

Great Hollands Free Church

because Jesus sets us free



**Annual Report
&
Accounts for 2016**

Because Jesus sets us free:

During 2016 we launched our brand new website with the title: Great Hollands Free Church – because Jesus sets us free.

The Bible teaches us that Jesus wants to set us free, and as a local church, we encourage each other to walk in the freedom that He offers.

At 10:30 am on Sunday mornings we hold our weekly Celebrations, with vibrant worship, prayer, teaching, lots of joy, and activities especially for the children at One 2 Free. We then have plenty of time to meet friends, relax and ask questions at Freedom Café.

During the week we have a number of activities taking place around the community, and now we have resources on the website too – all encouraging us to live as God intends:

- Free from fear and anxiety
- Free from condemnation
- Free to worship
- Free to love
- Free to forgive
- Free to celebrate
- Free to give and receive
- Free to communicate and relate
- Free to serve
- Free to lead
- Free to make mistakes
- Free to become the person God intended

We have encouraged people to take on new roles over the last year: leading worship, teaching adults, teenagers and children, and serving in catering and admin roles.

We continue to welcome anyone and everyone from the local community to our regular activities and special events - free of charge. We welcomed 142 people to our Barn Dance in March, had a great crowd of children at our Light Party held in conjunction with Binfield Free Church in November, and welcomed lots of visitors over Christmas.

Church is a really great organisation that God has instituted. We are here to worship him, to love each other, and to be available for members of our community. Let us thank God for our wonderful church in Great Hollands, and may I thank you all for playing your part too.

Wings

Greg Auger

Wings is our new group for young adults and sixth-formers. The name is taken from Isaiah 40:31. We meet in a different house every few weeks, as suits the members, to enjoy each other's company (and baking) and to consider how God calls us to live. Wings is a slightly smaller group than Attic used to be, but those who have gone to university join us in their vacations. For our initial gatherings, we have taken it in turns to share a personally meaningful passage of the Bible.

One 2 Free

Fiona Marston

No, it's not a misprint! The new name for the children's work mirrors the three steps to learning, however, the word 'Free' is a reference to freedom in Christ. Although we have had a name change, our structure remains largely unchanged with games/songs, followed by teaching time, and activities and/or crafts to aid learning. This year we have moved away from our usual material and are preparing our own lessons straight from the Bible (still following a termly theme). We have looked at 'Moses and the Exodus', and 'Into the Promised Land – The time of the Judges'.

Praise God for our growth and pray that the young people continue to grow in faith.

Brothers-in Arms

Rob Mead

This is a monthly prayer meeting for the men of the church. We meet at 8:00 am on a Saturday morning at Mark's house. We share hopes, fears and concerns that are on our hearts and then pray about them.

Sometimes we take as focus the subject being preached on Sunday.

Numbers do vary, but an encouragement is that most of the men come along when they can.

Last Orders

Peter Burch

The aim of Last Orders is for men, both members and non-members of GHFC, to meet socially for a drink once a month. Up until the summer we were meeting regularly but due to various reasons we have not met since. The plan

for 2017 is to organise a few different events throughout the year that will appeal to more men. Those who have attended the events have expressed the view that it was a good way of getting to know others that they didn't know that well.

The Truth

Trevor Allwright

The Truth is our Thursday evening Bible study which meets at 8:15 pm on the first and third Thursday of the month. We meet in the homes of various members of the church and over time have come to 'gel' together well as a group. Our studies are lively and the atmosphere is friendly and informal. During the year we studied both 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians. Everyone is very welcome to join us so please speak to me if you are interested in coming along.

The Life

David Warrilow

The aim of the group is to provide fellowship and mutual support. It is aimed at those who are available during the day and usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month in various homes. The group started in September. Up to about 10 people attend and so far we have had discussions on favourite Bible verses and heard personal testimonies.

If you are around during the day you would be most welcome to join our friendly group to enjoy fellowship with tea and cakes or biscuits.

Belovèd

Fiona Marston

Formerly Ladies Bible Study, our new name reflects how we see our Saviour and also how He sees us. We meet in various homes on Friday mornings in term time at 10:00 am to study God's Word and learn how to put His Word into action.

We have looked at various studies including Titus, Daniel and Acts, as well as an in depth look at John 15: Abiding in Christ. This series of studies from the 'Vine' passage gave us a real sense of God's love and care for us, and the practical ways in which we can produce more fruit for His kingdom.

