



# **Christ Church Fareham**

*(Charity Reg. no. 1186046)*

*[www.christchurchfareham.co.uk](http://www.christchurchfareham.co.uk)*

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements October 2019 to December 2020**

*"... that we may declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into  
His wonderful light." 1Peter 2:9b*

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## TRUSTEES REPORT

### **AIM AND PURPOSES**

- Planted from Christ Central Portsmouth, to pray for and reach the people of Fareham.
- Started as a home group. Then, in September 2018, Christ Church Fareham was launched with weekly services held at the Ashcroft Arts Centre. Finances for the new church were initially managed as part of Christ Central Church in Portsmouth.
- Christ Church Fareham was registered as a separate charity in October 2019 and from 1 January 2020 started operating as a separate financial entity with its own bank account.
- Our purpose has been to build a Bible-believing, Gospel-proclaiming & Spirit-filled Church to bring joy, truth, love and hope to the town of Fareham and the surrounding region.

The trustees are committed to encouraging as many people as possible to worship Jesus Christ and to be part of our community. Our activities take into account the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit including guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We want to help ordinary people to live out their faith in Jesus every day, encouraging and supporting one another, and being led by the Holy Spirit. Our activities comprise:

- Loving God: worship and prayer; preaching the Gospel; and deepening our faith in Jesus Christ
- Loving one another: caring for people who live in and around Fareham, helping those who are in need or hardship
- Loving the world: mission and outreach work

These areas of activity have remained our priority even during Covid. But some individual activities have had to change as we seek to ensure that people are cared for, and that our services remain accessible to everyone, even those less familiar with technology.

### **OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

#### **Worship and prayer; preaching the Gospel; and deepening our faith in Jesus Christ**

- Since our launch, we have preached from the Bible every Sunday at our weekly meetings. During this period we have preached sermon series from the Old Testament including Jonah, Isaiah and Ezra; and have preached through several New Testament books including 1 Peter, Ephesians, Philemon and Jude. We began our sermon series through the whole of Matthew's Gospel, focussing on the life and salvation of Jesus Christ the King. Visitors to the Church have often commented appreciatively on the Bible teaching we provide.
- Until March 2020, we ran two weekly Life Groups. The groups shared dinner together - building relationships, praying and studying the Bible. During these times, we have read the Gospel of Mark with regular members of the Church, and with new visitors who have never read the Bible before.
- The Church met to pray together every other Sunday evening, supporting one another's needs, as well as praying for our town and the World.
- Each Sunday we offered Children's Work for children under 16. There have been games, crafts, videos and teaching from the Bible to help our children grow in understanding of who God is and the salvation offered in Jesus Christ.
- In March 2020, when National lockdown was introduced, we were unable to gather in person, as we usually would. We transferred our services online. Every morning the Children's Group would gather on zoom together and continue to enjoy Bible teaching and games. The adult service, featuring sung worship, prayer and a talk from the Bible would be broadcast on YouTube and our Facebook Page and we then held a Zoom prayer meeting together after the service.
- The impact of our digital services is challenging to assess. However, we have reached more people with the Gospel than ever before. Our Easter service was seen by over 5,000 different homes and our Christmas Carol Service in December 2020 was seen by over 7,300 homes. The vast majority of these people will have just watched one or two minutes as the video appeared on their social media feeds. However, we know there were significant numbers of people who watch the vast majority of the service.

- Since March 2020, we have also run prayer meetings on zoom during the week on a Tuesday and Thursday evening. We have missed gathering in person for our prayer meetings, but we are encouraged by the new people giving time to pray together in these meetings, that people could attend from home.
- In September 2020, we were able to return to meeting in person with significant social distancing restrictions in place. Congregational singing was not allowed, everyone had to remain 2m apart and wear masks. We were not able to serve tea and coffee after the service and our people had to leave promptly after the end of the meeting. We introduced a more contemplative form of worship, to make up for the lack of singing, we prioritised the place of prayer in the service and continued to preach Biblically. We were also able to take Communion in person again, albeit with significant precautions in place. In December 2020, the Government announced the second lockdown and we restored our online services.

We pray that, as we emerge from lockdown, we will be surprised at what God has been doing within us as His people, and how He has been touching the lives of those around us.

