

# Centrepont Christian Church

## Annual Report 2020-21

Registered Charity No.1067616

### Trustees

Denise Toseland  
Denise Marsh

Support Centre  
Operations Manager  
Danny Kumar



## Officers Report



Welcome once again to the Centrepont Christian Church Annual Report.

What a year it has been! Not one of us expected that the effects of a single virus could do so much harm to a Community and country. This Financial Year falls 'smack bang' in the middle of the worst of this Covid pandemic.

Many of our Community and Church activities have been on hold or via Zoom meetings and as such we remain committed to the centrality of the weekly preaching of God's word, the word of life that inspires us, challenges us, and changes us. This we have continued to do via our Church Facebook account, YouTube and personal sharing of links as each weekly service has been recorded and delivered digitally. We reopened to face-to-face Worship services on Easter Day 2021. Still with the Government guidelines being adhered to i.e. face coverings, distancing, etc. of course.

Throughout the year we've had the privilege of deepening our Christian partnerships with our brothers and sisters around West Bromwich as we have continued to meet online.

Local church ministry is of course a team game, and so it's been wonderful to serve the Lord together with such an excellent, creative and hard-working staff team and ministry leaders.

Likewise it has been privilege to know the wisdom, support and fellowship of the senior Leadership team as we have overseen the work of the church together, as shepherds under the Chief Shepherd. A true band of brothers& sisters!

Supremely we would wish to give glory to God for his grace in our lives.

In uncertain times in our nation—as in all years of change—He's the one of total stability.

May He get the glory as we increasingly trust him and serve him



Meeting mid-week in either  
a local home or venue  
members connect with each  
other and God

### Family Life Groups

For the year we have continued to run our now, fortnightly Family Life Groups. Since the Lockdown rules have meant an inability to meet safely in homes, they are online. They have been successful and included 90% of the Church membership. In these smaller groups it has given members the opportunity for members to share in smaller groups their more intimate concerns, joys and struggles in a safe environment. Especially valuable during these uncertain and fearful times.

It has also given members the opportunity to connect with their Church family on a regular basis.

### Prayer Meetings

As Christians, we believe prayer to be powerful and effective. If ever a Nation needs God to move, it is now. We have been encouraged by the hand of God in the swift creation of an effective vaccine and the progression of

medical treatment of the effects of Covid-19. We have seen His' great and powerful hand in this. Especially as we have heard testimony of Christian scientists successfully working in this area and seeing amazing results.

So, we have continued to meet online every two weeks, interceding in prayer for our country with the great grief, stress, increased mental health issues, isolation, sickness and so on...Praying for our Lord's comfort, mercy and an end to this invisible enemy attacking our Nation and the World.

It has helped to agree in prayer over those things that matter greatly to us as a Church and Community.

On a sad note we lost one of the Founding members of the Church died to sepsis this year. Mrs. Florence Halliday died 31st January 2021. She served the Church sacrificially for many years and she is missed greatly. She worked in many roles over the Church life. Including Pastors Personal Assistant, Admin support, CRB/DBS Administrator, Family Life Group Leader, Adviser and Mentor. She was a beloved wife, Sister, Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. As well as a dear Friend and Sister in the Lord. Never forgotten.



## Employability Support

We always try to support those needing assistance in securing employment. Offering help in creating an up to date CV, help completing job applications, job search, Universal Credit journal updates, etc. This has been done through our advice services.

However, with the increase in unemployment due to companies not able to withstand the loss of income due to the Pandemic, we estimated there would be more support needed for the community we serve.

We were able to secure funding from the Foyles Foundation to deliver a virtual/digital course offering expertise in Interview skills, Job search, CV's, Job application completion, where to look for jobs retraining opportunities, how to prepare for an interview, tackling our fears, benefits to claim, and answering any questions the learners might have.

This was a successful endeavor and we were able to help many who were struggling from losing their employment, many had never been unemployed before, who needed step by step guidance.

## Celebration Meetings

**Meeting each week at 10:45am, Celebration is the main church service of the week. Services resumed on Easter Day 2021.**



The work of the Place of Welcome has had to be suspended until it is safe to reopen to larger groups. Hoping this won't be for long as many individuals in our Community depend on us for company, friendship and a smile. Praying for a swift end to the limitations on us presently so we can continue our much needed help and support.

We also provide Food Bank Vouchers for families and individuals who are struggling due to some financial deficit. Presently these are being dealt with digitally or via a phone call for an appointment to be made to collect.