This year we have been blessed with new friends seeking to know God and grow in faith in Him.

Mums in Prayer

Clare Bumpass

Mums in Prayer is an international prayer movement which connects mothers together so that they can pray for children and their teachers and schools. The

aim is that every school would be covered in prayer. Our Bracknell group meets every Tuesday morning and we spend about an hour in prayer.

The group is a huge blessing and support to about ten to twelve mums who attend regularly, some members are from Great Hollands Free Church and others are from the wider community. Everyone agrees that it is an important part of our week, to take an hour to bring our concerns and burdens before God. We have seen many amazing answers to prayer as a result. In December 2016, another group started in Finchampstead and we have been able to come alongside them in support and prayer.

Ladies' Coffee Morning with Bible Study Sheena Warrilow

We met until just before Easter 2016 on alternative Tuesdays for Fellowship and Bible Study. However dwindling numbers led us to reassess the need for such a group. After much prayer and discussion we came to the conclusion that it had served its purpose.

We came together again briefly in October to fill 12 Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. All the ladies agreed that the remaining funds from our collections should be added to the money collected for Samaritan's Purse making a total of £135.46.

Freedom - locally and around the world Mark Wigston

I started this annual report by talking about the freedom that God wants for each one of us.

Now I would like to remind you of the organisations we have partnered with over the last year, bringing freedom to others both locally and around the world. God has blessed us as a church, and we are able to be a blessing to others by supporting these organisations, both in prayer and financially.

Locally

Here in Bracknell, we have continued to support the *Food Bank* over the last year, providing for people all around us who are struggling financially for a whole variety of reasons.

We have also been supporting *Yeldall Manor* drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre, which offers healing, hope and practical support to those struggling with substance abuse. Some of us have joined them in their celebrations or volunteered to help in other ways, in addition to our financial gifts as a Church, including donations received at our Barn Dance and Harvest Festival.

Around the world

The Republic of Moldova, which borders Romania and Ukraine, is considered to be the poorest country in Europe. We were pleased to send a gift to *Eclesia Moldova* to support their work amongst very poor children and families.

We have continued to pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering for their faith, and we have also been supporting them with financial gifts, sent to *Open Doors*.

We sent 58 shoe boxes to *Samaritan's Purse* which we hope will have brought smiles and joy to the children who received them, in various countries around our world.

We continue to support Eyerusalem a school-age girl living in Ethiopia through *Compassion UK*. Our donations enable her to go to school.

Thank you to all of you who have given to the church over the last year. Your generosity has enabled us to be generous to others too.

Social Activities

Gareth Jenkins

As in past years, we have had a number of social events during the year. Some have been aimed at people within the Church, but others have been aimed at bringing in people from the local community. We have also had a number of people from the Church being involved with activities organised by the Community Centre and in particular the quizzes held every few months.

In March, we had our 3rd annual Barn Dance again with *The Scamping Rogues* providing the music and a caller attempting to teach us how to dance. This proved very popular within the Community. We are planning a follow-up in March 2017. In December we held our *Celebrate Christmas* event which again included many visitors from the community.

During most of the year we have held our monthly walks (though one or two were cancelled due to poor weather). Our numbers have remained fairly stable, and we have been pleased to be joined by some members of St Joseph's Church. However we would be pleased if anyone else would like to join us.

Church Membership on 30th November 2016

Trevor Allwright

Sue Allwright

Beth Allwright

*Greg Auger

Clare Bumpass

Peter Burch

Sarah Burch

*Nikolay Dachev

*Radoslava Nestorova

Richard Elsbury

Sue Elsbury

Peter Goodson

Sheila Hopkins

Eleanor Ironside

Gareth Jenkins

Anne Jenkins

*Andrew Lawson

*Pavlina Lawson

Chris Malunguza

Elizabeth Malunguza

Fiona Marston

Jean McCandless

Rob Mead

Gill Mead

Lawrence Millwood

Kyoko Millwood

Val Phenev

Emily Phenev

James Phenev

Pam Simmonds

David Warrilow

Sheena Warrilow

Dave Weston

Dawn Weston

Mark Wigston

Gabi Wigston

Total membership: 36

*New member during 2016

During the year, we accepted the resignation of Jean Ardron; John and Jennie Chapman; Dean and Jennie Felix; and Chris and Fiona Hilson.