### Caring for people

- During Covid we encouraged people to care for others in whatever ways were possible. We have been encouraged that people in the Church who were particularly vulnerable and required to shield are helped and supported by those who are able, including delivering shopping and prescriptions. This work also extended to a few friends and family members in Fareham who required help.
- We used email, phone calls and texts to regularly stay in touch with people and prayed for those who needed help at our prayer meetings.
- A number of people in the Church, reached out to neighbours, posting flyers through people's doors, letting them know that if they needed help, they could ring or text and help would be offered.
- We have begun building relationships with the care homes in Fareham. Our Online Easter Service was shown at 3 or 4 care homes in the town and received well by the workers and residents. We hope to continue offering support and help to the people living and working there.
- Having started with just 14, we now have 56 people on our mailing list, who regularly receive offers of help and support, and who themselves join in with the work of caring for those less fortunate.
- In addition to caring for the people in the church and local area, it was the trustees' intention to give money away to other charities, local and global in 2020, to alleviate poverty and help the needy. Covid has made it difficult to build these new relationships, but we have set aside money to be given away in 2021 and have started to identify areas that require financial support

### Mission and outreach

- The Church has grown from 14 to over 40 regular attenders, with a wider group of people receiving information and invites from the Church
- The online service at Easter reached over 5,000 people with the good news of Jesus Christ. Our Online Christmas Carol service was viewed 7,300 times on Facebook. Thus, we have had a missional impact bigger than we ever could have expected. The true impact of these videos is yet to be seen. We're hoping for new visitors and people to build relationships with, as lockdown eases.
- Our Pastor, Duncan Sills, uses some of his employed time serving Commission (part of New Frontiers) who seek to preach the Gospel and reach out across nations. On a monthly basis, he has been teaching theology via zoom to people all over the South of England. This is the first year this course has been run and its impact is likely to grow over time. This is also our first step as a charity into teaching Christianity in a formal education setting.

## **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

This was our first year as a registered charity and it has been disrupted by a National Lockdown. But we are encouraged and there are significant areas to move forward with in the future.

- We plan to appoint a formal eldership team in 2021, responsible for leading the Church spiritually and enabling us to function with a Biblical leadership structure

- With the leadership structure in place, we will look to introduce formal membership in the Church, so we can properly distinguish between people visiting and those people who are with us to accomplish our mission and the charitable aims we have set ourselves.
- We are looking to build deeper relationships with people in the community, looking for ways to help people in need across our town. We have had a meeting with Fareham Foodbank and may look to develop this relationship moving forward.
- We were unable to run the Alpha Course this year but will look to introduce specific evangelistic courses to help share the good news of Jesus Christ in the future.
- Most importantly, we are slowly growing our congregation and excited for new people joining us in the future. From September 2018 to September 2019, we grew from 14 to 25, and from September 2019 to March 2020, we grew from 25 to over 40. We're hoping this growth will continue once lockdown has ended.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Even with a small church, it is important to identify key risks and ensure that they are managed. The trustees consider that principal risks faced by Christ Church Fareham have been:

### Safety during Covid

When meeting in person, we have observed all Government guidelines for places of worship to ensure people are kept safe. We completed a risk assessment, which was approved by the Ashcroft Arts Centre, our venue. We maintained social-distancing at all times. Children were accompanied by a parent in the Children's Work to ensure social distancing was observed. Singers in the band were put behind a clear plastic barrier and our band size was limited. Chairs were cleaned before and after the services, as was everything that was touched. Communion was served in individual holders and collected as people entered the room, rather than given out during the service at an appropriate time. We did not have any literature or leaflets to hand out, all notices were on powerpoint. We have continued to offer an online alternative for those who preferred to watch from home.

### Safeguarding

We are members of 31:8 and ensure all our Children's Workers are DBS checked to work with children. Our pastor, Duncan Sills, is also certified to work with vulnerable adults.

### Financial

We are grateful to God for his generous financial provision. The trustees protect the charity by preparing budgets each year; monitoring actual receipts and spend against budget; ensuring we have the funds to continue running the charity appropriately; and having the accounts independently checked each year.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESERVES POLICY**

Although registered as a charity in October 2019, the income and expenditure of Christchurch Fareham were included within the financial statements of Christ Central church in Portsmouth.

From 1 January 2020, Christchurch Fareham has operated its own bank account and keeps its own accounts. A grant of £35,369 was received from Christ Central – which was the balance of the money they had put aside to support the church plant.

Since then £28,744 income has been received in 2020 and payments of £19,346 – leaving total reserves of £44,767 all of which was being held in the bank. As at 31 December 2020, no tithes or missionary giving had been paid out and £3.3k will be given during 2021 in respect of 2020 income. There was also £1.7k in costs relating to 2020, which had not been paid. Both these liabilities, however are nearly offset by £4.7k tax recovery on gift-aided giving, which was not received until February 2021.

We are greatly encouraged by our financial position and give praise to God for the real generosity of church members who have grown giving to the church to nearly double what we expected so early in the life of the church.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Christ Church Fareham is a Registered Charity (No 1186046).

Christ Church Fareham is affiliated to Commission, part of the New Frontiers family of churches

The trustees are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to Christ Church Fareham including deciding on how the funds of the charity are to be spent.

The trustees met 3 times during the year with an average attendance of 100%.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Christ Church Fareham meets on Sunday mornings at Ashcroft Arts Centre, Osborn Road, Fareham, PO16 7DX. The correspondence address is 63 Hilson Drive, Fareham, PO15 6NP.

