

ANNUAL REVIEW and ACCOUNTS



CHRIST CHURCH
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Joy in Uncertain times

The 'lock-downs' of 2020-21 may seem like a distant memory now, but many still speak of living in a 'post-covid' world in which much has changed. The economic consequences coupled with the ongoing war in Ukraine means life feels anything but 'back to normal' for many of us.



As a number of us have been praying into how we respond to this, we have been reminded that joy is one of the hallmarks of our faith. It's God's gift to us and a real sign of the Spirit's working when, in spite of the circumstances, we are sustained by a joyfulness in what God is doing and the hope we have in Him (Romans 5:2). The joy of the Lord really is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10) and each new day is one that God has made and is an invitation to rejoice (Psalm 118:24). Perhaps one of the best gifts we can share with our wider community right now is an invitation to experience this joy that comes from Jesus.

Over recent months there has been a growing sense that we are on the edge of a breakthrough into something new. It's as if the Lord is beckoning us to 'go deeper' in our relationship with Him; to expect a fresh and deeper encounter with His presence and transforming power.

Our Mission

While many churches have reported a substantial post-covid dip in terms of numbers attending worship and in volunteers willing to commit to serving, we continue to be hugely encouraged and thankful for the life and momentum at Christ Church. An ever-growing number of people have joined us during the year, Sunday attendance continues to increase, and more people are involved in midweek life groups or courses.

We have been able to maintain 2 ‘identical’ Sunday services, thanks to the amazing volunteer teams (hosting, tech, children’s and worship). This continues to be a huge ask, and we are so encouraged for the new people who have stepped up to the challenge.

‘Aspire’

Despite the many changes of the past year, our vision remains unchanged - ‘*Playing our part in the spiritual and social transformation of Tunbridge Wells and beyond*’. At our APCM last year, we launched ‘Aspire,’ our Mission Action Plan.

‘Aspire’ draws together two key features of our mission and purpose:

- a. Our desire to develop our *mission and ministries* through the defining lens of the ‘minster’ tradition.
- b. An equally bold commitment to *build a minster* in the heart of Tunbridge Wells to provide a suitable ‘home’ for the CC community; a place from which the good news of Jesus can go out to the whole town and borough, to serve as a missional hub and a beacon of hope.

Why a ‘minster’? It describes the aspirations of many who have been gathered to CC recently and gives shape to many prophetic words the church has received over many years.

Traditionally minsters were local centres of hospitality and education, pastoral care and outreach that enabled the church to be a relevant, active and vibrant presence across the dispersed villages and communities that made up England. So why does this ancient way of ministry provide a context for understanding this season of Christ Church’s ministry?

Features of the 'Minster' Church

At the heart of the traditional minster was a group of people who understood their role to be more than just 'congregational', but to live and share their lives in such a way as to be an example to others of the fraternity to which God calls all people. They were gathered around a corporate *worshipping* rhythm, placing worship ahead of all other work to which we are called. The minster was a place of sanctuary and restoration for the weary and the traveller, whereby joining the rhythm and worship of the community, they receive healing, counsel and fresh vision and purpose.

The minster serves the needs of other groups and congregations in the surrounding community, sending ministry teams to encourage and bless others. It is a repository of ministry resources, serving as a training centre, freely sharing its resources to equip others for mission and ministry. It was a centre for *gospel preaching*, playing an important role in the evangelisation of the neighbourhood, often sending teams out into the surrounding area and establishing new congregations.

I believe the many, varied and hugely gifted members of CC (including our children and youth) that have been drawn together over the last 10 years is no coincidence. Working alongside our friends in the other churches, this is part of God's plan for the re-evangelisation of our town and borough.

In the reports that follow, you will see how the various activities, events and groups are already beginning to put aspiration into practice.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022- 23

- The appointment of a part-time Worship Co-Ordinator
- The appointment of a part-time Youth & Children's Assistant
- Meetings with our architect to keep the building project on-track have continued with plans being refined and developed.
- The appointment of Rob Byrne as Curate, (beginning in July '23) will give much-needed support to the growing pastoral demands of the church.
- The ongoing development of 'huddles' for the regular support of Life Group leaders and others.
- The PCC has continued to administer a 'hardship fund' for those affected by the cost-of-living crisis, distributing £3,000 in 2022.
- Continued growth in membership; several Welcome events in 2022 have seen over 70 attending in total.

STAFF

Our staff team has seen some changes during 2022/2023 as some have moved on, and others have joined.

We said farewell to...

- Naomi Hutchison, Director of Outreach, who left February 2022
- Maya Griffiths, Admin Assistant, who left August 2022
- Karen Hickson-Smith, Community Transformation Lead, who left April 2023

We welcomed ...

- Jonathan Wooldridge, Worship Co-Ordinator in May 2022
- Savanna Taylor, Youth & Children's Assistant in August 2022
- Alison Lovelock, Ministry Assistant in October 2022
- Sky Edwards, BIG Stars Helper November 2022
- Rob Byrne, Curate, who will join us in August 2023

SUNDAYS

Sunday services are for many the place we feel most connected to Christ Church. Through live-streaming and other events we continue to see ourselves as a 'family on a journey' together. Between 300-375 adults and 100-120 children now attend across both services.

We decided not to resume our previous pattern of weekly Sunday evening meetings but to continue with Lion's Roar once a month as well as starting a monthly evening healing service. We have already had some exciting answers to prayer from this.



Worship

We're so grateful to our worship leaders, musicians and vocalists who enable our sung worship each Sunday, creating space and opportunity for genuine encounter with the Lord. We're also indebted to the tech team operating the screen projection, sound and livestreaming. The new service times have made Sunday mornings a huge commitment for both these amazing teams.

Welcome and hospitality

Huge thanks to Julie Matchett and all who serve on our Sunday welcome, hosting and connect teams. Providing a warm welcome and refreshments for two services has been a huge challenge, but they have done an outstanding job.



