

Great Hollands Free Church

because Jesus sets us free



**Annual Report
&
Accounts for 2018**

Church Officers as at 30th November 2018

Elders

Mark Wigston (Pastor)

Deacons

Peter Burch (Church Secretary)

Gareth Jenkins (Church Treasurer)

Gill Mead

Rob Mead

Message from the Pastor

Mark Wigston

What is Church?

When I was a child, back in the 1970s – I heard the statement, that Church is not a building, but the people in the building. That may have been revolutionary for the time, but I'm not sure that it fully answers the question: What is Church?

Church is about people, but it is so much more than that. Church is all about relationship:

- The way we relate to God as individuals
- The way we relate to him as a group
- The way we relate to each other
- The way we relate to our world - that so desperately needs the love of Jesus

We continue to encourage everyone within our Church, to spend time alone with God, regularly, with an open heart and an open Bible. Building on that, we also encourage everyone to take part in one of our many small groups. We invite you to discover new things about God on your own, and then come to your small group and share your discovery or ask those questions that have come to mind. In these small groups we can also pray for each other and thank God for answered prayers. Then, when we join together for our Sunday Celebrations - let's celebrate what we have been learning alone with the Lord and in our small groups, and let's celebrate what God has been doing in us and for us.

This year we have started a really significant, small group for our teenagers, called One 2 Free Xtra. Meeting in various homes, we are able to discuss with them the things that are important to them at their age and stage. Proverbs 22:6 encourages us to train our children. Training is more than just teaching in a classroom. For this reason, we aim to give our children and young people experiences that will train them for the future.

So, we took a risk, and invited the charity Open Doors to come to a Sunday Celebration to do an all age presentation about our brothers and sisters around the world, who are suffering for their faith - being persecuted because they love Jesus. The risk paid off and the whole Church, including children and young people, engaged in this important subject.

Likewise, we have taken One 2 Free Xtra to a number of Yeldall Manor Celebrations, so that our teenagers can see first-hand the huge problems that can develop as a result of substance abuse and dependency, and the amazing difference that Jesus can make, as part of the healing process, when people are really desperate and throw themselves on God's mercy.

When we first suggested taking our children and teenagers to a Care Home for elderly folk in Bracknell, to sing carols at Christmas, I was concerned that we would not get enough support. So you can understand my joy, when 24 people from the Church turned up: children, teenagers and adults. It was not just the children who were touched by the experience. As we went from room to room, singing and talking to the elderly folk, some of the adults from our Church were almost in tears.

None of this would be possible without prayer. During the year we started 2 new prayer initiatives. Once a month we hold Stay & Play – Stay & Pray after our Sunday Celebration. By providing activities for the children, we are able to free up their parents to join the other adults in prayer.

We also have a prayer corner at the back of Church on Sundays, so that anyone wanting to pray at 12 noon can do so, before going into the café area. We need to pray if we are going to stay true to God's Word and to our calling.

Indeed, we do have a calling. We are a community of God's people: living, working, shopping, going to school or doing leisure activities within the wider community around us. It is so important that we are here and ready to serve that wider community, wherever we can.

Our annual Barn Dance in the spring continues to be the best attended social event that is put on within Great Hollands for local people. Our last one coincided with the late snow in March 2018. Despite the weather, we still packed the community centre with people enjoying the dance, the live music and the generous Ploughman's Supper.

Similarly, our Light Party in the autumn was a great hit with children too. They enjoyed a great mix of games, craft, Bible activity and hot dogs.

We love being involved in our local community, in Great Hollands, Bracknell and beyond. When God opens a door, we want to thank him and make the most of the opportunity he has given us. So, when a friend told us that she was starting a Gardening Club at one of our local primary schools, folk from the Church jumped at the opportunity to volunteer. Their hard work has been very much appreciated by the school, and it has opened a further door: Gabi

and I have started to teach RE lessons at the school to about 210 children in years 3 to 6.