We also provide Food Parcels of fresh produce to those who are struggling, these presently are being arranged on a one-to-one basis via a visit to our facilities, where a staff member provides a food and toiletries parcel. For those unable to leave their home, a home delivery is arranged.

Through a successful Grant application from the Government via National Lottery, we were able to employ a temporary part-time Covid Response Worker. He has been able to work with those struggling with the negative effects of the pandemic. He has visited homes, delivered groceries and food/toiletry parcels, given lifts to those scared to use Public Transport, helped with job search for those who sadly lost their employment, benefit claims and has even helped with house moves.

This role has been extended through another grant application to the Community Fund and the Community will continue to benefit from this support until February 2022.

**Jesus came to serve not to be served. We follow in His footsteps.**







Covid Safe Advice and Guidance given at the Church

The Support Centre is open Monday, Tuesday & Thursday each week providing advice, guidance and practical sup-

## Centrepont Support Centre

Centrepont Support Centre has several arms to it's meeting the needs of our Community. We offer Benefits Advice. We help with residency applications to remain in the UK and help avoid the increasing number of fraudsters that are charging for their services in the area. We also offer Financial Capability, offering clients the chance to chat through their Budget and get help tackling their Priority Creditors.

Thereby, our services have grown in popularity. The service is accessible to all, with a disabled friendly wide door, no steps, a large toilet space with disability aids. Plus, we have access to several translators to interpret the many languages of people that presently live in the Sandwell area from the EU and other countries.

We continue to be part of the Sandwell Providers Network and our work is monitored by

them to ensure good quality standards remain throughout the year. Our Advisors and their Supervisor attend the monthly meetings that are used to discuss and be aware of current changes of policy and to share common good practice. Regular training opportunities are given our advisors to ensure they are fully up to date with all new legislation and practice.

When the first lockdown restrictions were introduced we worked remotely and via telephone. However, we applied for funding to make our building Covid-safe, screens, sanitising stations, laptops for mirror screening, extra furniture to work socially distanced, more telephones, signs, masks, markings, etc. We were successful and so opened our doors to the public quite quickly. We have remained open ever since.



## Centrepont Christmas Giving

Christmas 2020 was another year of showing our Community that we care and that they matter. Many families in our Community are struggling to survive, let alone being able to buy presents for their children, and special food and goodies. So through our networking, we asked for referrals of families that needed provision of toys and goodies for their children. We also sent out a request for those who would like to donate toys and goodies to families who were struggling.

The response for both was good and generous. A team of Church volunteers put together the hampers of food, wrapped toys and goodies for 25 families. The Church also purchased some toys from In Kind Direct at a reduced cost.

The families were very grateful for all they received and so were the organisations that had referred them. We were grateful for the opportunity to give to struggling families. It was fulfilling to us all to give generously and cheerfully. As our Lord teaches us to do.







“They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I was eager to do”.  
Galatians 2:10

“Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart against his brother.”  
Zechariah 7:10

“He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honours him has mercy on the needy”.  
Proverbs 14:31



## Centrepoint Supported Housing Project

We continue to provide a House for Homeless men, giving the day to day support that is needed when moving from a place of Homelessness to Independent living. Offering support with benefits, employability skills, health and hygiene, budgeting, cooking and cleaning support. We work in close partnership with Hope into Action, they work with all the admin and landlord responsibilities and together we work in supporting the tenants. We have had a longer term tenancy but also shorter ones too. Endeavouring to remain in contact when they move on, so as to ensure a smooth transition. The ability to welcome people, to give them a sense of belonging and to see wonderful relationships and friendships being forged is a blessing. Obviously there have been some challenges but it's been worthwhile.

We get fantastic support from Hope into Action and we've

learnt from the challenges. They've made us stronger and better equipped to put that new knowledge into practise.

The volunteers who support the residents enjoy seeing the difference their ongoing support is making. Encouraging independence and the resilience that's needed for our house guests to succeed. Through Lockdown we have continued to support at a distance. Through phone calls checking in how they are doing and if they need any extra support.

However, the loneliness and isolation has been tough on the residents affecting their mental health negatively. They are looking forward to being able to visit the Church and Support Centre again. As we all are.




