot to have lunch away from the hustle and bustle'; 'What a delightful, calm and chilled out place to enjoy my lunch. Superb staff, couldn't do more to make you welcome'.

These are just some of the reviews of Oasis that you can find on Google! We feel justifiably proud of these comments, as we all try hard to make our customers feel welcome, relaxed and well fed. As always, we are not driven by profit, neither do we try to compete with the many more commercial concerns that are spread over the city. Our aim is to provide good service and good food as we promote the love of Jesus to all who enter, showing our love for him as we interact with our customers, treating all with politeness and respect regardless of who they are, or where they are in their faith journey. However, the fact that we do make a profit, and a significant financial contribution to the life of the church is not to be ignored.

After the busy couple of hours spent in preparation for opening, we enjoy prayer along with our tea and toast, committing the day to the Lord, and asking his blessing on staff and customers, as well as praying for those we know of who need healing, comforting and a real sense of His presence. Then it's straight into the important business of serving all who come through our doors, doing our best to make it a positive experience. The number of returning customers and regulars whom we welcome each week would seem to suggest that many find it to be so. The look of surprise on the face of a customer who finds their order has been taken before they have uttered a word is priceless! (as is ours, when they decide to have something different for a change)

Oasis could not function as a going concern were it not for all the people who volunteer to work, shop and help out in countless ways, and we are profoundly grateful to the church for supporting the café. Our work experience students from local colleges and schools also make up a significant part of our workforce, and we are pleased to be able to offer opportunities to these young people. We continue to extend hospitality to Concorde, providing opportunities to prepare and enjoy an English cream tea, and make the Garden Room available for group bookings, including the Breastfeeding Group who meet every Thursday.

Macmillan, Comic Relief, Sport Relief, Christian Aid and The Poppy Appeal are charities whom we regularly support through our sales, and we are always ready to offer refreshment to those in need.

In conclusion we'd like to finish with some more positive feedback. In response to the question 'What is a Christian?' posed at a recent meeting of Synod members at St. Andrew's, one of the group was kind enough to suggest the work of the café as an example, citing the warm welcome and friendly attitude of the staff, together with the willingness to ensure customer satisfaction. I think it's safe to say that Oasis Café is indeed on the Frontline!

Financial Report

In 2019 Oasis Cafe gave £363.23 to charity. This consisted of:-

£82 to Comic Relief

£100 to Christian Aid

£133.16 to MacMillan

£47.87 to The Poppy Appeal.

These sums were raised by cake sales and donations. Please support us again this year. (Never mind the waistline!)

Oasis also made £12,489.84 for St Andrew's.

Many thanks to everyone who gives their time to Oasis, which has made all of the above possible.

Patricia Hollander and Sue Wenham 3rd March 2020

Sue Wenham and Patricia Hollander

KIDZ KLUB

Canterbury Kidz Klub currently has 112 children signed up for 2019/2020. These children come from 75 different families across the city. Average attendance on a Saturday is 30 – 35 children.

In August we started holding a fortnightly prayer meeting for team members to attend. We pray for individual children, our team members – juniors and adults and other Klub related things. One thing we have prayed for was that God would bring in children from more areas of the city. The following months saw 5 new families join that were not from the Howe

Green Estate (ex-army barracks housing). We continue to visit over 50 families on the Howe Green Estate and currently take 1 whole family and children from 4 additional families to church.

Klub themes have been 'Hidden World' - looking at the life of Moses from and, currently 'Storytime with Jesus' where we are using Jesus' parables to teach the children. After Easter we are going to be looking at the life of Elijah.

A few times each year we offer children the opportunity to pray the Believer's Prayer. In November, 11 children prayed this. We also offer bibles to the children from time to time and since I last reported a further 20 children have accepted one.

Our end of term trip in July was once again to Brockhill Country Park near Hythe. Again this was very well attended by whole Kidz Klub families and their friends.

At present our financial outgoings are much greater than our income due to the cost of hiring a coach (£230 each week). We are looking for 100 additional donors to give £10 a month to allow the work of this charity to continue beyond the next 18 months. We are also applying for various grants.