As we said at the beginning, Church really is about relationship, and it all starts with a personal relationship with Jesus. There were loads of people coming and going around Jesus, when he was on earth. Some of them received him and believed in him, but many others didn't. They faced a question. They faced a choice. We all face a choice too: what are we going to do with Jesus?

Jesus came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:11-12

Church Secretary's Report

Peter Burch

May I take this opportunity of thanking all of those people who have supported me in so many ways as I continue to serve as Church Secretary. It is greatly appreciated.

In December 2017, as mentioned in last year's report, Eleanor Ironside was called to be with the Lord. Other than that, our membership has stayed the same for the remainder of 2018.

In February 2018, the Church voted to appoint Trevor Allwright to be an Elder of the Church. However, sadly, at the end of November, Trevor decided that he had to resign as an Elder; then in January 2019 Trevor and Sue decided to resign as members of the Church. I would like to thank Trevor and Sue for all the hard work they have put into the life of GHFC during the past 6 years. Sue serving in the music group and Trevor teaching One 2 Free, preaching regularly on a Sunday, and during most of 2018 supporting Mark as an Elder.

Stay & Play – Stay & Pray

Mark Wigston

A number of us felt last year, that whilst we have lots of things going on during the week, there is never an occasion where we call the whole Church together, simply to pray. We looked at various options, days and times, but nothing really seemed to be the solution. Day-time meant that adults were at work. Evenings meant the need for child care, and Saturdays are already so full for many families. We needed to find a solution that works for families, for children and for parents.

Finally, we came up with a neat little idea: Stay & Play – Stay & Pray. We do this once a month on a Sunday. If you have never taken part, then we encourage you to join us. It is simple and effective. You are invited to grab a

drink from the café as soon as our Sunday Celebration finishes. Then from 12:15 pm we organise games for the children in the big hall, and prayer for our Church and the community in the back room, finishing at 1:00 pm.

One 2 Free

Fiona Marston

This year we 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 returned to having two teaching groups to suit the split of Primary and Secondary ages, and we have continued to see growth in their relationships with each other and with God. In the past year we have been studying God's Promises; The Life of Joseph; and Jesus' Miracles.

Praise God and please pray for the young people to walk in faith and build good relationships.

One 2 Free Xtra

Mark Wigston

Who am I? What am I? Who do I want to become? What do I want to become? Who makes the rules? Who keeps the rules? Who am I going to follow? Who can I really trust?

Growing up as a follower of Jesus has never been easy. Every era of young people has faced situations unique to their own generation, and teenagers today are no exception. There are pressures and demands on every side from school, career choices, family and social media, to name but a few.

We have created One 2 Free Xtra as a place where our teenagers can ask some honest questions, and hopefully get some honest answers.

We meet every month on a Sunday evening in various homes, and have also been on outings to a Care Home and a Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre - stopping for bags of chips on the way home. You can't learn everything in a classroom!

Children's Parties

Fiona Marston

This year, as an alternative to Halloween, we hosted a 'Light' Party for our young people, and encouraged them to invite friends from other churches and schools. The party consisted of games, crafts and a lighthouse building activity, as well as serving hot dogs and refreshments and a short talk about Jesus - the Light of the World. The party was a great success, with around 40 children and teens in attendance. Three further parties are planned throughout

2019 for Primary aged children, with a view to extending invitations to the wider community.

Praise God for his blessings! Please pray for the future parties to bring glory to God.

Brothers-in Arms

Rob Mead

As the name suggests, we are what it says - a group of the Christian men in the church who meet once a month on a Saturday morning at 8:00 am for an hour of fellowship. We don't have a set agenda but the matters on our hearts. Anything that affects our lives (and that of others) spiritual or social are discussed and prayed for - we have even been known to sing! Church; community; family; ourselves; world situations: it's all there to bring before God

We would love for all our brothers to meet with us, so check the church calendar for the next date and venue.

The Truth

Mark Wigston

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday every month, at various people's homes, at 8:15 pm. It is a great place to come if you want to look at a passage of scripture and discover what it means to us today. Over the last year, we have been looking at two letters from the Bible: 1 Timothy and Titus. The group is informal and friendly, and we offer tea and coffee at the start.