Treasurer's Report: Year ending 30th November 2016

			Notes	
Summary	2016	2015	Budget 2017	
				1
Opening Balance 1/12	£50,827.57	£61,066.38	£44,436.42	
Income	£43,075.02	£42,375.24	£40,400.00	
Expenditure	-£49,466.17	-£52,614.05	-£50,730.00	
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Closing balance 30/11	£44,436.42	£50,827.57	£34,106.42	
Income				
Freewill Gifts	£35,878.81	£34,179.45	£32,850.00	2
Refund from Inland Revenue	£6,760.35	£7,373.86	£7,250.00	3
Miscellaneous	£85.00	£103.50	£100.00	4
Bank & Building Society Interest	£204.84	£409.02	£200.00	5
Ladies' Income	£146.02	£309.41		6
	-----	-----	-----	
Total	£43,075.02	£42,375.24	£40,400.00	
Expenditure				
Employment Costs	£38,166.72	£38,716.68	£38,500.00	7
Gifts	£4,312.54	£5,165.95	£4,070.00	8
Miscellaneous	£2,404.05	£3,835.67	£3,920.00	9
Hire Fees	£4,422.00	£4,364.00	£4,240.00	10
Ladies' Expenditure & Gifts	£160.86	£531.75		6
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Total	£49,466.17	£52,614.05	£50,730.00	
Decrease in Funds	£6,391.15	£10,238.81	£10,330.00	

Notes

Current Balance	2016	2015	
Ladies' Funds	£0.00	£14.84	6
Various Floats	£1.34	-£0.39	11
Cash in hand	£32.33	£138.98	12
Current Account	£324.24	£334.00	13
Deposit Account	£3,078.51	£1,915.12	
90 Day Account	£0.00	£48,425.02	
60 Day Account	£41,000.00		
Total	£44,436.42	£50,827.57	
Liabilities	-£1,371.82	-£1,600.02	14

Notes on the Accounts

- The 3 columns of figures represent the following:
 - The first column shows the amounts for the year ending 30th November 2016
 - The second column shows the amounts for the previous year (ending 30th November 2015) for comparison
 - The third column represents my estimate for the current year (ending 30th November 2017) for budgetary purposes
- This represents all freewill offerings made to the Church. They can be further broken down as follows:

	2016	2015	Budget 2017	
Designated (External)	£750.82	£999.59	£550.00	a)
Designated (Internal)	£156.83	£387.92	£0.00	b)
Regular Gifts	£22,715.00	£23,403.00	£20,800.00	c)
Collection	£5,474.24	£3,988.94	£6,500.00	d)
Other Donations	£6,781.92	£5,400.00	£5,000.00	e)
	-----	-----	-----	
Total	£35,878.81	£34,179.45	£32,850.00	

- 'Designated (External)' represents gifts that were made specifically for the support of other Christian organisations (see note 8 for details). In some cases these gifts were also made such that the tax is reclaimable by the Church. Also included in this category is the small change collection which during the year was designated as being a contribution towards the support of Eyerasalem in Ethiopia.

- b) 'Designated (Internal)' represents gifts that were made for the support of specific activities within the Church. This year it was entirely cash gifts towards food for the Barn Dance.
 - c) 'Regular Gifts' represent those gifts that are made by regular donations. The majority of these are subject to reclaims from the Inland Revenue. Since April 2000, any gifts made by a taxpayer can be 'Tax Efficient' provided that they are not made anonymously.
 - d) 'Collection' covers the money in the collecting box each Sunday. Since April 2013, any small change in the collection box (which means any amount less than £20) can be assumed to be subject to Gift Aid. However, if the amount is greater than £20 (for example a bundle of notes that have been put in together), then Gift Aid cannot be reclaimed. During this year, £3,630 has been put in the box for which Gift Aid is not claimable. If this money **had** been given Tax Efficiently, then a further £907 could be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue.
 - e) 'Other Donations' covers other one off gifts made which, although not regular each month, do tend to be made each year.
3. This represents the money that the Church has been able to reclaim from the Inland Revenue and corresponds to the tax paid on gifts made to the Church using the Gift Aid Scheme. This year I have made a reclaim for Gifts received during the 2014 - 15 Financial Year, and so we are up to date on our Gift Aid reclaims. At the time of writing this report, I have now also made a claim for the 2015 - 16 Financial Year, which I've included in the Budget. If anyone would like to know more about how to make their giving 'Tax Efficient', then please speak to me about it. Also, higher rate tax payers should ensure that they declare any Gift Aid donations on their Income Tax returns, since they will receive tax relief on such gifts.
 4. This represents payments made to the Church for a specific purpose. This year it represents payments made towards Bible Notes used by the Ladies' Bible Study.
 5. This represents the interest we receive on our bank accounts.

