

Great Hollands Free Church

because Jesus sets us free



**Annual Report
&
Accounts for 2022**

Message from the Pastor

Mark Wigston

Do we want to bring joy to heaven?

Looking back over 2022, it was indeed, a year filled with many ups and downs.

After 2 years of Covid restrictions, we were just beginning to get back to some kind of normality, and yet it was no time to relax. Prices had started to rise, interest rates were on the increase, whilst fuel and energy prices were causing anxiety. Then, things went from bad to worse.

Do you remember watching reports of tanks amassing on the border of Ukraine? It was a sight that horrified us, even from a distance. I was in contact with friends and family in Romania and Moldova. Everyone was hoping that it would not come to war.

We can only imagine what it is like, to actually be living in Ukraine or Russia at the moment. As the economic fall-out from the war in Ukraine continues to bite here in the UK, it is easy to become weary of the news.

However, we need to continue praying for our brothers and sisters - people who love Jesus - both in Ukraine and in Russia.

Let us also remember that we are living in a war zone too – a spiritual war! The Bible talks about the conflict between our own human nature (referred to as *the flesh*) and the spirit of God.

In Galatians chapter 5, we read an appalling description of what our human nature is really like, unless God changes us and transforms us. We are then given a beautiful description of what life can be like, when we allow the Spirit of God to make us new: qualities such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

How can we embrace that transformation, in our own lives, and in the people around us? What is the secret?

It is indeed, one of the best-kept secrets in our world today: the secret of repentance. When anyone turns to Jesus, and humbly admits their sin and their need for God's grace, that person can be transformed - by the spirit of God.

When we are transformed, we become so much more useful and lovely, here on earth. Yet, there is an even more amazing thing - we start a party in heaven!

The Bible says that there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God, over just one sinner who repents.

Let us bring joy to heaven and transformation here on earth. Let us live and promote repentance! It is time to let our world in on the secret!

We have been studying the book of Genesis on Sundays recently. It is amazing to realise that God's people in the ancient world faced many of the challenges that we face today, albeit with different technology and in a different generation. Repentance was relevant, even back then. We can indeed learn so much from scripture.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of our church over the last year. We are so grateful for your contribution, in so many ways. Thank you to everyone who has worshipped the Lord, repented, and studied the Word of God with us. Thank you to those who have served on various teams: worship, leading, teaching, youth, lunch club, social events and catering. Thank you also to our lovely elders and deacons who help lead our church, through all the ups and downs.

To God be the glory!

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10

Bringing joy to heaven - and tangible help here on earth

Life has been difficult for many of us, during the cost of living crisis. However, we are also aware that God has blessed us with so much too - and blessings are for sharing. With this in mind we sought to share some of those blessings, over the last year.

Locally

We always promote a list of urgent items, on Sundays, that are needed by the *Bracknell Foodbank* so that folk can donate items at various drop-off points around the community.

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 also took part in their supporter events.

We also make the recommended donation to *FIEC* every year. This is the group of about 640 churches in the UK, to which we belong. They 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. Much of our information on this comes from *Open Doors* – an organisation that we have been partnering with for many years.

We have sent them a further gift to help them in their work on the ground.

One 2 Free

Sarah Burch

The group met twice a month during the morning service to study the book of Daniel together. We particularly focussed on how Daniel managed to hold on to his faith in all circumstances, especially in a new land where His God wasn't known. The group size ranged from 3 to 10 and included both primary and secondary school aged children and young people. After the Summer, it was decided that, due to the fact that there were no longer any primary aged children, and in order for the older children to be a part of the normal service, One 2 Free would not meet on Sunday mornings. Our future hope is that more young families join the church, so that we can restart the meetings.

One 2 Free Home/Extra

Sarah Burch

This group of children and young people have met once a month on a Sunday afternoon / evening in various people's homes. It's usually around 10 young people who meet to have a Bible study and discussion on a variety of topics and also enjoy some food and fellowship together. There have also been some social activities which included a Cinema trip, bowling and a visit to Kaspas restaurant in Bracknell.

Belovèd

Fiona Marston

Belovèd is a Bible study group for ladies. We meet in various homes on Fridays at 10am, where we study the Bible and build one another up in our faith and our relationship with God.