The Life

David Warrilow

The aim of the group is to provide fellowship and mutual support for those who are available during the day. After the summer we decided to meet once per month, rather than twice, during school terms. We meet in various homes and attract up to about 12 people per meeting.

We have continued with a very varied programme looking at spiritual and societal issues. Our speakers have come from both inside and outside GHFC. Topics in 2018 included: personal stories from Pam Shepherd and Maria Meadows; Cyril Sansum led discussions on what happens after death and how we know God is speaking to us; David Warrilow spoke about man's religious tendencies and other religions and the state of the Church in the UK today; Dr David Metson spoke about his work with recovering addicts at Yeldall Manor and Gareth Jenkins spoke about the work of Bracknell's Food Bank. The meetings are very informal and allow plenty of time for questions and broader discussions, over tea and cake!

On the social side we visited the Savill Gardens in the early summer when many flowers were in bloom. We had a very enjoyable Christmas Party. In one game we were challenged to link surprising pieces of information to specific individuals in the group. Not very easy but quite illuminating!

If you are available during the day on the 2nd Thursday each month you would be most welcome to join our friendly group to enjoy fellowship and stimulating discussion. All details are on the Church calendar and are also announced in Church the preceding Sunday.

Belovèd

Fiona Marston

Belovèd is a Bible study, prayer and fellowship group for ladies - presently up to 12 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 the book of Isaiah and have been looking in detail at what it means to put our hope and trust entirely in God. We have also been looking at our identity in Christ, and of who we are called to be in the world today.

We have been very blessed and encouraged by God's word and by each other.

Mums in Prayer

Clare Bumpass

Mums in Prayer continues to flourish in Bracknell. A new group in the Crown Wood/Harmans Water area was launched by Sarah Burch in autumn 2018 on Wednesday afternoons which has been a blessing and was a real answer to prayer. The original group continues to meet regularly on a Tuesday morning with new mums joining during 2018. 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 November 2018, Clare was invited to travel to Stoke-on-Trent and speak about Mums in Prayer live on UCB Radio which was a wonderful opportunity to share how this prayer ministry is impacting lives in the UK and around the world.

We look forward to more developments in 2019, with another local group possibly starting and potential contacts for Mums in Prayer to begin encouraging military mums in the area.

Some years ago, we decided to be more focussed in support for our external mission partners. We agreed to limit the number of organisations we support, so that our level of support can be greater, both in prayer and in giving.

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. As I mentioned earlier, we have been taking young people from One 2 Free Xtra to their celebrations, which adds a focus to our giving and prayer support. Some of our members took part in a sponsored cycle or have volunteered in other ways. We gave them a substantial financial gift, including donations received at our Barn Dance.

We also give to *FIEC* every year, the group of 609 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.

Around the world

We have continued to pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering for their faith. The presentation by *Open Doors* at one of our Sunday Celebrations, mentioned earlier, helped us to relate to this need, making our prayer and financial gifts so much more relevant.

We sent a further donation to our friends at *Eclesia Moldova* who are reaching out to children and families in Europe's poorest country. Children receive a meal, essential supplies, help with their school work and a Bible Activity at the 2 mission centres run by *Eclesia*.

We sent at least 42 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.

We also sent a one-off donation to *REMA Burundi* - a peace-making ministry committed to the distribution of Bibles and Christian literature.

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 5th 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 in spite of the heavy snow that fell during the evening. We are planning a follow-up in May 2019. 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, however we would be pleased if anyone else would like to join us.

Church Membership on 30th November 2018

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Trevor Allwright | John Marston |
| Sue Allwright | Jean McCandless |
| Beth Allwright | Rob Mead |
| Clare Bumpass | Gill Mead |
| Peter Burch | Lawrence Millwood |
| Sarah Burch | Kyoko Millwood |
| Nikolay Dachev | Jolame Nalumisa |
| Radoslava Nestorova | Asena Nalumisa |
| Richard Elsbury | Val Phenev |
| Sue Elsbury | Emily Phenev |
| Peter Goodson | James Phenev |
| Richard Greenidge | Kelly Scott |
| Sheila Hopkins | 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 |
| Fiona Marston | |

Total membership: 39

In December 2017 Eleanor Ironside was called to be with the Lord.