6. ‘Ladies’ Income’ represents the income of the Ladies’ Coffee Morning with Bible Study. The income comes from collections at their meetings.

Similarly ‘Ladies’ Expenditure and Gifts’ covers the cost of refreshments for meetings and donations that they make to charities and gifts to some of the members who may be unwell or to mark special occasions. In March 2016, the group decided to stop meeting other than to pack Shoeboxes in October, and agreed that their remaining funds should be added to the money collected for the Shoebox Appeal, making a total of £135.46.

7. This represents the Employment costs of the Church, primarily Salary and Pension contributions we pay to Mark and Gabi Wigston and also payments to Speakers from within our congregation.

	2016	2015	Budget 2017
Payments to Speakers within the Church	£0.00	£880.00	£0.00
Payments to Mark and Gabi	£38,166.72	£37,836.68	£38,500.00
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Total	£38,166.72	£38,716.68	£38,500.00

‘Payments to Mark and Gabi’ represents the Salary and Pension costs including Tax and National Insurance. From April 2016, there has been a special dispensation for most organisations such that the first £3,000 of Employers’ National Insurance contribution each year doesn’t need to be paid. In our case that represents all our Employers’ National Insurance and this saving should also apply in future years.

8. This represents gifts made to other individuals or organisations. The following table gives details of all the gifts made and also indicates where part of the gift had been given to the Church specifically for that purpose. Note that if money is given specifically for a cause, then at least that amount of money is always passed on.

The ‘Collection for Eyerusalem’ has been used towards our payments to Compassion for the support of Eyerusalem in Ethiopia. This year there was a shortfall of £95 between the money collected (and the Gift Aid reclaimable on that) and the money we are committed to giving in support of Eyerusalem.

Gifts For / To	Total Received	Total Given
Collection for Eyerusalem	£164.44	£300.00
Yeldall Manor		£1,150.00
Barn Dance (receipts for Yeldall)	£304.81	
Harvest (receipts for Yeldall)	£121.57	
Open Doors		£450.00
Samaritans Purse (shoeboxes)	£45.00	£64.54
Samaritans Purse (Haiti appeal)	£115.00	£600.00
Moldova		£450.00
Federation of Independent Evangelical Churches		£1,098.00
External Speakers		£200.00
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Totals	£750.82	£4,312.54

The total amount given during the year represents 10% of our income.

9. This covers all the other expenditure. The following provides a more detailed breakdown:

	2016	2015	Budget 2017	
Annual	£820.55	£810.38	£900.00	a)
Banking	£25.00	£40.00	£80.00	b)
Printing	£22.30	£111.47	£50.00	c)
Magazines, Books etc.	£71.25	£623.69	£90.00	d)
Allowances	£447.00	£227.95	£370.00	e)
Ladies Bible Study	£74.90	£137.83	£100.00	f)
Publicity	£100.00	£130.00	£200.00	g)
Youth Work	£243.99	£506.59	£400.00	h)
Capital Fund	£50.70	£408.93	£1,000.00	i)
Internal Gifts	£73.00	£174.95	£100.00	j)
Refreshments	£345.66	£588.68	£500.00	k)
Stationary and Stamps	£19.91	£33.85	£30.00	l)
Other	£109.79	£41.35	£100.00	m)
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Total	£2,404.05	£3,835.67	£3,920.00	

- a) 'Annual' represents one-off annual charges such as Insurance, our PO Box and our Copyright Licence and the Web site.
- b) 'Banking' represents bank charges incurred when sending money to Moldova and also our monthly bank charges which were introduced in October 2016.