In 2022, during the Spring and Summer terms, we studied the book of Philippians, with particular emphasis on the joy of pursuing and being pursued by Jesus, 'The Core Mission of Nehemiah' and the heart of serving God, followed by the book of Colossians in the Autumn. We ended the year with thoughts about obedience to God and the blessings this brings, and a focus on Psalm 42, particularly focussing on God's refreshing for us.

We continue to encourage one another as we meet together for prayer, study and fellowship. We pray for God's continued blessings and protection.

Mums in Prayer

Various

Mums in Prayer is part of a global prayer ministry for mums and grandmothers to come together to pray for their children and the schools in their local area. We currently have two groups running - one in Bracknell and one in Wokingham.

Wokingham Group

Fiona Marston

Mums in Prayer Wokingham Tuesday group have seen a number of changes over 2022, mainly in the regularity of our meetings and how we meet. Although we met in person for the first half of the year, for various reasons we now meet online for the convenience of our mums. There are usually 5 of us who meet on alternate Tuesday evenings. We continued seeing many answers to prayer throughout the year. At each meeting we focus on an attribute of God and follow the MiP 4 steps of prayer – praise, confession, thanksgiving and request – focussing on our children and their schools. We thank God for His faithfulness.

Bracknell Group

Karen Rogers

Our Mums in Prayer (Bracknell) group of four busy, working mothers has continued to meet every Tuesday evening in term-time, as availability has enabled us. It has been a great encouragement to read God's word and share times of praise and thanksgiving, together with silent confession, and to support our children/families in prayer together through all sorts of joys and circumstances during the year.

Home Group

Mark Wigston

What is the best way to spend a Wednesday evening? We would recommend our Home Group.

It is a wonderful blend of worship songs, prayer and scripture - shared together by people who like a lively discussion and are not afraid to challenge each other's perspective. In addition to this, hot drinks are available too.

Recently, we have been discussing Jesus' Lessons on the Mountain, as found in Mathew's gospel, chapters 5 – 7.

We meet every other week in our home. If you would like to join us, please see up-coming dates on our calendar (on the website) or speak to us. Meetings are fun and informal, and there is plenty of space to ask questions.

Fun Evenings

Sandy & Dave Goodall

In October we held a Beetle Drive evening at the community centre, which was attended by approximately 40 people. This was made up by a good turnout from families of the church and folk from the Lunch Club.

The purpose of the event is to encourage families of the church to fellowship together in a fun way, as well as inviting friends and visitors to join in the fun.

It is our intention to have these fun evenings quarterly throughout the year, and the next event will be a Gift Bingo evening.

Off-Road Walking Group

Gareth Jenkins

We continued to have our monthly walks in the beginning of 2022. However, it became apparent that there was little interest from Church members and so after the walk in March it was agreed that we would stop the regular walks.

If anybody would like details of potential walking routes, then please get in touch and I can share some with you.

Lunch Club

Mark and Gabi Wigston

Do you enjoy a good meal, with some lovely people, in a great location?

Do you enjoy it even more, if you can get it for a great price?

There are about 30 people, all around our community, who have been answering “yes” to these questions, throughout the last year, by turning up to our Lunch Club.

Why do folk love our Club so much? Is it the fact that you can choose anything you want from the menu? Maybe it is the amazing deal we offer – a hot meal and tea, coffee or glass of water from the jugs provided, all for just £6 or £7. Or, perhaps it is the fun and friendly atmosphere combining a good natter with great grub.

We meet on a Thursday, at 12.30pm, once a month, at the Silver Birch Restaurant in Birch Hill, next to Aldi. We are in a great location, easy to get to, on foot, bike or bus, with plenty of parking nearby too. If you have never joined us: what are you waiting for?

Lunch Club is a great opportunity for our Church to serve the community, here in Bracknell, and a number of people from the club have been coming to church over the last year.

Quiz Nights

Gareth Jenkins

We held two further online quizzes in January and February 2022 and were pleased to welcome a number of people from outside the church (mainly from the Lunch Club) to join us, some of whom volunteered to act as quizmasters.

Great Hollands Community Association continued with their quarterly quiz nights in the Community Centre and varying numbers of people from GHFC participated. This is a good opportunity to meet the local community as well as having an enjoyable evening.