During the summer various events were planned to enable the congregation to re-build a sense of fellowship and belonging. Over 100 people came to one of the summer evening events at the vicarage.



Livestreaming Ministry

We have continued livestreaming our Sunday services on YouTube over the last year but brought streaming on Facebook to an end because of ongoing technical challenges and low viewing numbers. Online engagement has generally held steady after decreasing slightly at the end of April/May 22, with an average of 40 people watching the whole service live and 40 watching afterwards on demand.

We have had contact from people watching the livestream in London, Daventry, France, Hong-Kong, America and Australia, some of whom watch regularly, and several of whom have started coming in person after moving to Tunbridge Wells. Many of them have been in touch to thank us for the impact it has had on their lives.

Thank you to the entire tech team and thank you especially to you for your patience when it's gone wrong and for your encouragement, which keeps us going.

Gordon Taylor (Associate Vicar)

CHILDRENS CHURCH

As we have settled into our 9.15am/11.15am regular worship pattern, Kids Church (Yr R-6) has grown and developed into a place where children have fun and continue to develop their own faith in Jesus through games, bible teaching, worship and discussion groups. We start all together with games and worship before splitting into small age-related groups for discussion and prayer during the last 20 minutes. Each child has a prayer journal where they write the memory verse and things they have learnt about God or heard from him.



We have welcomed a lot of new children at both services and we now regularly see more than 50 children at 9.15am and over 30 at 11.15am. As we worship together every week, the children have grown in confidence in expressing their praise to God in both actions and singing. Once a month we join parents for the first part of the service rather than every week (as we did prior to Covid restrictions). We continue to use Urban Saints Energize resources and have focused on Psalms, the Life of Jesus and now the



Nature of God. There are 35 Kids Team volunteers serving once a month at either 1 or both services with 6/7 on the rota each week.

Savanna Taylor works part-time as Kids and Youth assistant helping every Sunday with preparation, setup, check-in and leading various groups.

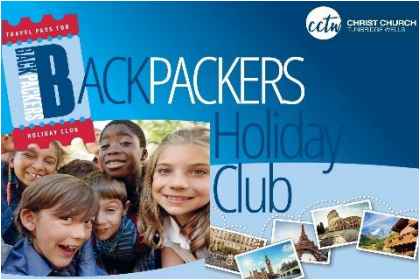
Big and Mini Stars (pre-school children)

These groups meet only at the 9.15am service because at the moment there is very little call for them at the 11.15am. (This is not ideal for newcomers or those with Youth and preschool kids). These groups continue to grow and as a result we have to keep recruiting more team members. To ease the pressure we have recruited Sky Edward who assists leading Big Stars every Sunday on a paid basis. In Mini Stars we ask parents to take a turn in helping lead the session as we now have over 10 children coming each week.

Other activities

- We ran another successful Light Party with over 60 children including many from outside of church.
- We rehearsed and performed a Nativity Play with many children and young people involved.
- Backpackers Holiday Club- this was our first ever holiday club and we advertised widely through schools. We ran 4 long mornings during Holy Week with an average of 55 children attending many of whom do not come to Christ Church normally. We had a fantastic team of volunteers helping to lead groups, crafts and games on the Holy Week theme. The team thoroughly enjoyed serving in this way.
- All-age services – we had a Christingle, Palm Sunday and Good Friday services where parents and children were able to attend together.
- We continue to consult with a team about how to be fully inclusive of children with additional needs. This has involved training the

volunteers, purchasing extra equipment and allocating one team person to oversee the children with additional needs every Sunday. We continue to grow and learn in this area guided by those with professional experience.



Jan Humphrey (Director of Children’s ministry)

YOUTH

We've had another busy year in the youth ministry! In the summer we had our second [Summit Youth Weekend Away](#), where we took around 50 young people (including some from year 6) as well as at least 12 team back to Wadhurst for a weekend of games, including the leaders' eating cans of unidentified food, and throwing colour dye at each other whilst playing capture the flag. We were joined as well by Naomi Hutchison who spoke to us about how we can be a generation of History Makers.

In October we started Youth Church during the 11:15 service. We wanted to bring all of our young people together to worship as one community, having fun as a group as a whole, learning from each other and how we can be led to follow Jesus.

More recently we have felt that trying to replicate church, but in a context for youth, hasn't been the most fruitful way of discipling our young people, and so have altered the programme slightly. Keeping the fundamentals of being one community together and having fun whilst learning about being a Christian today.

We have also been continuing our Friday evenings, we have great fun in a range of socials and regular activities. It has been a great outreach opportunity too as we have engaged with a range of young people, some for whom this is their only church context and for others their first church context in a long time.

Several groups have also started as a result of members of the congregation and team seeing a need in the lives of our young people and wanting to help



serve. The first is our Refuel life group for those in years 10-13. This has been a real success for the group that go, eat together and discuss a topic from the Bible.



We also have also had a Hot Chocolate Hangout group start for girls in the younger half of youth, providing a space for them to meet and chat over hot chocolate and delicious looking snacks. While this is still a new group, the young people who attend are engaging well.

Looking ahead we are looking forward to going to New Wine this year and join with Luminosity programme.

Thank you to all who have made this year possible for their time and energy within the youth ministry. From those who volunteer every week, to those who come and share your gifts of chatting, leading a game or sung worship. Every piece of input is valuable and appreciated.

Jacob Mayho (Youth pastor)



24/7 PRAYER

In April last year we once again opened our 24/7 prayer room. The emphasis was on helping us pray through the journey of the last year through lament and hope, to discover afresh the promises God has made to us.



PASTORAL CARE

Life Groups

At the time of writing, we have approximately 235 people in 20 life groups. This is a decrease of 5 people and 2 groups compared to last year. The natural life cycle of groups has continued with some coming to an end and others growing and dividing, with several brand new groups emerging over the year including several daytime groups. The huddle system has continued to provide encouragement, accountability and support to life group leaders on an ongoing basis.