Fiona Clegg

CANTERBURY PROSPECTS GROUP

The Canterbury Prospects group continues to meet in the hall on the last Saturday of most months to provide an afternoon of easy-to-understand worship and Bible teaching to those with learning disabilities and to their carers. Once again, we want to thank our dedicated team who make this happen each month and are always open to welcoming new team members who might be able to join us or who are simply interested in what we do each month. Please phone us on 01227 456529 if you like to visit us. Also, if you know of anyone who might value this ministry, please tell them about us.

We also wish to thank St Andrews for making the Hall, Kitchen and storage facilities available each month, without which we would not be able to continue to offer this ministry to those who enjoy it so much.

Harry & Alison Macdonald

MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

A social programme for men at St Andrews was commenced in November 2018 with a view to arranging events to promote social fellowship within the congregation, particularly for new members and potential adherents on the fringes of the fellowship. The events could also provide a safe setting to introduce the church to men who might be interested in taking their spiritual interest further. It was decided to try and organise 4 to 5 events a year on a Friday evening in the Oasis Café, and possibly the Church Hall/Garden, to see how they went. The programme had the blessing of the eldership and the Minister and is overseen by Malcolm McIntyre and organised by Mark Camp.

The inaugural event was a Chinese takeaway meal on 23rd November 2018 in the Oasis Café and was a success with 16 participants and 4 non church guests. The Minister gave a suitable introduction.

This was followed with an Indian takeaway meal on 8th February 2019 again in the Oasis Café, which was also well attended.

On the 17th May we walked to St Martin's Church where were treated to a tour by the resident minister of what is considered to be the oldest building for Christian worship in England since post Roman times, as it just predates the St Augustine mission to the Kingdom of Kent in the decade of the 590's. The original building was of Roman origin, added to in both Saxon and Medieval times. The tour was fascinating and well received and luckily the weather was benign. This was followed by a Japanese takeaway meal in the Oasis Café. Overall a great success.

The Men then took on the challenge of organising a barbeque for the Ladies of the church, who relished the role reversal of being the "guests" for the evening with the men doing all the work. With excellent barbeque weather the event was a great success and there was talk of making this a yearly fixture. The Men enjoyed it too.

Finally, we rounded off the year with another Chinese takeaway meal on 29th November in the Oasis Café where Mark provided a challenging homily about our Front Lines and witness. We have a programme organised for 2020 which kicks off with a meal in the Ghurkha Dine, Wincheap on 28th February.

We are also assessing whether we can organise a wartime themed meal to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on Friday May 8th. This would be aimed specifically at our older members, and possible guests, who would be able to remember the actual day itself. A decision will have been made by the time you are reading this report.

We hope to run another barbeque for the Ladies on 24th July and there will be a games evening with light refreshments in the church hall on the 25th September and a Chinese takeaway meal in the Oasis Café on 27th November to round off the year. It may be possible for a few members to attend "The Gathering" a Christian Vision for Men Weekend under canvas, near Swindon, in the summer.

If any men have any interest in attending, or helping with, any of these events please see Malcolm, Mark or the Minister.

Mark Camp

CHURCH WALKS

Following popular demand, August's Tuesday evening walk from Harbledown through the orchards was repeated on a Tuesday morning later in the month for those who missed the first one and was also joined by those who wanted to do the walk again. We did have a monthly Friday morning walk several years ago, but that became impractical when café opening days were extended and regular members were no longer free to participate.

Having discovered that Tuesday mornings were a suitable time and we had a keen group of walkers, we decided to try again in September, using an established route along the Crab & Winkle Way to Whitstable. The weather turned out to be very wet on the day, but undeterred we shortened the route by taking the bus as far as the University and walked on at a rapid pace to get there as soon as possible. We had intended to have lunch when we got there, but as we were all pretty wet on arrival we got the bus back and went home to dry off.

That turned out to be the only wet walk, and the average monthly turnout of around 12 continued through the winter on a Tuesday morning, generally setting off in shared cars from the church at 10 am or sometimes 9.30 for a circular walk of 4-6 miles and returning after having lunch together at a country café or pub. October's walk was in the countryside around Bekesbourne and Patixbourne, November's visited the country villages and churches around Littlebourne and Mark organised a New Year's Eve coastal walk from Reculver. The coastal theme continued in January from Herne Bay with Linda, and we enjoyed another village walk along the hillside above Chilham in February.