## Financial Report

This years accounts are reflecting differences from other years as it reflects our success in grant applications made and a higher rate of charitable giving. The Grants were applied for as we saw the needs of the Community and our willingness to help with those needs as much as possible. Our greatest aim was to still be available to the Community as much as possible, whilst protecting our staff and volunteers. A Grant from SCVO assisted with this goal, as did a grant from Heart of England prior to this financial year. We needed to employ someone who's primary mission was to help those struggling with the negative consequences of the pandemic, either directly or indirectly. Government funding via the National Lottery provided that income stream, then when that funding come to an end, the Community Fund gave us another grant for same. As mentioned previously, Foyles Foundation funded our 'digitally delivered' employability course. 'Neighbourly' gave us a small grant to help restock our food pantry, which was much needed to continue our food parcels distribution. The SMBC Grant is ongoing presently and it pays the wage of our Half-Time Benefits Adviser.

So, the Church has been well blessed to receive the funding needed to continue our work and increase our service to our community to meet their needs during this pandemic. We are most grateful to each grant provider in this.

Also, a Big Thankyou goes to In Kind Direct. Because of their provision of much reduced toiletries and cleaning equipment, we have not only been able to stay safe as an organisation ourselves but also been able to equip our service users with the means to do likewise. Some of this is reflected in the Charitable Giving figure, however most of it was paid for by generous Church members.





Receipts and Payments Accounts for the period from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Offerings	2813	-	-	2813	2702
Covenants/Gift Aid and Tax Back	8086	-	-	8086	9952
	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	592	-	-	592	11366
Disclosure Service	-	-	-	-	-
Resources and Training	-	-	-	-	1171
Travel/Trips	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	7	-	-	7	-
Catering	-	-	-	-	-
SCVO Grant Vision 2030	-	2250	-	2250	-
Grant Covid Response	-	10000	-	10000	-
Heart of England Grant	-	-	-	-	2050
Grant- Community Fund	-	10000	-	10000	-
Grant- Neighbourly	-	400	-	400	-
Grant- Foyles Foundation	-	2500	-	2500	-
	-	-	-	-	-
SMBC grant	-	17000	-	17000	10158
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>11498</b>	<b>42150</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53648</b>	<b>37399</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>11498</b>	<b>42150</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53648</b>	<b>37399</b>



### A3 Payments

Stationary		-	-		
Pastors Wage	-	-	-		-
Fuel Costs	775			775	
		-	-		-
Church Insurance	555			555	
Telephone calls and Internet					
Training Costs		-	-		
Office Rent and Services	7607			7607	
	-	-		-	-
Internet					
Bank charges					
Resources	360			360	
Charitable Giving	1833			1833	
Hospitality	125	-	-	125	
Catering					
youth					
Miscellaneous					
office equipment					
Travel/Trips					
Grant– Covid Response		10000		10000	
Grant– Community Fund	-	10000		10000	
Heart of England Grant					2050
Grant– SCVO Vision 2030					0
Grant– Foyles Foundation		2500		2500	-
Grant– Neighbourly	-	400		400	-
				-	-
				-	-
SMBC grant	-	13600	-	13600	13533
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>11255</b>	<b>38750</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50005</b>	<b>28770</b>

<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>					
<b>Net of receipts/</b>					
	243	3400	-	3643	8629
<b>A5 Transfers between</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year</b>					
	13508	-5138	-	8370	-
<b>Cash funds this year</b>					
	13751	-1738	-	12013	8629

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash funds this year	13751	-1738	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	13751	-1738	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

### B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Laptops x 3	Unrestricted		1200
Furniture, Fittings, Fixtures, etc.	Unrestricted		950
Lighting and PA System	Unrestricted		600
Data Projector	Unrestricted		150
Printers x 3	unrestricted	-	1000
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	





## Financial Report

### Independent Examiners Report Report to Centrepont Christian Church

I report on the accounts of Centrepont Christian Church for the year ended 30-6-21.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the account presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the account, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters.

#### Independent Examiners Statement.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with the Charity Act;
- And to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.

Have not been met or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Teresa Berrsley  
7 Keelson Pointe,  
Carl Street,  
Leamore, Walsall  
West Midlands. WS2 7DB.

Signed:

Dated : 12/10/2021

This report was presented to the Annual General Meeting of Centrepont Christian Church Monday 1/11/2021

The report and accounts were approved by the Trustees, Senior Leadership Team and Centrepont Membership at that meeting as an accurate record of the activities of Centrepont Christian Church during the period 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021

Signed  
Dated: 1/11/2021

Denise Toseland