Demand for groups seems to be being met, but we are aware that there are many in the church family who are not in a group despite our repeated encouragement! We will be considering how we can encourage more members of the church family to join life groups in the

coming year, whilst also acknowledging that many will have benefited from courses such as Alpha, Transforming Life, SHAPE and Living in Love and Faith.

In January 2023 Life Groups leaders joined leaders from the worship and Kingdom Kids Team to go to the De Vere Hotel in East Horsley where we heard from Rev Dr Michael Volland (Principal, Ridley Hall) and Rt Rev. Simon Burton Jones (Bishop of Tonbridge), as well as Tim and Gordon. The theme of the weekend was growing deeper in our communal life in Christ.

Newcomers

We are delighted to have welcomed many new members to our church family during 2022. Some have joined us online only from different parts of the country, while others have moved into Tunbridge Wells and made Christ Church their spiritual home.

PrayerNet

At the heart of 'PrayerNet' is a committed group of pray-ers willing to receive weekly emails with details of specific prayer requests from the congregation. The weekly emails are confidential to those who receive them, and members of the congregation can request prayer or ask to join the team by emailing Rita at prayernet@cctw.org.uk

Pastoral Team

The team meets monthly to share relevant issues and ensure those in need of pastoral care are being adequately supported. The team ensures that there is ongoing oversight and collaboration for ministries such as Welcome, Connect, Prayer Ministry, Freedom Prayer, Pastoral Visiting, Golden Years, Life Groups and others.

Freedom Prayer Teams

Freedom prayer appointments have recently been re-started. These enable members of the congregation to book an extended prayer-time with some of our specially training prayer ministry team.

Angel Meals

Over the past year we have done about 11 angel meal rotas, most included around 10 meals, so we've provided roughly 110 meals for church families.

We're aware there is still great need for these meals for those going through really challenging times, whether that's sudden illness or disability, financial troubles, having a new baby, moving house, very stressful work/family balance etc. Sarah Taylor co-ordinates this ministry, so please contact her if you would like to become an 'angel cook' or if you know of someone who might need this kind of short-term support. angelmeals@cctw.org.uk



Other Groups

Our regular groups, such as 'M3' have continued to meet back in the building and MOLO (Mummies of little ones) have enjoyed meeting weekly for Bible study and prayer support. Other groups such as WOW and Sew manna have started meeting in person again too.



Sparklers

Our Mother and Toddler group reopened its doors in September, meeting every Tuesday morning during term time. It is a missional group, always looking for new team members to help. Toddlers and carers enjoy activities together, meet new friends, and through conversations with team members and helpers, encounter the Christian values that inspire our commitment to family life. There is currently a waiting list.



Golden Years

Our "Golden Years Lunch Club" for the over 60's has met at Christ Church on the 1st & 3rd Fridays each month over the last year apart from one cancellation when one of our leaders tested positive for the dreaded Covid. The attendance at our meetings has ranged from 15 to 27 guests who have enjoyed a mixed variety of light



lunches including those requiring vegetarian or gluten free options. Our meetings this year have included Jubilee and Christmas parties, a slideshow talk by one of our members on the delights of their beautiful garden and educational talks on the Royal British Legion and the Life & Soul charity as well as Christmas and Easter reflection thoughts given by Christ Church Staff Members. We have also had quizzes set by our members and interspersed weeks for "chat time" which our members enjoy.

We have also arranged for two visits during the year, one to a local garden centre including lunch and one to the Christmas Pantomime at the Assembly Hall which was greatly enjoyed by all those that made it despite the snow.

Many friendships have been established at our meetings and some members have now volunteered to help out at other ministries within Christ Church which is a blessing and encouragement to us all.

OUTREACH

Alpha

We hosted an Alpha course throughout October & November 2022 and an additional course in January-March 2023 and there are always good discussions. In the current climate at Christ Church, it seems that Alpha can be a useful tool in evangelism, but we're also increasingly seeing people who are exploring faith coming along to Sunday services too. **Our next Alpha course will begin in October 2023.**



Wreath making

Due to high demand, we ran this brilliant outreach event twice in December. Over 100 people, including many guests got to make Christmas Wreaths and hear a Christmas message.



Christmas Carol services

In December our carol services were well attended, and we had two great carol services and welcomed many guests.

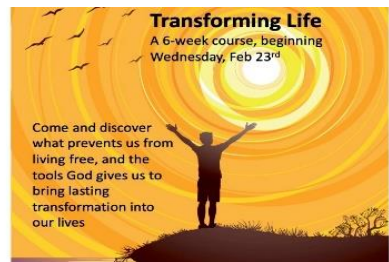


TRAINING COURSES

Transforming Life

In February 2022, 80 people attended 'Transforming Life'. This 6-week course has become for us the foundation for what we believe about spiritual and practical transformation. Tim and Jan shared the basis for life-

transformation, what prevents us from living free, and how to use the tools God has given us to 'live life to the full'.



The Shape Course

In June 2022, 35 people attended the S.H.A.P.E. course.

Discovering
my Unique

S.H.A.P.E.

Wednesday
8th June 2022
7:45pm



COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Community Transformation 2022 – 2023

Each week our church is now filled with many community projects, delivered directly by the Christ Church congregation and team – Sparklers, Thrive, Golden Years, Sew Manna *and* those of our community partners – Baby Umbrella, English lessons for refugees, support for victims of domestic violence, and until very recently MPACT for families supporting those with addiction challenges (we didn't have space for their current season). Our regular hall hirers are in addition to those listed here, and include social services, fostering support, Kumon, baby Sing & Sign and many more; we have a very full building.