Having come through the winter months we were looking forward to increasing our numbers for a walk from Sandwich to the coast in March, well before the preparations for the Open Golf Championship due to be held there in July, but coronavirus lockdown intervened and everything had to be cancelled. We hope that it will be possible to resume later in the summer, and we look forward to being able to invite interested local friends to join us then.

Val Cannon

CANTERBURY STREET PASTORS



Coordinator's Report - March 2020

This year, saw changes, with several incarnations of the coordinator's position all adding their unique touch on the role, with myself currently carrying on the baton.

As finances begin to settle and the team is growing again, we are looking healthy again with 17 Street Pastors and 11 Prayer Pastors. We have added 5 new members to the fold, now completing most of their training. With teams now ranging from 3 to 5 each week and more Prayer Pastors joining in each week, we are starting to settle the teams and are able to train new seniors.

Understandably we had trouble fielding teams throughout the COVID-19 outbreak and have suspended all patrols until further notice. We trust in God to see us through these tough times and look forward to restarting again when safe to do so!

Looking to the future.

We were about to trail new patrols on a Wednesday evening to support the students out on the town. Throughout May we are looking to research the possibilities alongside churches and our civic partners to add these new patrols.

We are also trailing new communications through WhatsApp, with both Street Pastor team and Prayer Pastor team being in regular contact; through the App the Patrol is able to share their location. The Prayer Team is able to share Prayer Points out to those wishing to follow the team via their own home. We are also learning how to use twitter to update each week our news and updates. (We are currently on the look-out for a social media assistant to help us with the various platforms.)



We hope to build with what we have and with Christ and you, the churches and our supporters and partners in the city, 2020 hopes to be a healthier year for Canterbury Street Pastors, with your help...!
God Bless you!

Andrew Pantling
Acting Coordinator Canterbury Street Pastors
coordinator@canterburystreetpastors.onmicrosoft.com

GLOBAL CAFÉ (FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL)

As a church we support the work of Friends International, who work among the international student community in Canterbury. We also support the weekly Global Cafe, volleyball, English classes, Bible studies, Christmas hospitality schemes, trips and annual Canterbury Summer International Outreach (CSIO) run by Friends International. The staff workers in Canterbury are Baiba Strause-Kalmer, and Matthew Archer who are supported by 1 Reach trainee Arpana Rao and Friends International Branch committee led by Richard Barrett. If you have any questions or if you would like to get involved or support the international student ministry, please, contact Baiba.Strause-almere@friendsinternational.uk

This past year we have further expanded our sports events from just running volleyball to also running football and have diversified our activities further. We started running Badminton at St Andrews church every Tuesday afternoon, and many refugee boys really enjoyed playing pool, badminton and table tennis and practising English in a relaxed atmosphere.

Baiba has been our full time Staff Worker here for seven years, leading our diverse team with many volunteers from churches. So far, she's had to rely on shared, private rented accommodation as the base for this ministry of outreach and hospitality to international students.

The support of Christians who put their savings to work with the International Student Mission Housing Trust has now enabled her to have a far more suitable, new house.

How should we in the Canterbury churches continue to help? Please see details of the Canterbury initiative on www.ismhousingtrust.org.uk or on the project leaflet in your church. To contact Canterbury FI, or arrange to view the home for yourself, please see the details below.

Christmas hospitality: 23 international students and visitors joined 8 host families at Christmas. "Yes, we enjoyed meeting them all. They are lovely young people!" was a typical comment. Students were very grateful for the time spent with hosts and the experience of joining a local Christian home at Christmas.

Despite Coronavirus Pandemic, we have been able to adjust quickly and **we now run many events online** on Zoom platform including **Global café, Bible studies, Cooking collective (with evangelistic talk), Creative Corner** (adult colouring with conversations) and many more. In fact, because we are running events online - returnee students from Japan, China, USA, Brazil, Thailand, Singapore - have been able to join our Bible studies and

other events. We are even reaching students from China - who have never been to UK, but are eager to practise English and make new friends.