We don't plan to hold any further online quizzes but hope to be able to join in with those organised by the Community Association when they happen.

Church Membership on 30th November 2022

*Emmanuel Hayfron Acquah	Faith Little
*Sylvia Hayfron-Acquah	Fiona Marston
Clare Bumpass	Rob Mead
Peter Burch	Gill Mead
Sarah Burch	Paul Michael
David Goodall	Mei Michael
Sandy Goodall	Jolame Nalumisa
Peter Goodson	Asena Nalumisa
Richard Greenidge	Karen Rogers
Sheila Hopkins	David Warrilow
Gareth Jenkins	Sheena Warrilow
Anne Jenkins	Mark Wigston
Robert Little	Gabi Wigston

Total membership: 26

* Indicates a new member in 2022

During 2022 the following members either resigned or were removed from the membership roll: Chris Bateman; Nikolay Dachev; Radoslava Nestorova; Chris Malunguza; Elizabeth Malunguza; John Marston; Beth Marston; Jean McCandless; Lawrence Millwood; Kyoko Millwood; Kelly Scott; Pam Simmonds; Dave Weston; Dawn Weston.

Treasurer's Report: Year ending 30th November 2022

Notes

Summary	2022	2021	Budget 2023	
				1
Opening Balance 1/12	£25,476.57	£23,388.06	£28,911.32	
Income	£52,793.35	£49,237.39	£47,000.00	
Expenditure	-£49,358.60	-£47,148.88	-£51,700.00	
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Closing balance 30/11	£28,911.32	£25,476.57	£24,411.32	
Income				
Freewill Gifts	£42,919.38	£40,258.52	£37,800.00	2
Refund from Inland Revenue	£9,647.95	£8,692.83	£8,900.00	3
Miscellaneous	£99.00	£99.41	£100.00	4
Bank Interest	£127.02	£186.63	£200.00	5
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Total	£52,793.35	£49,237.39	£47,000.00	
Expenditure				
Employment Costs	£40,591.85	£40,538.24	£41,000.00	7
Gifts	£2,280.00	£3,556.50	£2,350.00	6
Miscellaneous	£2,651.75	£1,992.14	£4,450.00	8
Hire Fees	£3,835.00	£1,062.00	£3,900.00	9
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Total	£49,358.60	£47,148.88	£51,700.00	
Change in Funds				
	£3,434.75	£2,088.51	-£4,500.00	

Notes

Current Balance	2022	2021	
Various Floats	£0.00	£0.00	10
Cash in hand	£22.42	£33.70	11
Current Account	£200.84	£965.85	12
Deposit Account	£28,653.56	£3,289.88	
60 Day Account	£34.50	£21,187.14	
Total	£28,911.32	£25,476.57	
Liabilities	-£341.87	-£512.38	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 2022
 - b) The second column shows the amounts for the previous year (ending 30th November 2021) for comparison
 - c) The third column represents my estimate for the current year (ending 30th November 2023) for budgetary purposes
2. This represents all freewill offerings made to the Church. They can be further broken down as follows:

	2022	2021	Budget 2023	
Designated (External)	£789.70	£802.68	£400.00	a)
Designated (Internal)	£0.00	£562.68	£200.00	b)
Regular Gifts	£28,185.00	£17,700.00	£27,000.00	c)
Collection	£5,455.11	£2,388.00	£3,600.00	d)
Other Donations	£8,489.57	£18,805.16	£6,600.00	e)
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Total	£42,919.38	£40,258.52	£37,800.00	

- 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.
- b) ‘Designated (Internal)’ represents gifts that were made for the support of specific activities within the Church. This year there were no such gifts.
- 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 loose cash in the collection box (which means any amount less than £30) can be assumed to be subject to Gift Aid. However, if the amount is greater than £30 (for example a bundle of notes that have been put in together), then Gift Aid cannot be reclaimed. During this year, £2,780 has

been put in the box for which Gift Aid is not claimable. If this money **had** been given Tax Efficiently, then a further £700 could have been reclaimed from the Inland Revenue.

e) 'Other Donations' covers other one-off gifts.