Thrive Community Café launched in October 2021 and continues to support our community each Thursday. For the winter season of 2022/2023 we extended Thrive to also open on Tuesday afternoons as a warm space. Thrive has a beautiful community of volunteers and attendees; previously strangers, friendships have grown and some of the attendees now spend time together outside of Thrive's opening

hours. Initially set-up by Karen, Thrive is now wonderfully led by Sandra Leonard, who has a fantastic vision for expansion.

One of our guests recently sent a heartfelt note of thanks:

'I have been attending the Thrive Cafe regularly since August last year. I wanted to write and say a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Sandra and all the lovely ladies that help out at the cafe for their warm welcomes, smiles, kindness and willingness to engage in friendly conversation.

I live and work alone and don't have a partner or a family of my own. Although I have friends they have busy lives. This means that I have regularly struggled with loneliness and at times, it can be really painful - despite my best efforts to deal with it. Often all that is required is a cup of tea, a warm welcome and good chat with others face to face ie not on the phone or via zoom.

The Thrive Cafe provides all of the above and I wanted to write and say how much I appreciate it.'

It is incredibly heart-warming to hear that our vision to bring friendship into lonely lives has become a reality.

Arts Festival

In September, Christ Church hosted its first Arts Festival; the three-day event brought art displays, installations, themed workshops, a film with a director's Q & A and music in abundance.



Floral installations decorated both the café space & Crabb Hall and were added to as our Sunday children's groups became creative spaces, with their resulting artwork being hung on iridescent displays.

In a workshop led by Denise Fisk, our youth created hazel & papier maché butterflies, which decorated the entrance and fluttered towards the Sanctuary, where doves appeared to take flight and an enormous painting of Jesus - specially created for the event by Emma Charlton - was displayed.

It was beautiful to celebrate the wonderful artistic talents of our congregation and share it with our community. Throughout the weekend, our welcoming Thrive café volunteers served creative cakes and coffee, whilst guests absorbed the vibrant atmosphere. In the evenings, music, spoken word and singing entertained and the film and directors Q & A of The Final Fix, moved us all.

We are so thankful to everyone who gave their time and shared their work.

Operation Christmas Child

Hearing from the family member of someone who himself was a child recipient of a shoebox, we once again welcomed all those who wanted to bless others through the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. Over 100 boxes



were dropped to us during the November collection period and were collected by the local processing centre. A number of our life groups volunteered at the centre and commented how powerful the experience was in helping them understand the importance of the project.

We explored the potential of offering a Barista training programme with a local coffee house and also spent time with the Spear employability programme in London to understand if we should invest in providing something similar at Christ Church. However, the space, resource, and NEET (not in education, employment, or training) figures for the Tunbridge Wells district were prohibitive to develop such a response at this time.

Karen Hickson-Smith – Lead for Community Transformation



Baby Umbrella
Supporting your journey



Action on Addiction



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

We are grateful to our Ops Manager, Sherry, and our Facilities Manager, David, for the ongoing organisation and handling of the maintenance of the church premises.

Life & Soul continue to use the former shop space as a base for their ministry. We have slightly increased the hire fees but going forward we will review the use of the facilities, taking into consideration community support and the benefit, or otherwise, to the church.

The encouraging growth and needs of the church family and ministry increasingly highlight the need to move forward with our plans for development within the vision of the church.

We are grateful to Sherry and the Buildings Committee and Tim and the Development Team for all their work during this past year.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding has continued to have a high profile at Christ Church. We marked Safeguarding Sunday in November with a Q&A session so that people could see who the Parish Safeguarding Officer is and be reminded of procedures if they should have any safeguarding concerns.

I met with Judi Hamill and Vanessa Nicholls, vicar and PSO of St James, in November at their request. They were interested in hearing how we 'do' safeguarding at Christ Church and wanted to look at the safeguarding posters that we display. It was a useful meeting and good to share how things are done in different churches and to build a relationship with a local PSO.

Over the past 12 months, we have been liaising as a church with Social Services on a couple of ongoing issues.

The Christ Church community is very much aware of our safeguarding responsibilities. Issues are referred on to Greg Barry, the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer in charge of the Tunbridge Wells area, when necessary. Greg is supportive and encouraging. He is quick to respond and to provide advice.

Greg holds regular Zoom meetings with PSOs in the area so that we have an opportunity to ask any questions and so that he can update us on any new Church of England guidance.

Jan and the Kingdom Kids team work hard to ensure that Christ Church follows safeguarding guidelines at all times on Sunday mornings.

Jacob and Rebecca have a really positive relationship with our young people. They spend time walking with members of the youth group and being with them through difficult times.

I would like to thank children's and youth teams for all that they do to ensure that, as far as it is up to Christ Church, our young people are safe.

Last year the Church of England widened the requirements for who needs to complete the online safeguarding training modules to include all volunteers. Happily, the number of volunteers at Christ Church continues to grow. I am very grateful to the Operations Team, Sherry and Alison who have taken over the administration of keeping a record of who has completed the training.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone for their continued vigilance and for their support and encouragement.

Bethan McCreath – Parish Safeguarding Officer

OVERSEAS AND UK MISSION SUPPORT

Overseas and UK Mission Support

In his excellent devotional book, Choose Life, Readings for Radical Disciples, Simon Guillebaud quotes John Piper, 'Millions of Christians have stopped believing that we are in a war.'

But for each of our wonderful mission partners spiritual warfare is a brutal reality and they are on the front line. They are vitally active in fulfilling God's command to care for nurture and protect his beautiful creation and it is an awesome privilege to be partnering with them in His work of redemption.

Simon Guillebaud was guest speaker at our first Celebration of Mission evening, held on Saturday 15th October, around 120 attended - double our expectations. 10 of our partners exhibited in Manna, and there was a buzz of excitement as people visited the stands and chatted with our mission advocates learning more about the partners they represent. Excellent food was prepared by Margaret-Anne and her team.

