Towards 2023



COMMUNITY CHURCH

2022 ANNUAL

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Charity No. 1051786

OVERVIEW

Apostle Paul declared 'because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion!'

2021-2022 has been in many ways a great year! The church is growing spiritually, numerically, and as a community. COVID-19 was a difficult time, showing us how short and fragile life is and how awesome our God is! This was a year of the favour of the Lord on our church as we finally became owners of our building. One of our core values is that 'serving is our privilege', God has called us to the stewardship of His house and priority is being given to ensure this is realised spiritually and physically. Loving people is what we do, and it has been a joy seeing a vibrant Christ-centred community rise from the Covid lockdown. Simply put – it's about being there for each other in times of personal crises, whether it is providing a meal for someone going through a tough time or a free bag of potatoes given after the service as well as learning to celebrate with each other when one succeeds.

We have seen stability in MoCoCo for which we are thankful to God for enabling us to steward it well. In 2023, we are keen to identify viable options for ensuring MoCoCo's growth is maitened and sustained. Canalside Conference has also emerged strong from the 2021 lockdown and there are plans for it to undergo IT modernisation on some of its processes and procedures to bringing efficiency and sustainability.

Roofing professionals have advised us to replace the church building's roof within 2 years due to the deteriorated condition of roof tiles and the timber spacing which carry them as they are past their design life. The building's layout was done with the working men's club in mind and has been used successfully for different social activities. Now, as a long-term objective, we want the building to primarily serve the church as such we want to establish options available for us to enhance its use as a church which can be undertaken at the same time with the roof works. This will mean engaging an architect. The high cost of roof refurbishment is driving us to review the following – removing the current low-lying false ceiling, toilet refurbishment and general layout improvement, etc.

In addition, after buying the church building, Middlewich Community Bowling club has been identified as one of our links to the wider local community and we value their success as it is our success.

Finally, may I thank everyone who 'ministers' within our church. Whether it is welcoming, serving, teaching our kids, leading us in worship, serving us tea, leading a life group, preaching -

whatever you do, thank you - this is our response to a faithful God. Thank you as well to our professional staff at MoCoCo House and Canalside Conference for their dedication and professionalism.

Blessings, Antony



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1. INTRODUCTION

As Trustees of Middlewich Community Church, we are happy that the Church continues to serve the community in diverse ways, drawing its committed and enthusiastic congregation both from its hometown and the adjacent communities of Winsford, Holmes Chapel, Crewe, Knutsford, Sandbach and beyond.



Our objectives as a church, may be described as follows -

- Advancing the Christian faith in accordance with our Statement of faith.
- