

Great Hollands Free Church

because Jesus sets us free



**Annual Report
&
Accounts for 2017**

Message from the Pastor

Mark Wigston

Many years ago, God led his people through a desert, in the days of Moses. God was with them every step of the way. The challenge for the people was to follow his leading, without grumbling. They lived a nomadic lifestyle, and had to be ready to strike camp, at a moment's notice, whenever God gave them the sign that it was time to move on. We too, have a wonderful God, who loves us, and calls us to follow him.

In April 2017 we had to move as a church, from one hall to another, within Great Hollands Primary School. It was not a great distance to travel, and we got plenty of notice, but there were a lot of logistical problems that we needed to solve. The way in which we prayed, planned and got on with it, as a church, is testimony to the love and unity that we share together. Thank you to everyone who had to work that bit harder and arrive that bit earlier, in order to get things done.

Many of you have been serving with music, preaching, doing drama, teaching the children, catering, and taking care of the many jobs that are so essential. We have loved seeing some of our young people getting involved too. This is all part of our worship.

We have five groups that have been meeting regularly, on various days, for prayer, Bible teaching and encouragement. It is often in this context that friendships are formed, and we find the strength to carry on: following our Saviour. It was great to see new people coming to worship God with us on Sundays and throughout the week.

We edited our *Baptism – the big picture* course, making it more concise and easier to use. It was a privilege to nurture 5 people through the course, and what a celebration we had, with a capacity crowd, on the day of their baptism.

Sometimes “Church” takes place in view of everyone, but often it is done one to one: meeting someone, visiting, serving, praying, encouraging, or answering questions. Some of us have been visiting care homes over the last year, and we have received such a warm welcome from both residents and the staff who are doing such an important job. Eleanor was an inspiration to many of us, and it was a privilege to be able to support her, right up until the day she went to be with Jesus.

Our *Barn Dance* and *Celebrate Christmas* events were very popular again, and we had a great *Harvest Fun Day* too.

In 2017 we also started putting our Sunday teaching onto our website, as audio files, which we know have been a blessing for many people.

We have enjoyed a great year, and yet we always long to be more, and to do more: to see the Kingdom of God come to our community - to the people we rub shoulders with day by day. With this in mind, it has been good to start work on building a team of Elders, to provide stronger leadership and to make us more efficient: a process that started in the autumn, and that is still ongoing.

Thank you all, for making Great Hollands Free Church, such a great place to belong. And let us remember the words of Jesus, spoken to Simon Peter, at the beginning of their friendship: *Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people.*

One 2 Free

Fiona Marston

This year the children's leaders have continued to prepare and teach themes straight from the Bible and it has been a real blessing to all of us in the team to encourage and watch our young people grow in faith. We have seen growth in their relationships with each other and with God. We have been studying the series on 'Freedom', and 'Jesus meets...' – looking at the way meeting Jesus brought transformation to the lives of people in the Bible, and the way He brings transformation to our lives today.

Praise God and pray for the young people to continue to grow in faith and relationships.

Brothers-in Arms

Rob Mead

The group have been meeting at 8:00 am for an hour (tea and coffee provided) on the first Saturday of the month through the year. We mostly meet at Mark and Gabi's house although others have been hosts. We have lively discussions on spiritual and social subjects, share concerns and pray for others, community, church, family and ourselves. You name it, we pray for it! We would love to meet with all men from the church. Check with the calendar for our next meeting.

The Truth

Trevor Allwright

The Truth is our fortnightly evening Bible study and discussion group which meets at 8:15 pm on alternate Thursdays in the homes of a number of our

church families. We are a friendly and supportive group of about 6 to 8 people who enjoy our time together. Throughout 2017 our studies have been focussed on Christian freedoms which have been shadowing the themes in our Sunday morning services. We have also enjoyed meals together to celebrate Easter and Christmas. In everything we are seeking to strengthen our unity as believers and our individual faith as we study God's word.

We warmly welcome everybody who would like to join us.

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. Meetings are quite varied with a mixture of the spiritual and social. We have heard personal perspectives on faith and life from several members of the group, explored the story of creation and the flood in Genesis, watched a video on the making of the King James version of the Bible and considered the Christian approach to human rights and the environment. On the social side we visited the Savill Gardens in the early summer, enjoyed a Burns supper, a summer garden party and a Christmas Party.

If you are available during the day you would be most welcome to join our friendly group to enjoy fellowship and stimulating discussion, suitably accompanied with tea and cakes or biscuits.

Belovèd

Fiona Marston

Belovèd is a Bible study, prayer and fellowship group for ladies - presently up to 16 of us - who meet in various homes on Fridays at 10:00 am (term time only), to study God's word and to build our faith and relationship with Him.

This year we have been studying 'Judges' and 'Meeting Jesus', both of which have been useful in teaching us about God's compassion for His people, and also 'Ephesians: Your place in God's plan' – teaching us about our, and our church's, response to God's call. We also looked at 'Advent and the Coming King' leading us up to Christmas.

We have been very blessed and encouraged by God's word, and His infinite love and grace for us.

Mums in Prayer

Clare Bumpass

2017 was another wonderful year for Mums in Prayer in Bracknell. The group continues to meet every Tuesday at 10:00 am during term time and on average

about 7-8 mothers (and a grandmother) come to pray for their children and their schools. The meetings are a time of encouragement and support and we have seen many amazing answers to prayer.

In November, our group organised a local gathering for women in other Mums in Prayer groups across the South East - it was a truly blessed time, with worship, prayer and fellowship (and cake!). It was fantastic to meet with more mums who share a burden for the next generation through the ministry of Mums in Prayer. Going forward, we continue to pray for local and national growth and for the vision that every school would be covered in prayer.

Here and there

Mark Wigston

I ended my message, at the start of this report, quoting the words of Jesus to Simon Peter: *Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people.*

We are called, as a church and as individuals, to come to Jesus, and to go out to our needy world, with the love and compassion of Jesus. As well as working locally, with individuals we meet and know, we also have the privilege of supporting other organisations, who are meeting specialist needs.

Here are the organisations we have partnered with over the last year, bringing blessing 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, taken part in a sponsored cycle or volunteered to help in other ways. We gave them a substantial gift as a Church, including donations received at our Barn Dance and Harvest Festival. It was a blessing to welcome a group from Yeldall Manor, to one of our Sunday Celebrations in the autumn.

We also give to *FIEC* every year, the group of 578 churches in the UK, to which we belong. FIEC are committed to seeing healthy, independent evangelical churches, sharing the good news of Jesus, across our land.

And when a young man turned up at church on a Sunday morning, and it was clear that he had no money or food, he was given a hot meal and taken to a supermarket to buy some groceries.

Around the world

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*.

When we heard of the famine in South Sudan, many of us wanted to be able to do something, so we had a special appeal which we sent with a donation from the church, to *Samaritan's Purse* who are working on the ground doing famine relief.

We sent at least 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 4th 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 2018. 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, usually on the last Saturday of the month (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 2017

Trevor Allwright	Fiona Marston
Sue Allwright	*John Marston
Beth Allwright	Jean McCandless
Clare Bumpass	Rob Mead
Peter Burch	Gill Mead
Sarah Burch	Lawrence Millwood
Nikolay Dachev	Kyoko Millwood
Radoslava Nestorova	*Jolame Nalumisa
Richard Elsbury	*Asena Nalumisa
Sue Elsbury	Val Pheney
Peter Goodson	Emily Pheney
*Richard Greenidge	James Pheney
Sheila Hopkins	*Kelly Scott
Eleanor Ironside	Pam Simmonds
Gareth Jenkins	David Warrilow
Anne Jenkins	Sheena Warrilow
Andrew Lawson	Dave Weston
Pavlina Lawson	Dawn Weston
Chris Malunguza	Mark Wigston
Elizabeth Malunguza	Gabi Wigston

Total membership: 40

*New member during 2017

During the year, we accepted the resignation of Greg Auger.

Also in December 2017 Eleanor Ironside was called to be with the Lord, but is included in the list above as she was still a member of our church on 30th November.

Treasurer's Report: Year ending 30th November 2017

			Notes	
Summary	2017	2016	Budget 2018	
				1
Opening Balance 1/12	£44,436.42	£50,827.57	£38,208.08	
Income	£44,192.86	£43,075.02	£43,828.09	
Expenditure	-£50,421.20	-£49,466.17	-£51,644.33	
	-----	-----	-----	
Closing balance 30/11	£38,208.08	£44,436.42	£30,391.84	
Income				
Freewill Gifts	£36,527.95	£35,918.81	£35,970.00	2
Refund from Inland Revenue	£7,244.07	£6,760.35	£7,528.09	3
Miscellaneous	£102.00	£85.00	£100.00	4
Bank & Building Society Interest	£318.84	£204.84	£230.00	5
Ladies' Income		£106.02		6
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Total	£44,192.86	£43,075.02	£43,828.09	
Expenditure				
Employment Costs	£38,891.40	£38,166.72	£39,204.33	8
Gifts	£4,202.00	£4,374.51	£4,340.00	7
Miscellaneous	£3,741.80	£2,404.05	£3,860.00	9
Hire Fees	£3,586.00	£4,422.00	£4,240.00	10
Ladies' Expenditure & Gifts		£98.89		6
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Total	£50,421.20	£49,466.17	£51,644.33	
Decrease in Funds	£6,228.34	£6,391.15	£7,816.24	