Mairi and Naomi contributed songs and poetry on the theme of mission, two advocates were interviewed, two others spoke via video, and Simon Guillebaud gave an inspiring,



moving and challenging talk about his life and work in war torn Burundi.

We shall be holding another Celebration of Mission on October 7th and have invited a speaker from Open Doors, with a Christian who escaped the persecution in North Korea.

In January, Mike Perry from ARocha spoke at our Creation Care service and presented Christ Church with an EcoChurch Bronze award. We are now featuring one MP once per month in both services, either in person or video. It is so encouraging to hear how God is moving in some of the most difficult places in our own community and further afield.

In May our Mission Advocates met for an evening of sharing experiences as an advocate and vision casting on how we can further develop and improve this important aspect of our life at CC.

Our mission team consists of Tony Neeves, chair, Gordon Taylor and Karen Hickson-Smith and we are supported by a team of advocates for each mission partner. The CC website has regular news and updates where you can learn more about each mission partner with a link to their own websites for further information.

The generous family of Christchurch has responded enthusiastically and generously to special appeals to give additional support, some with matching funds from the PCC, to those partners facing extra difficulties.

Tony Neeves, Chair

Summary of Missions Support 2022

Our Partners (Gifts in 2022)	Amount
Youth for Christ – provide community-based projects & support local churches in events for young people	2,500
Life & Soul - working with children and young people in TW, visiting schools and women in a local hostel & more	3,000
People International - a couple based in Northern Cyprus	1,000
Street Kids Direct – Duncan Dyason - working with children & youth at high risk in Guatemala & Honduras	8,500
WEC - specifically Steve & Suzanne Banner , in their role as the WEC UK London Area Mobilisers, engaging the Church to see Christ known & loved by Unreached People of the world	3,000
Crosslinks - Gerald & Louise Mwangi , with iServe Africa in Nairobi, leading a 6-month discipleship programme for high school leavers	7,250
Compassion - including Bernard who is sponsored by Sparklers and the Redeemed Gospel Church in Mathare Valley slum, Nairobi	2,500
CPAS - Church Pastoral Aid Society, and also CCTW's patron	1,000
Restore Counselling - offering affordable counselling to adults and children, and conducting training courses	3,000
Street Pastors – town centre teams	300
Open Doors - providing support to Christian who are suffering because of their faith	2,000
World in Need - a Christian charity that exists to help feed the hungry, help the poor and tell people about Jesus.	1,500
Nourish – Community Food Bank – delivers food parcels & supplies to people in crisis	2,000
Imago Dei	2,000
Expenses -	450
TOTAL	40, 000

FINANCES

What follows is a summary of our finances for 2022. The full, examined financial accounts can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this report.

The ministry of Christ Church relies solely on the generous giving of its people each year. 2022 was again very encouraging and we have much to be thankful for.

In 2022, the PCC set a budget with a small deficit i.e. budgeted expenses slightly exceeded the expected annual giving. The 2022 total income amounted to £596k, which is a great encouragement as we see this continue to grow year on year. Much of the increase in income was as a result of a significant increase in donations and gifts.

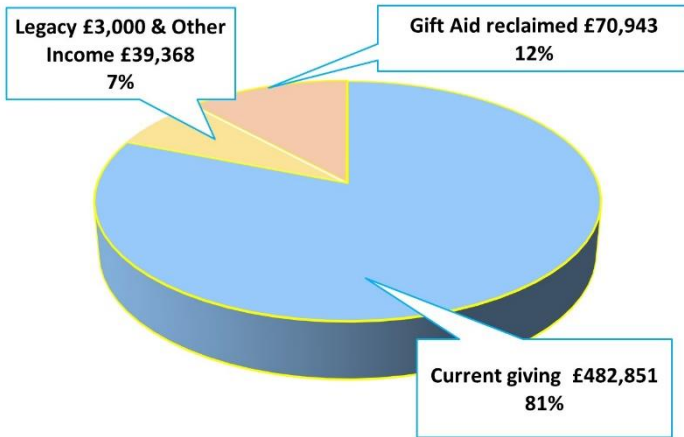
As at the time of writing, 2023 is a year in which we hope and pray that we can return to some normality. We continue to be blessed by people's generosity which has exceeded expectations, and for which we should all be truly thankful. We have again experienced a year-on-year increase in giving which in the current environment is amazing.

On behalf of all in the church I would like to thank those who have served in providing advice, management, and the processing of the finances, including Stephen East for his diligent and confidential management of all Free Will Offerings and Gift Aid tax repayments; Sherry Taylor (our Ops Manager & Accounts Manager) and Anthony Bennett.

Finally, a big thank you to all of you who have supported the church financially in 2022, your faithfulness enables the work of the Kingdom to continue through our ministry at Christ Church. If you have any questions regarding giving, then please email Stephen East using giving@cctw.org.uk.

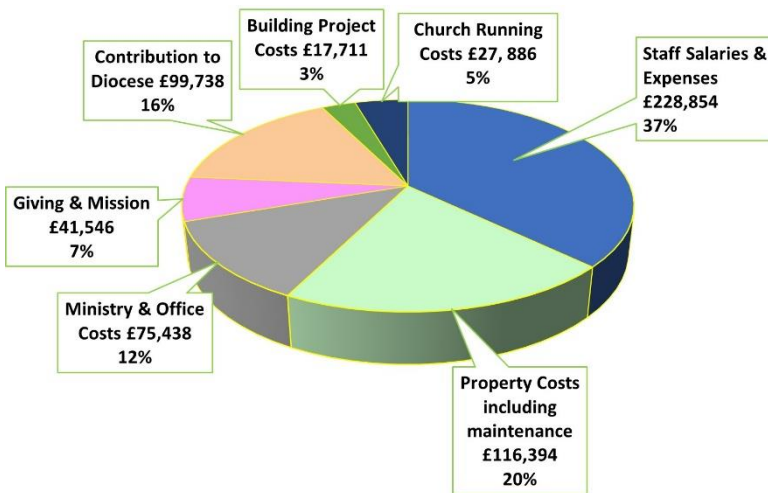
John Averill, Treasurer

Income



Expenditure

Expenditure in 2022 was £616k. The largest element, representing just under a third was staffing, and this is expected to rise in 2023 as the staff team (and church) continues to grow.