Prayer and praise points:

- Give thanks for a new house for our staff worker.
- Give thanks for the new ways we have to engage with international students and give thanks for the new students that are starting to engage with online events.
- Give thanks for the students that have joined the online bible studies, the cooking collective, online cafes and online craft event.
- Pray for the International students who desperately want to return to their country but are unable to do so. Pray that they may know the peace and comfort of God in this time.
- Pray for Word Alive evangelistic talks and discussions (happening online) on the book of Ruth that are happening from 6-9th April
- Pray for wisdom for staff as they adjust to the new way of working and figure out the best way to support students who are still in Canterbury, and also those who have returned home
- Recruitment of more members for FI Branch development group & prayer group that meets once in a few months (now online)
- Recruitment of new Reach trainees for next year - due to start in September!

Baiba Strause-Kalmere, Centre Team Leader, Canterbury

Mobile:07999556555

Friends International - registered charity 1094095

www.canterburyfi.org.uk

<https://friendsinternational.uk/app>

OPEN AIR CAMPAIGNERS

It's been quite a year and I'm always aware that the Lord can bring changes at any time, and that HIS ways are higher than ours. My mother died in May 2019 and in June, I had a triple heart bypass. The bypass was successful and I needed 6 weeks off from my evangelistic work as Director of 'OAC Ministries' Kent, but since then it's been literally all systems go. This 'extra-time' has given me a new lease of life as I'm now running on 4 cylinders instead of 1 !!

This past year, I've enjoyed evangelistic trips overseas in Greece and Ireland, trekking around 8 different towns in Kent each month, and of course Canterbury most weeks. My team and I meet in the 'funny shaped room' to prepare and pray, then head off to the end of the market, near McDonalds, and in a friendly way, paint a message on the sketch board that's relevant, then get into so many conversations about life and God and the Bible. Some have recently become Christians, now believing in the Lord Jesus. I chat with the market stall guys nearby and binmen and local shop workers, etc, who I've built up friendships with over the years. When the school kids come out, regular ones come along to chat with 'Dave the Jesus man' and we have fun banter but they also ask some very serious life and death questions.

I continue preaching and teaching (apologetics/ways to evangelise) in churches, plus outreaches in prison, at boot-sales, Speakers' Corner every month, teaching English to groups of Nepalese, etc. As us 'OAC evangelists' live totally 'by faith', this means the Lord provides...just in time to pay the bills at times, it's humbling and quite a journey. If you're ever free to come along on a Wednesday to watch or join in our outreach, you're more than welcome! Thanks for your vital prayers. Together in the Lord.

Dave Workman

CANTERBURY CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (CCCC)

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.” Psalm 107:1-3

We give thanks to the Lord as our redeemer in Canterbury in a unique way. God has called us as Chinese Christians and given us opportunities to reach predominantly Chinese population in the greater Canterbury area. Over this past year, God has continued to lead many unbelievers as well as believers to come to CCCC and give us opportunities to reach unbelievers to share the gospel message. Because we know God's love is steadfast, we must continue with the mission of sharing His steadfast love with those who have yet to know Him.

Finished the transition for the pastoral staff

In June 2019, the COCM missionary and pastor Connie Yu had finished her help in CCCC during the transition period for COCM missionaries Yunhai Wu and Gabby Zhong who are stationed pastors in CCCC. We give thanks to the Lord for Connie's faithful services and help.

First joint worship with St. Andrew's church

In February 2, 2020 we joined St. Andrew's Sunday worship for the first time. It was very encouraging to see the heartfelt sharing and singing in the midst of the two churches. We also had the Holy Communion together as the united body of Christ. We had many small talks afterwards among the two church members. Our Christian students joined to lead the worship songs. The Holy Spirit was doing the united work among us. Praise the Lord! Pastor Gabby gained the move from the Lord that our Chinese Christians should love people in this land by praying that the Gospel will be spread by the two churches together in the Canterbury area. We pray that the two churches will have more collaboration in the future.

Sunday worship

We continue to have weekly Sunday services and the number of regular attendants is around 40, which has not changed much from last year in quantity but our members take root in the truth of Jesus deeper. Besides Yunhai and Gabby, we also have two member speakers to preach on Sundays and it is pleasing to see the variety while keeping the essential in the bible scriptures. We thank God for a group of committed members serving alongside the leadership team for Sunday service. We have new members with the gift of music joined the worship team

to serve on Sundays. We are very encouraged to see the dedication of the praising team to practise the music prior to the worship service each Sunday.