Treasurer's Report: Year ending 30th November 2018

Notes

| Summary | 2018 | 2017 | Budget 2019 | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | | 1 |
| Opening Balance 1/12 | £38,208.08 | £44,436.42 | £31,544.43 | |
| Income | £44,077.20 | £44,192.86 | £44,340.00 | |
| Expenditure | -£50,740.85 | -£50,421.20 | -£53,514.00 | |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | |
| Closing balance 30/11 | £31,544.43 | £38,208.08 | £22,370.43 | |
| Income | | | | |
| Freewill Gifts | £36,067.89 | £36,527.95 | £36,540.00 | 2 |
| Refund from Inland Revenue | £7,529.09 | £7,244.07 | £7,500.00 | 3 |
| Miscellaneous | £187.00 | £102.00 | £100.00 | 4 |
| Bank & Building Society Interest | £293.22 | £318.84 | £200.00 | 5 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | |
| Total | £44,077.20 | £44,192.86 | £44,340.00 | |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Employment Costs | £38,098.86 | £38,891.40 | £41,000.00 | 7 |
| Gifts | £4,446.00 | £4,202.00 | £4,434.00 | 6 |
| Miscellaneous | £2,927.49 | £3,741.80 | £3,840.00 | 8 |
| Hire Fees | £5,268.50 | £3,586.00 | £4,240.00 | 9 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | |
| Total | £50,740.85 | £50,421.20 | £53,514.00 | |
| Decrease in Funds | £6,663.65 | £6,228.34 | £9,174.00 | |

Notes

| Current Balance | 2018 | 2017 | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----|
| Various Floats | -£0.93 | -£781.31 | 10 |
| Cash in hand | £32.88 | £24.93 | 11 |
| Current Account | £1,687.71 | £994.65 | 12 |
| Deposit Account | £2,225.30 | £5,657.78 | |
| 60 Day Account | £27,599.47 | £32,312.03 | |
| | ----- | ----- | |
| Total | £31,544.43 | £38,208.08 | |
| | ----- | ----- | |
| Liabilities | -£1,371.82 | -£1,600.02 | 13 |

Notes on the Accounts

1. The 3 columns of figures represent the following:
 - a) The first column shows the amounts for the year ending 30th November 2018
 - b) The second column shows the amounts for the previous year (ending 30th November 2017) for comparison
 - c) The third column represents my estimate for the current year (ending 30th November 2019) for budgetary purposes
2. This represents all freewill offerings made to the Church. They can be further broken down as follows:

| | 2018 | 2017 | Budget 2019 | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----|
| Designated (External) | £427.42 | £881.73 | £310.00 | a) |
| Designated (Internal) | £612.07 | £170.60 | £150.00 | b) |
| Regular Gifts | £20,850.00 | £20,665.00 | £20,580.00 | c) |
| Collection | £7,655.53 | £7,381.57 | £7,500.00 | d) |
| Other Donations | £6,522.87 | £7,429.05 | £8,000.00 | e) |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | |
| Total | £36,067.89 | £36,527.95 | £36,540.00 | |

- a) ‘Designated (External)’ represents gifts that were received specifically for the support of other Christian organisations (see note 6 for details). In some cases these gifts were also received such that the tax is reclaimable by the Church and passed on to the relevant organisation.
Also included in this category is the small change collection which is 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 partly cash gifts towards food for the Barn Dance and partly gifts to purchase equipment for the sound system.
- 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, £5,315 has been put in the box for which Gift Aid is not claimable. If this money **had** been given Tax Efficiently, then a further £1,329 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 2016 - 17 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 2017 - 18 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 Belovèd and payments for the purchase of the storage boxes that we used in the Infant School, whilst the main hall was being refurbished.
 5. This represents the interest we receive on our bank accounts.
 6. 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 £100 between the money collected (and the Gift Aid reclaimable on that) and the money we are committed to giving in support of Eyerusalem, (£25 per month).