PCC & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Composition of the Parochial Church Council 2022/23 of Christ Church Parish is made up of the following members.

- Vicar
- Associate Vicar
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Churchwardens
- Deanery Synod Representatives
- Elected Members (Church Representatives)
- Co-opted Members

Overview of PCC Membership 2022/23

Ex-officio members

Vicar	Rev Tim Humphrey
Associate Vicar	Rev Gordon Taylor
Warden	Stephen McCreath
Warden	Sarah Finch
Deanery Synod	Duncan MacMurchy (elected 2020)
Deanery Synod	Anthony Bennett (elected 2020)

Elected Members	Elected APCM	End of Term
John Averill (Treasurer)	2020	2023
Heather East	2020	2023
Flic Roberts (resigned May 2022)	2020	2023
Sarah Finch (resigned May 2022)	2020	2023
Rita Haxton (Secretary)	2020	2023
John Haynes	2020	2023
Graham Hickson-Smith	2020	2023
Maxine Kennedy	2021	2024
Alison Lovelock	2022	2025
Peter McKerchar	2022	2025
Mairi Neeves	2021	2024
Edward Shaw	2021	2024
John Wegrzyn	2020	2023
Heather Wright	2020	2023
Co-Opted Members		
Jacob Mayho (co-opted June 2022)		2023

Standing Committee of the PCC

The Standing Committee is a subset of the PCC. Its job is to carry out the work of the full PCC between PCC meetings, for example, if something urgent arises which does not justify calling an Extraordinary Meeting of the whole PCC. Members of the Standing Committee are elected and approved by the full PCC, and usually serve for a term of one year (renewable). It meets bi-monthly in between PCC meetings, or as required.

Other roles and responsibilities appointed by the PCC

Gift Aid Secretary	Stephen East
Electoral Roll Officer	Rita Haxton
Safeguarding Officer	Bethan McCreath
Chair of Global Mission Partners Team	Tony Neeves
Treasurer	John Averill
PCC Secretary	Rita Haxton

Other sub-committees include Finance, Buildings, Pay & Personnel and Mission Partners.

Principal Bankers

Charities Aid Foundation Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner

David Stephens FCCA
13 Newlands Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 9AS

The day-to-day management has been delegated to the incumbent.

1) Governance & Management

The functioning and purpose of the PCC is outlined in the Parochial Church Council's Powers and Measures 1956.

Constitution

The PCC is a corporate body constituted under Trust Deed dated 19th June 2009. Registered Charity No. 1130248.

The PCC membership is appointed as follows:

Vicar (all clerks in Holy Orders beneficed in or licensed to the parish)

The Vicar is appointed by the Church Patrons and the position is under 'Common Tenure'.

Church Wardens

Church Wardens are elected annually at the APCM Vestry Meeting.

Deanery Synod Representatives

Deanery Synod representatives are elected by the Church membership (those on the electoral roll) at the APCM. Deanery Synod members serve for a three-year term. Vacancies that arise during the year are filled by PCC appointment. Deanery Synod representatives represent the Church at the Deanery Synod of Tunbridge Wells.

Church Representatives

Church Representatives on the PCC are elected by the Church members (those on the electoral roll) at the APCM meeting. Church Representatives serve for a three-year term.

Co-opted Members

The PCC can co-opt up to two members at any one time.

2) Objectives and Activities

The main activities are the provision of church services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, youth and children's work and the promotion of the Christian faith through biblical teaching, pastoral care and the provision of opportunities to serve in a range of community based as well as church activities. In addition, Christ Church serves the local

community by allowing the facilities to be used by a large number of community groups.

When planning our activities for the year, the Vicar and the PCC have considered the commission's guidance on public benefit and its guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our mission statement is 'playing our part in the spiritual and social transformation of Tunbridge Wells and beyond' and each year the PCC reviews the strategic development plan to ensure all its activities are promoting and developing the vision. To this end, our aim is to enable people both within our parish and beyond, to live out their faith and become strong, confident followers of Christ. Primarily this involves:

- Worship, prayer and teaching from the Bible
- Developing a knowledge of, and trust in Jesus Christ
- Provision of pastoral care for those in the church and parish
- Missionary and outreach work within the community.

3) Achievements and Performance

2022 has brought its usual round of challenges, and rising energy prices have considerably impacted the church's budget. Nonetheless the year has brought many encouragements. A growing number of people have joined Christ Church and both morning services are almost full.

- The PCC has focussed on several key issues – the need for a bigger building; the conversation around the 'Living in love and faith' proposals and ensuring sufficient staff to manage the growing ministry.
- Much consideration has been given to the building project plans and the formal launch (which will be named 'Aspire') and will take place later in 2023.
- Several midweek courses have been held including the 'SHAPE' course, 'Parenting for love and faith' course and our first in-person Alpha course in September for over 3 years. In late January of '22,

almost 60 life group leaders went away on a leaders retreat. In September Christ Church hosted and ran an 'arts festival' featuring exhibits from congregation members and a host of related activities.

- Mid-week Life Groups have continued to flourish.
- Despite the financial uncertainties of 2022, it is also quite extraordinary that voluntary giving has once again increased in 2022 enabling us to fulfil all our financial commitments as well as maintaining the charity commissioners recommended 3 months of operating costs and salaries in-hand.