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 2020 - 21 Financial Year, and so we are up to date on our Gift Aid reclaims. If anyone would like to know more about how to make their giving 'Tax Efficient', then please speak to me about it. Note that higher rate taxpayers 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 represented money received for Bible Notes used by Belovèd and payments for Evangelicals Now.
5. This represents the interest we receive on our bank accounts. During the year I have moved the bulk of our funds from our 60-Day Notice Account into our Deposit Account as it now pays a slightly higher rate of interest. The church is benefitting from the rising Interest rates (though not as much as individual savings are benefitting).
6. This represents gifts made to other individuals or organisations. The following table gives details of all the gifts made and 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. In most cases, Gift Aid is claimable on such gifts and the anticipated Gift Aid claim is also passed on to the intended organisation.

The total amount given during the year represents about 4.2% of our income.

The payment to FIEC, is lower than that recommended by them, based on our Church Membership. It was agreed to pay them the amount for the lower band of members as we were only just into the higher band of members.

Gifts For / To	Totals	
	Received	Given
Yeldall Manor	£755.80	£1,000.00
Open Doors	£33.90	£500.00
Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches		£780.00
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Totals	£789.70	£2,280.00

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 (increased to £4,000 in 2020 and to £5,000 in 2022) of Employers' National Insurance Contribution each year doesn't need to be paid. In our case, that covers all our Employers' National Insurance, and this saving should apply in future years.
8. This covers all the other expenditure. The following provides a more detailed breakdown:

	2022	2021	Budget 2023	
Annual	£876.65	£871.65	£900.00	a)
Banking	£84.00	£93.00	£60.00	b)
Printing	£83.25	£0.15	£100.00	c)
Magazines, Books etc.	£51.75	£57.00	£60.00	d)
Allowances	£467.99	£236.50	£820.00	e)
Beloved	£64.69	£86.57	£80.00	f)
Publicity	£100.00	£100.00	£150.00	g)
Youth Work	£44.91	£191.20	£300.00	h)
DBS Checks	£225.80	£145.80	£210.00	i)
Capital Fund	£203.07	£0.00	£1,200.00	j)
Internal Gifts	£12.00	£52.32	£100.00	k)
Refreshments	£216.61	£27.06	£250.00	l)
Stationery and Stamps	£15.20	£12.60	£20.00	m)
Other	£205.83	£118.29	£200.00	n)
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Total	£2,651.75	£1,992.14	£4,450.00	

- a) 'Annual' represents one-off annual charges such as Insurance, our PO Box and our Copyright Licence.
 - b) 'Banking' represents our monthly bank charges. This has reduced during the year from £8 per month to £5 per month.
 - 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 Belovèd.
 - g) 'Publicity' covers the cost of publicity for the Church. The main cost now is for our ongoing advert in Great Hollands Matters which wasn't invoiced for during 2020 due to Covid.
 - h) 'Youth Work' represents the cost of materials for the children's and youth work on Sundays.
 - i) 'DBS Checks' represents the cost carrying out DBS checks on youth workers.
 - j) 'Capital Fund' represents one-off capital expenditure.
 - 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 costs were for the purchase of songs from iSing, training of members in Food Hygiene and for anti-virus software on the Church's PC.
9. This represents the costs of hiring the school, and the Community Centre each Sunday and on other occasions.
10. Some 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 that is held in these floats, but which has not yet been spent. The fact that it was zero, meant that at the end of the year the floats had been cleared.

11. This represents cash that I have received, but not banked yet.
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: the Tax and NI deducted in October and November but not yet paid to IR and Hire fees for the School and Community Centre in November 2022

Financial Outlook for 2023: As can be seen from the summary on page 9 the projected income for 2023 is expected to be about £4,500 less than the expenditure. In other words, we are spending more than we are getting in each month. This is due in part to an ongoing deficit of around £250 per month and the fact that we expect to need to renew our Sign at the school which has a one-off cost of around £900. We need to close this gap moving forward, as our reserves are being rapidly 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 Peter Burch 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 2022

Elders

Mark Wigston (Pastor)

Dave Goodall

Emmanuel Hayfron Acquah

Deacons

Fiona Marston (Church Secretary)

Gareth Jenkins (Church Treasurer)

Rob Mead

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