Bible study groups

We continue to hold a weekly Cantonese Bible study group on Friday noon and a Mandarin Bible study group mainly for truth seekers on Tuesdays. We have a family fellowship group continuing their meetings on Friday nights for bible study. We also have a fellowship group named “Grace Fellowship” for the families who work in the Chinese restaurants. They meet monthly on Mondays. We thank God that the hearts of the unbelieving spouses are gradually open to the Gospel.

Student ministry

As usual, every autumn is a sweet but “hard” season for all of us in the fellowship. It is sweet because the graduating students accomplished their studies and we cheer them up but it is “hard” because it is not easy for us to say good bye to them. We are thankful to see new co-workers rising among Christian students. God really prepares new co-workers for us.

In the fall semester we have less people attending the regular meetings but since we have studied the book of Acts, we see the growth of passion to spread the gospel and testify the truth of Jesus among Christian students. We started up a truth-seeker group and had a very fruitful sharing among seekers.

A catering team comprising a few families takes turns to cook food for students for Friday meetings. Their love in Christ warms and touches the hearts of many students who are far away from home.

Outreach events and the fruits

Last autumn, the COCM team came to evangelize the gospel in our new student welcome party, it was really touching and well received. In the altar call to believe in Jesus, 3 students made their decisions to be a Christian! And we did the follow-up for them.

Due to the space limitation, we have limited our promotion for the 2020 Chinese New Year celebration, but we saw about 120 Chinese including children coming for the event. While major activities were singing, dancing and skit, we also gave a thirty-minute short gospel message (with interpretation from Mandarin to Cantonese) by pastor Yunhai Wu. At the altar call to believe in Jesus, one sister made her decision to accept Jesus Christ as her saviour.

In all our evangelical activities during the year, the total number of new believers from 2019 to 2020 is 12! And 11 finished their disciple training lessons, one was baptized and five will be baptized in 2020.

We also have a sister moved by God to serve in the church core leader team, and a couple joined the gospel team to serve as the leaders for all evangelical events during the year.

Conferences organized by COCM

During Christmas, Easter and summer holidays, we continue to encourage our members to attend various Christian conferences organized by COCM and FI. Through them our members are strengthened spiritually and loving relationships are established. We pray along the way that more disciples of Jesus Christ will be raised.

Church's safeguarding

Mrs Grace Wang, who is directly involved in the Church's children's ministry, is now our Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS). And she has started to revise and update the Church's Safeguarding Policy.

Training

1. Completed the training for worshipping

In need of singing and worship co-workers, we have given a workshop for members who are serving and burdened to serve in the worship for the fellowships and for the Sunday services.

2. Current need: We have scheduled a training for how to correctly understand the bible. Due to the COVID-19 we delayed it. We pray that more brothers and sisters will be called to read the bible diligently and consistently.

We are grateful to God that St. Andrew's Church has continued to provide the Canterbury Chinese Christian Church a place to meet and may God continue to bless the two churches that they can share the gospel in Canterbury.

Pastors Yunhai Wu & Gabby Zhong

St Andrew's URC Canterbury **Income and Expenditure Account for the year Ended 31 December 2019**

Income and Expenditure Account - 2019	1
Donations	page
Balance Sheet	page
Budget 2020	page
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Notes to the Accounts - 2019

Income

Freewill offerings were close to budget as were Oasis Café receipts. Letting are below budget. The flat was vacated on 8 December. Overall income was close to for 2019 due to URC grant for Turn the Tide £5050 not budgeted.

Expenditure

Most spending was below budgeted spending except manse expenses and administrative expenses. The manse front door £4162 was not budgeted, but was covered by URC grants. Also £4187 for windows Other manse expenses were Council Tax £3125, water £716 and insurance £447 Administrative expenses include Wages £9141, Telephone & broadband £2275, Photocopier £1828 Overall expenditure was £8,753 over budget.