In addition, the staff and PCC have sought to develop and enable the ministry of Christ Church in the following ways:

- Recruiting team members for volunteer based ministries.
- Welcoming and integrating many new people into the life of the church through an enhanced welcome and induction process.
- Ensuring all necessary buildings compliance issues, (fire, health and safety) and building-maintenance is up to date.
- Meetings with our architect to keep the building project on-track have continued with plans being refined and developed.
- Actively managing and implementing the new safeguarding rules and policy with particular respect to anyone volunteering in an official church capacity.

4) Financial Review

More details for 2022 can be found in the financial statements, but some of the highlights include:

- The financial net income for 2022 totalled a loss -£20,361 (2021: £81,014) and comprises net movement on funds as follows:
- Restricted funds increased by £606 (2020: decrease of £5,365)
- Unrestricted Funds decreased by £20,967 (2021: increase of £86,379)

In 2022 we spent £20,361 more than we received due to rising energy prices, the cost of living crisis and increased staff costs. Despite the challenging circumstances of 2022 much of the net income in 2022 was a result of increased donations by members. We trust that in 2023 the current level of voluntary giving will be sustained, enabling the mission and ministry of the church to be effective, and the PCC commitments achieved.

During the year, we used Mustard Payroll for all payroll processing and staff for our bookkeeping. All payments to suppliers, mission partners and all other third parties were processed internally. Major expenditure items in 2022 was property costs due to housing of the Associate Vicar and associated costs. More information about the fixed assets, and the depreciation policy of the PCC can be found in the 2022 annual financial statements.

On behalf of all in the church I would like to thank those who have served in providing advice, management, and the processing of the finances, including John Averill, the Treasurer, Anthony Bennett, Sherry Taylor and Stephen East for his diligent and confidential management of all Free Will Offerings and Gift Aid tax repayments.

Finally, a big thank you to all of you who have supported the church financially in 2022, your faithfulness enables the work of the Kingdom to continue through our efforts at Christ Church.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that period.

In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the policies adopted are in accordance with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time of the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

The PCC's 2022 accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

5) Reserves Policy

The PCC has adopted a policy, as recommended by the Diocese, aimed at keeping a balance on unrestricted funds, if possible, equivalent to at least three months unrestricted payments during the previous year, to cover any emergency situations that may arise. The PCC agree that this aim is adequate going forward having been achieved in 2022. For 2023, this equates to the PCC holding unrestricted reserves of £149,876 or more.

Approved by the PCC on 9th May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev Tim Humphrey, PCC Chair

APPENDIX 1

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 38 – 46.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000.00 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view', and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
David Stephens
13 Newlands Road
Tunbridge Wells, Kent
TN4 9AS

Date: 9 May 2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PCC of Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells

Balance Sheet
As of 31 December 2022

Fixed Assets	Note	2022		2021	
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
Buildings					
Crabb Hall		832,000		832,000	832,000
Fixed assets	8	42,551		42,551	62,106
Total Fixed Assets	3	874,551		874,551	894,106
Current Assets					
Debtors & Prepayments	7	30,099		30,099	28,968
Cash at Bank and in hand	6	446,517	4,504	451,021	450,526
		476,616	4,504	481,120	479,495
Creditors					
Falling due within one year	10	8,779		8,779	6,348
Net Current Assets		467,837	4,504	472,341	473,147
Total Assets less current liabilities		1,342,388	4,504	1,346,892	1,367,253
Creditors					
Falling due after one year	8	832,000	-	832,000	832,000
Total Net Assets		£510,388	£4,504	£514,892	£535,253
Funds of Charity					
Restricted Funds	11		4,504	4,504	3,898
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund		489,291	-	489,291	516,945
Designated – Community Transformation		9,864	-	9,864	12,455
Designated – Discipleship Year		1,480	-	1,480	1,955
Designated – Building Development		9,753		9,753	-
Total		509,388	4,504	513,892	535,253

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 9th May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

T. Humphrey

Rev Tim Humphrey, Vicar

PCC of Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells

Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ending 31 December 2022

	Note	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Income							
Voluntary income	4	551,065	5,729	556,794	539,533	1,561	541,094
Rental Income – Hall/Rooms		29,708		29,708	14,474	0	14,474
Rental Income – Other		1,875		1,875	2,390	0	2,390
Grants received		1,500		1,500	13,122	0	13,122
Other Income		4,563	531	5,094	9,423	1,549	10,972
Interest income		1,191		1,191	29	0	29
Total Income		589,902	6,260	596,162	578,971	3,110	582,081
Expenditure							
<u>Charitable Activities</u>							
Salaries/Personnel	5	228,854		228,854	181,770	0	181,770
Property Costs		116,394		116,394	79,238	0	79,238
Ministry Costs		66,004	6,598	72,602	19,817	19,755	39,572
Church Running Costs		27,830	56	27,886	25,256	1,601	26,857
Vicarage Costs		8,956		8,956	8,036	0	8,036
Administration		2,286		2,286	1,734	0	1,734
Mission Partners	12	41,428	118	41,546	32,723	78	32,801
Parish Share		99,738		99,738	91,400	0	91,400
India Appeal		-		-	16,714	-	16,714
Architects/Development		7,464	10,247	17,711	1,440	20,955	22,395
Independent Examiner		550		550	550	0	550
Total Expenditure		599,504	17,019	616,523	458,678	42,389	501,067
Net income before transfers		(9,602)	(10,759)	(20,361)	120,293	(39,279)	81,014
Transfers between funds		(11,365)	11,365	-	(33,914)	33,914	-
Net income before other recognised gains/(losses)							
Revaluation gains							
Net movement in funds		(20,967)	606	(20,361)	86,379	(5,365)	81,014
Balances b/fwd 1 Jan		531,355	3,898	535,253	444,976	9,263	454,239
Balances c/fwd 31 Dec		£510,388	£4,504	£514,892	£531,355	£3,898	£535,253

The accompanying notes on pages 42 to 43 form part of the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1) Accounting Policies and further details

Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to the accounts.