| Gifts For / To | Totals | |
|--|----------------|------------------|
| | Received | Given |
| Collection for Eyerusalem | £161.67 | £300.00 |
| Yeldall Manor | | £700.00 |
| Barn Dance (receipts for Yeldall) | £172.75 | |
| Open Doors | | £500.00 |
| Samaritans Purse (shoeboxes) | £93.00 | £120.00 |
| Samaritans Purse (South East Asia Earthquake) | | £500.00 |
| Mission Possible | | £500.00 |
| Church in Moldova | | £500.00 |
| Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches | | £1,226.00 |
| External Speakers | | £100.00 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Totals | £427.42 | £4,446.00 |

The total amount given during the year represents slightly over 10% of our income. It is the Church's policy to give away a tenth of our income to other organisations each year as a tithe.

7. 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.
8. This covers all the other expenditure. The following provides a more detailed breakdown:

| | 2018 | 2017 | Budget 2019 | |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|-------------|----|
| Annual | £874.42 | £836.35 | £900.00 | a) |
| Banking | £80.00 | £60.00 | £80.00 | b) |
| Printing | £80.54 | £96.87 | £100.00 | c) |
| Magazines, Books etc. | £75.00 | £75.00 | £90.00 | d) |

| | 2018 | 2017 | Budget 2019 | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----|
| Allowances | £340.50 | £407.36 | £420.00 | e) |
| Belovèd | £49.85 | £117.11 | £100.00 | f) |
| Publicity | £100.00 | £171.00 | £150.00 | g) |
| Youth Work | £197.93 | £146.32 | £850.00 | h) |
| DBS Checks | £162.00 | £0.00 | £250.00 | i) |
| Capital Fund | £428.87 | £761.88 | £200.00 | j) |
| Internal Gifts | £68.00 | £136.13 | £150.00 | k) |
| Refreshments | £322.62 | £420.10 | £350.00 | l) |
| Stationery and Stamps | £13.88 | £88.95 | £50.00 | m) |
| Other | £133.88 | £424.73 | £150.00 | n) |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | |
| Total | £2,927.49 | £3,741.80 | £3,840.00 | |

- a) 'Annual' represents one-off annual charges such as Insurance, our PO Box and our Copyright Licence.
- b) 'Banking' represents our monthly bank charges and the cost of sending money to Moldova.
- 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) 'Belovèd' represents the cost of Bible Notes bought for the Belovèd.
- 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. This includes the cost of the Light Party (which is where most of the money was spent).
- i) 'DBS Checks' represents the cost carrying out DBS checks on youth workers.
- j) 'Capital Fund' represents one-off capital expenditure. The main expenditure was for sound equipment in the hall.
- k) 'Internal Gifts' represents gifts to members of the fellowship to mark special occasions.
- l) 'Refreshments' represents the cost of refreshments on Sundays and for special events. In many cases the costs have been donated to the Church.

- m) 'Stationery and Stamps' also includes payments made to people for printing on their own printers.
 - n) 'Other' covers anything that doesn't fall into any other category. The main cost was for training courses in GDPR and Examining Church Accounts.
9. This represents the costs of hiring the School, and the Community Centre each Sunday. The forecast represents 12 month's hire at current rates.
 10. 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 2018 signified that people were then owed money by the Church.
 11. This represents cash (and possibly cheques) that I have received, but not yet banked.
 12. This represents the amount nominally in the bank.
 13. This represents payments that are due, but which have not yet been made. The outstanding payments were: rent to the school for November 2018; the Tax and NI deducted in October and November but not yet paid to IR; a payment to Mark's pension fund which was delayed until early December due to an administrative error by the Pension Company.

Financial Outlook for 2019: As can be seen from the summary on page 10, the projected income for 2019 is expected to be about £9,000 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.

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