Notes

Current Balance	2017	2016	
Various Floats	-£781.31	£1.34	11
Cash in hand	£24.93	£32.33	12
Current Account	£994.65	£324.24	13
Deposit Account	£5,657.78	£3,078.51	
60 Day Account	£32,312.03	£41,000.00	
Total	£38,208.08	£44,436.42	
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 2017
 - The second column shows the amounts for the previous year (ending 30th November 2016) for comparison
 - The third column represents my estimate for the current year (ending 30th November 2018) for budgetary purposes
- This represents all freewill offerings made to the Church. They can be further broken down as follows:

	2017	2016	Budget 2018	
Designated (External)	£881.73	£790.82	£800.00	a)
Designated (Internal)	£170.60	£156.83	£150.00	b)
Regular Gifts	£20,665.00	£22,715.00	£20,820.00	c)
Collection	£7,381.57	£5,474.24	£7,200.00	d)
Other Donations	£7,429.05	£6,781.92	£7,000.00	e)
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Total	£36,527.95	£35,918.81	£35,970.00	

- 'Designated (External)' represents gifts that were received specifically for the support of other Christian organisations (see note 7 for details). In some cases these gifts were also received 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 Eyerusalem 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, £5,855 has been put in the box for which Gift Aid is not claimable. If this money **had** been given Tax Efficiently, then a further £1,464 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. Gift Aid is reclaimable on all of these.
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 2015 - 16 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 2016 - 17 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 received by the Church for a specific purpose. This year it represents money received for Bible Notes used by the Ladies' Bible Study.
 5. This represents the interest we receive on our bank accounts.

6. 'Ladies' Income' represented the income of the Ladies' Coffee Morning with Bible Study. The income came from collections at their meetings.

Similarly 'Ladies' Expenditure and Gifts' covered the cost of refreshments for meetings and donations that they made 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 and so there are only figures for the 2016 year.

7. 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 about £20 between the money collected (and the Gift Aid reclaimable on that) and the money we are committed to giving in support of Eyerusalem.

It should be noted that due to a change in their Financial Year, we ended up making 2 donations to FIEC this year which is why the amount donated is almost double the normal amount.

Gifts For / To	Total Received	Total Given
Collection for Eyerusalem	£232.68	£310.00
Yeldall Manor		£1,000.00
Barn Dance (receipts for Yeldall)	£242.95	
Harvest (receipts for Yeldall)	£157.00	
Open Doors		£400.00
Samaritans Purse (shoeboxes)	£84.10	£130.00
Samaritans Purse (South Sudan Famine appeal)	£165.00	£400.00
Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches		£1,662.00
Binfield Free Church		£100.00
External Speakers		£200.00
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Totals	£881.73	£4,202.00

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

8. This represents the Employment costs of the Church, namely the Salary and Pension contributions we pay to Mark and Gabi Wigston 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.
9. This covers all the other expenditure. The following provides a more detailed breakdown:

	2017	2016	Budget 2018	
Annual	£836.35	£820.55	£850.00	a)
Banking	£60.00	£25.00	£80.00	b)
Printing	£96.87	£22.30	£100.00	c)
Magazines, Books etc.	£75.00	£71.25	£90.00	d)
Allowances	£407.36	£447.00	£420.00	e)
Ladies Bible Study	£117.11	£74.90	£120.00	f)
Publicity	£171.00	£100.00	£200.00	g)
Youth Work	£146.32	£243.99	£200.00	h)
Capital Fund	£761.88	£50.70	£1,000.00	i)
Internal Gifts	£136.13	£73.00	£150.00	j)
Refreshments	£420.10	£345.66	£450.00	k)
Stationary and Stamps	£88.95	£19.91	£100.00	l)
Other	£424.73	£109.79	£100.00	m)
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Total	£3,741.80	£2,404.05	£3,860.00	

- a) 'Annual' represents one-off annual charges such as Insurance, our PO Box and our Copyright Licence.
- b) 'Banking' represents our monthly bank charges.
- c) 'Printing' represents the costs for Bulk Printing and consumables for the Church Printer.
- d) 'Magazines, Books etc.' represents the costs of purchasing Evangelicals Now.
- 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 main expenditure was a new laptop for Mark.
 - 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 the payment for running the church Web Site for the next 3 years.
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 is negative in 2017 signified that people were then owed money by the Church. Note that such re-payments were made in early December 2017.
 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 July to November 2017; 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 2018: As can be seen from the summary on page 7, the projected income for 2018 is expected to be about £8,000 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 2017

Elders

Mark Wigston (Pastor)

Deacons

Peter Burch (Church Secretary)

Gareth Jenkins (Church Treasurer)

Gill Mead

Rob Mead

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