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) issued 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

2) Accounting Policies

Funds

General Funds represent the Funds of the PCC which are not subject to any restriction regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also *unrestricted*.

Recognition of Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- The charity becomes entitled to the resources.
- It is more than likely that the trustees will receive the resource and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- The unrestricted element of giving represents gift aided donations, open plate giving and tax reclaimed from HMRC.
- The restricted element is money given for a specific purpose e.g. Street Kids Direct, Open Doors or monies assigned by the PCC for Building Development.

Expenditure

All items of expense are accounted for when paid out.

Creditors

Creditors are included at settlement amounts less any discounts.

Debtors

Debtors are included at settlement amounts less any discounts

3) Fixed Assets

Consecrated Property

- Consecrated and Beneficed Property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by Section 10 of the Charities Act 2011.
- Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require faculty disposal are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated.
- Freehold property is stated in the balance sheet at 26% of the insured value of the property as at December 2008 (£3.2m) being that part of the building attributed to the Crabb Memorial Hall Trust.

Other Fixtures Fittings and Office Equipment

Most items of equipment are written off in the year purchased, except two items purchased in 2019, one being the church boiler which is depreciated over eight years, and the other being church chairs, which are depreciated over four years. In 2020/2021 Livestreaming equipment and lighting was purchased, which is being depreciated over three years.

4) Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
Donations and Gifts	477,122	5,729	482,851	475,251	1,561	476,812
Income Tax Recoverable	70,943	-	70,943	64,282	-	64,282
Legacy Income	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-
Total	551,065	5,729	556,794	539,533	1,561	541,094

5) Staff Costs

During the year the PCC employed

- Admin Assistant (part-time)
- Associate Vicar
- BIG Stars Helper (part-time)
- Community Transformation Lead (part-time)
- Director of Children's Ministry (part-time)
- Facilities Manager
- Operations Manager
- Production Manager (part-time)
- Worship Co-Ordinator (part-time)
- Youth Pastor
- Youth & Childrens Assistant (part-time)

No employee received more than £60,000 per annum.

We also outsourced Payroll, Personnel and Health & Safety to external companies.

The PCC, in compliance with the Pension Regulator, operated a defined contribution pension scheme for all staff. The PCC agrees to make a contribution of 5% towards staff pensions.

There were no disclosable transactions in respect of PCC members or persons closely associated with them.

	2022	2021
Salaries (gross)	166,683	156,993
Employers (ERs) NI	13,221	12,115
ERs Pension Costs	7,527	7,695
Other ER costs	3,499	4,967
Diocese re Associate Vicar	37,924	-
Total	228,854	181,770

6) Bank Accounts

The main Current and Deposit Accounts are with CAF Bank, interest is paid on the deposit account but not on the current account. In common with all other banks interest rates are low at present, but a small standard monthly fee is charged by CAF Bank Ltd.

The Lloyds Bank Account is used only to receive Free Will Offerings made by standing order/bank transfer. To maintain anonymity of the Free Will Offerings, details of the account are kept by the Gift Aid Secretary, who provides a summary to the Treasurer each month. The Lloyds account does not pay any interest.

Regular transfers are made from the Lloyds account to our CAF current account.

7) Debtors

	2022	2021
Tax Refunds due	20,724	19,582
Hall letting fees due	3,772	5,050
Re Associate Vicar housing	4,336	4,336
Sundry debtors/prepayments	1,267	-
Total	30,099	28,968

8) Fixed Assets

Crabb Memorial Institute Trust

The Crabb memorial Hall is part of the Christ Church Centre and the £832,000 represents 26% of the Christ Church Centre as a whole, which is attributed to the Trust.

It should be noted that the original trust deed provides for the value of the trusts proportion to be given to the Church Missionary Society in the event of the building sale and the Crabb Hall not being reinstated elsewhere.

Fixtures and Fittings

During 2022 livestreaming, AV and IT equipment was purchased for a cost of £4,276 (2021: £11,780). In 2019 a new boiler for £47,133 and seating costing £27,444. The boiler is depreciated by 12.5%, the seating by 25%, and the livestreaming, AV and IT by 33.3%.

	2022	2021
Net Book Value @ 1 st Jan	62,106	71,788
Net Book Value @ 31 st Dec	42,551	62,106

9) Reserves

The PCC has a policy which aims to maintain unrestricted reserves of at least three months expenditure which it and regards as adequate. The policy is reviewed regularly.

10) Creditors

	2022	2021
Pension Scheme	1,289	1,239
HMRC PAYE & NI	3,493	3,059
Sundry Creditors	3,997	2,050
Total	8,779	6,348


11) Restricted Fund Balances

	2022	2021
Christ Church Support Fund (CCSF)	2,437	2,584
Women's ministry	796	520
Men's ministry	-	401
Golden years ministry	-	218
Compassion and Sparklers	1,271	175
Total	4,504	3,898

12) Missions

All monies given to missions were to organisations.

Sundays @ CC 2022



HOW TO
Influence
OTHERS FOR GOOD

BEING AUTHENTIC
9TH JAN

Mending Broken Relationships



PAY BACK TIME
FEBRUARY 27



Easter at Christ Church

HE IS **RISEN**

14 APRIL MAUNDY THURSDAY 8PM	15 APRIL GOOD FRIDAY ALL AGE 10.30AM AN HOUR AT THE CROSS 3PM	17 APRIL EASTER SUNDAY 9.15 & 11.15AM
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**BUILDING UP
BETTER**

Do not lose heart

1 MAY



**RADICAL
HOSPITALITY**

YOU BEFORE ME
31ST JULY



what happens when...?
WE SERVE
18th Sept





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High Street, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1UT
www.cctw.org.uk 01892 522323 info@cctw.org.uk