Result

There was a small surplus for the year ended 31st December 2019

Budget for 2020

The budget includes a drop in rental income due to the flat being vacant until 22 June and Coronavirus closures The Café receipts are budgeted to include closure for 4 months. The estimated excess of expenditure over income is £10,000

St Andrew's URC Canterbury
Balance Sheet at 31st December 2019

BALANCE SHEET

	<u>Balance Sheet</u> <u>At 31st December 2019</u>	<u>Balance Sheet</u> <u>At 31 December 2018</u>	<u>Balance Sheet</u> <u>At 31 December 2017</u>
Cash at Bank	63,622	65,449	88,759
Building Society			
Cash in Ha Oasis Float	250	250	250
Investments held by Southern Synod	16,371	16,371	17,316
Creditors and Accrued charges (Electricity £1278, PAYE/NEST £170, BT £163, Men's meal £53)	(1,679)	(1,397)	(2,334)
Debtors & Prepayments - (HMRC gift aid £7075, Refund lights £453, Hall hire £600)	8,823	6,000	6,500
Total Assets	<u>£ 87,387</u>	<u>£ 86,673</u>	<u>£ 110,491</u>
Represented by			
General Fund brought forward	70,302	77,564	73,680
Southern Synod			
Transfer (to) / from Specific Funds – Church Maintenance Legacy			
- Manse Rentals since Sept 2016	-	15,611	(15,611)
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	715	(22,873)	19,495
General Fund carried forward	<u>£ 71,017</u>	<u>£ 70,302</u>	<u>£ 77,564</u>
Funds held by Southern Province	<u>£ 16,371</u>	<u>£ 16,371</u>	<u>£ 17,316</u>
Specific Fund - Manse Fund brought forward	-	15,611	
Receipts / (Payments) in year	-	(15,611)	15,611
Specific Fund – Manse Fund carried forward	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 15,611</u>
Total Funds	<u>£ 87,387</u>	<u>£ 86,673</u>	<u>£ 110,491</u>

St Andrew's URC Canterbury

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2019

	Results for the year ended 31st December 2019	Variance	Budget Projection 2019	Results for the year ended 31st December 2018	Results for Year ended 31/12/2017
INCOME					
Freewill Offerings	57,884	(116)	58,000	55,529	59,230
Covenant/Gift Aid Tax Recovery	13,003	3	13,000	11,722	12,217
Hall & Premises Lettings (incl £3900 church flat)	24,197	(2,803)	27,000	35,431	34,995
Oasis Cafe Receipts	22,638	(362)	23,000	22,599	21,468
Other Receipts - specific gifts/interest received/other income	1,242	242	1,000	2,111	450
- Legacies	0	-	-	0	13,370
Grants from URC - manse £9772 & Turn the Tide £5050	14,822	5,585	9,237	1,143	
Capital Reserve Account Interest	124	24	100	65	13
Donations for Specific purposes	2,639	(1,361)	4,000	1,333	1,370
Total Income	£ 136,549	£ 1,212	£ 135,337	£ 129,933	£ 143,114
EXPENDITURE					
Ministry and Mission	39,882	-	39,882	37,956	36,672
Ministerial Expenses	3,165	(3,335)	6,500	4,517	2,139
Pastoral Assistant and Expenses	0	-	-	0	5,660
Church Cleaning	3,640	(1,360)	5,000	4,870	3,337
Electricity Gas & Water	12,806	(5,194)	18,000	17,928	13,942
Administration and Office Expenses	13,753	2,753	11,000	10,874	9,689
Church Insurance	5,143	143	5,000	4,853	4,761
Furniture & Fittings	1,494	494	1,000	782	3,464
Manse Expenses (excl URC grants £9772 windows & door)	14,455	5,455	9,000	29,315	389
Payments To Christian Workers	4,200	(300)	4,500	4,200	4,200
Courses, Teaching Aids & CCL Licence	498	(102)	600	494	573
Catering Supplies	1,099	99	1,000	1,003	1,148
Church Repairs	10,738	(4,262)	15,000	12,415	15,086
Children's & Youth Work	1,545	45	1,500	1,344	1,388
Oasis Cafe Payments	10,178	(822)	11,000	10,637	9,273
Other (Garden, Bank Charges etc)	1,340	340	1,000	840	758
Donations - specific	2,849	(1,151)	4,000	1,533	2,246
Youth and Family Worker	9,108	(892)	10,000	9,115	8,963
Scone School	(57)		-	129	(69)
Total Expenses	£ 135,834	£ (8,091)	£ 143,982	£ 152,806	£ 123,619
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (Normal Transactions)	£ 715	£ 9,302	£ (8,645)	£ (22,873)	£ 19,495
Transfer to Manse Fund - Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (after transfers to Manse Fund)	715	9,302	(8,645)	15,611	(15,611)
					3,884