Trustees who have served at any time from the date of registration to the date of this report was approved are:

	<u>Date</u> <u>Appointed</u>	<u>Date</u> <u>Resigned</u>
Peter McBeth	Oct 2019	
Duncan Sills	Oct 2019	
Jonathan Simmonds	Oct 2019	

**Pastor/Lead Elder:** Duncan Sills

**Independent Examiner:** Knight Goodhead Limited  
7 Bournemouth Road  
Chandler's Ford  
Eastleigh, Hampshire  
SO53 3DA

**Bank:** HSBC UK Bank plc  
71 West Street  
Fareham  
PO16 0AN

The trustees are hugely appreciative of the many volunteers who work so hard to make our church a lively and vibrant community.

- Those who enable meetings to run smoothly – getting rooms ready, AV equipment, welcoming, serving refreshments, etc
- The musicians who play, sing, and record songs to help us worship
- Those who lead services, lead prayers, share or who read and preach from Scripture at services
- Those who prepare, teach and help with our children on Sundays
- The pastoral network team as they phone, visit and pray
- Those who host and lead midweek meetings and the various social and outreach events
- Those who give – often sacrificially
- Those who cover everything going on at Christ Church Fareham in prayer – in prayer meetings and in private prayer
- Those who take the time to thank and encourage one another here.

It is astonishing how much is being done, and by so many. We thank each one of you – and give thanks to God for you.

Approved by the trustees on 25 October 2021 and signed, on its behalf by Jonathan Simmonds (Chair of Trustees)



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## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Charities Act 2011 requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year, and its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements, the Trustees seek to:

- Follow best practice and guidance provided by the charity commissioners
- Use suitable accounting policies consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable
- State and apply applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice, and explain any areas of concern or deviation
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is appropriate to assume that the Charity will not continue its operations.

Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring the Charity has appropriate systems of controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper records which disclose and explain with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the 2011 Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to ensure that:

- The Charity is operating effectively and efficiently
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition
- Proper records are maintained
- Financial information used within the Charity or for publication complies with relevant laws and regulations

As far as the Trustees are aware, there are no relevant examination information (information needed by the Charity's independent examiner ("Examiner") in connection with preparing this report) of which the Examiner is unaware. Each Trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant examination information and to establish that the Examiner is aware of that information.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHRIST CHURCH, FAREHAM

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Christ Church Fareham for the fifteen months ended 31 December 2020.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



**Name** Chris Goodhead FCA  
**Firm** Knight Goodhead Limited  
**Address** 7 Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire  
**Postcode** SO30 3DA

**Date:** 25 October 2021

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

for the fifteen months ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	<u>Total funds</u>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Voluntary giving		
Planned giving		23,834
Collections/One-off giving		4,910
Gift Aid recovered		-
<b>Total</b>		<u>28,744</u>
Grant received	2	<u>35,369</u>
<b>Total receipts</b>	2	<u><b>64,113</b></u>
 <b>Payments</b>		
Church activities		
Staffing costs	3	(12,435)
Running expenses	4	(6,911)
Mission giving and donations	5	-
<b>Total</b>		<u>(19,346)</u>
 <b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		 <b>44,767</b>
 <b>Cash at bank</b>		
1 January 2020		-
<b>31 December 2020</b>		<u><b>44,767</b></u>

Equipment and other assets worth about £500 have also been received during the accounting period

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31 December 2020

<b>Cash funds</b>		
Bank current account		<b>44,767</b>
 <b>Other monetary assets</b>		
Gift Aid recoverable		<b>4,700</b>
 <b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors and accruals	6	(1,283)
Giving	5	(3,290)
<b>Total</b>		<u><b>(4,573)</b></u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. Christ Central Church in Portsmouth earmarked £50k towards the cost of planting a church in Fareham. In January 2020, when responsibility for accounting was passed to Christ Church Fareham, Christ Central made a grant of £35,369, being the balance of monies they had originally put aside for the church plant.

The Trustees consider that this and all other income received in the year to be unrestricted income.

3. Staff costs

	<u>2020</u>
	<u>£</u>
Wages and salaries	12,435
Average no of employees	0.5

4. Further analysis of Receipts and Payments Account

	<u>2020</u>
	<u>£</u>
Venues and gathering cost	3,911
Operating costs	2,122
Publicity	279
New equipment	<u>599</u>
	<u>6,911</u>

5. Giving

Although no mission giving and donations were made during the fifteen months ended December 2020, the Trustees have agreed to give away £3,290 in respect of income received in that period. This money is being given to Commission and other charities during 2021.

6. Creditors and accruals

	<u>2020</u>
	<u>£</u>
Payable to HMRC	743
Independent examiner	<u>540</u>
	<u>1,283</u>

7. Related Parties

One trustee, Duncan Sill, received remuneration and benefits totalling £13,807 during this period.