- c) 'Printing' represents the costs for Bulk Printing and consumables for the Church Printer.
 - d) 'Magazines, Books etc.' includes purchasing Evangelicals Now. The reason that this is significantly less than last year's figure is that we decided **not** to give Bibles to School leavers this year.
 - e) 'Allowances' represents mileage payments made to Mark plus costs of books and an allowance for his phone.
 - f) 'Ladies Bible Study' represents the cost of Bible Notes bought for the Ladies Bible Study.
 - g) 'Publicity' covers the cost of publicity for the Church. The main cost now is for our ongoing advert in Great Hollands Matters.
 - h) 'Youth Work' represents the cost of materials for the children's and youth work on Sundays.
 - i) 'Capital Fund' represents one-off capital expenditure. The only item was a new lead for the radio microphone.
 - j) 'Refreshments' represents the cost of refreshments on Sundays and for special events. In many cases the costs have been donated to the Church.
 - k) 'Internal Gifts' represents gifts to members of the fellowship to mark special occasions.
 - l) 'Stationery and Stamps' also includes payments made to people for printing on their own printers.
 - m) 'Other' covers anything that doesn't fall into any other category. The main cost was a renewal for the anti-virus software on Mark's computer.
10. This represents the costs of hiring the School, and the Community Centre each Sunday. The forecast represents 12 month's hire at current rates.
 11. A number of people who regularly spend small amounts of money are given cash floats which are topped up when necessary, and accounted for at an appropriate time. This sum represents the money which is held in these floats but which has not yet been spent. The fact that this was negative in 2015 signified that some people were then owed money by the Church.
 12. This represents cash (and possibly cheques) that I have received, but not yet banked.
 13. This represents the amount nominally in the bank.

14. This represents payments that are due, but which have not yet been made. The outstanding payments were: rent to the school for September to November 2016; rent for the Community Centre for November; the Tax and NI deducted in October and November but not yet paid to IR.

Financial Outlook for 2017: As can be seen from the summary on page 7, the projected income for 2017 is expected to be £10,330 less than the expenditure. In other words, we are spending more than we are getting in each month. We need to close this gap moving forward, as our reserves are fast being used up. Therefore we all need to consider increasing our giving towards the work of the Church (tax efficiently wherever possible!).

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Goodson and Elizabeth Malunguza for carrying out an independent examination of the accounts. I would also like to thank those who have helped in checking the collection each Sunday.

Gareth I Jenkins

WHAT WE BELIEVE - THE FIEC BASIS OF FAITH

1. GOD

There is one God, who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is unchangeable in his holiness, justice, wisdom and love. He is the almighty Creator, Saviour and Judge who sustains and governs all things according to his sovereign will for his own glory.

2. THE BIBLE

God has revealed himself in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors, so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine. The Bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

3. THE HUMAN RACE

All men and women, being created in the image of God, have inherent and equal dignity and worth. Their greatest purpose is to obey, worship and love God. As a result of the fall of our first parents, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted and all men and women are without spiritual life, guilty sinners and hostile to God. Every person is therefore under the just condemnation of God and needs to be born again, forgiven and reconciled to God in order to know and please him.

4. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father. He taught with authority and all his words are true. On the cross he died in the place of sinners, bearing God's punishment for their sin, redeeming them by his blood. He rose from the dead and in his resurrection body ascended into heaven where he is exalted as Lord of all. He intercedes for his people in the presence of the Father.

5. SALVATION

Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved. It has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ and is

offered to all in the gospel. God in his love forgives sinners whom he calls, granting them repentance and faith. All who believe in Christ are justified by faith alone, adopted into the family of God and receive eternal life.

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ and to apply his work of salvation. He convicts sinners, imparts spiritual life and gives a true understanding of the Scriptures. He indwells all believers, brings assurance of salvation and produces increasing likeness to Christ. He builds up the Church and empowers its members for worship, service and mission.

7. THE CHURCH

The universal Church is the body of which Christ is the head and to which all who are saved belong. It is made visible in local Churches, which are congregations of believers who are committed to each other for the worship of God, the preaching of the Word, the administering of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, for pastoral care and discipline, and for evangelism. The unity of the body of Christ is expressed within and between Churches by mutual love, care and encouragement. True fellowship between Churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel.

8. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Baptism and the Lord's Supper have been given to the Churches by Christ as visible signs of the gospel. Baptism is a symbol of union with Christ and entry into his Church but does not impart spiritual life. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice offered once for all and involves no change in the bread and wine. All its blessings are received by faith.

9. THE FUTURE

The Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory. He will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. The wicked will be sent to eternal punishment and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God. God will make all things new and will be glorified forever.

Church Officers as at 30th November 2016

Elders

Mark Wigston (Pastor)

Deacons

Peter Burch (Church Secretary)

Gareth Jenkins (Church Treasurer)

Gill Mead

Rob Mead

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