St Andrew's URC, Canterbury Budget for 2020, Income and Expenditure Account

	Budget Projection 2020	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2019	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2018	Actual Results for Year ended 31/12/2017
INCOME				
Freewill Offerings	55,000	57,884	55,529	59,230
Covenant/Gift Aid Tax Recovery	12,000	13,003	11,722	12,217
Hall & Premises Lettings	12,000	24,197	35,431	34,995
Oasis Cafe Receipts	12,000	22,638	22,599	21,468
4 months April to July furloughed staff 60% x £728 x 4	2,330	-	-	-
Other Receipts - specific gifts/interest received/other income	1,000	1,242	2,111	450
- Legacies		-	0	13,370
Grants from URC - Repairs & Turn the Tide	9,200	14,822	1,143	
Capital Reserve Account Interest	100	124	65	13
Donations for Specific purposes	2,000	2,639	1,333	1,370
Total Income	£ 105,630	£ 136,549	£ 129,933	£ 143,114
EXPENDITURE				
Ministry and Mission	41,079	39,882	37,956	36,672
Ministerial Expenses	3,500	3,165	4,517	2,139
Pastoral Assistant and Expenses	-	-	-	5,660
Church Cleaning	5,000	3,640	4,870	3,337
Electricity Gas & Water	8,000	12,806	17,928	13,942
Administration and Office Expenses	14,000	13,753	10,874	9,689
Church Insurance	5,450	5,143	4,853	4,761
Furniture & Fittings	1,000	1,494	782	3,464
Manse Expenses	2,000	14,455	29,315	389
Payments To Christian Workers	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
Courses and Teaching Aids	500	498	494	573
Catering Supplies	1,000	1,099	1,003	1,148
Church Repairs	10,000	10,738	12,415	15,086
Children's & Youth Work	1,500	1,545	1,344	1,388
Oasis Cafe Payments	5,400	10,178	10,637	9,273
Other	1,000	1,340	840	758
Donations	2,000	2,849	1,533	2,246
Youth and Family Workers & Expenses	10,000	9,108	9,115	8,963
Scone School	-	(57)	129	(69)
Total Expenses	£ 115,629	£ 135,834	£ 152,806	£ 123,619
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure (Normal Transactions)	£ (10,000)	£ 715	£ (22,873)	£ 19,495
Manse Fund transfers				
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(10,000)	715	(7,263)	(15,611)
				3,884
Payments To Christian Workers	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Canterbury Schools Work Trust	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Vaughn & Au Goodchild	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Amy & Kody Friesen				
Friends International - Global Cafe	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200



The
United
Reformed
Church



The
Methodist
Church

**Faversham United Church, Preston Street, Faversham, ME13 8PE
(Methodist, United Reformed Church)**

Mr Roger Berryman
Church Treasurer
34 Cressway
Faversham
Kent ME13 7NH

July 10th 2020

St Andrews URC Canterbury 2019 Accounts

Attn: The Treasurer, Officers and Minister,
St Andrews URC
Watling Street
Canterbury Kent CT1 2NU

The URC Southern Synod Finance Officer
East Croydon URC, Addiscombe Grove.
Croydon Grove CR0 5LP

All

I hereby acknowledge that I have carried out an Independent Examination of the above accounts, and subsequently emailed questions arising from this to The Treasurer. Having reviewed his comments I am completely satisfied that these resolved the queries raised.

I therefore conclude that the above accounts and back up paperwork correctly reflect both the Church's financial activity during 2019 and position as at Year End December 31st 2019.

Accordingly I have pleasure in signing off these accounts as being examined and accurate, which the treasurer should now forward to the URC Synod Area Finance Officer.

Roger Berryman
Independent Examiner
Church Treasurer (Faversham United Church, and Greenstreet Methodist Church)

***Our mission statement: 'By our witness & service, through friendship & love,
we seek to encourage others to discover the life changing message of Jesus Christ'***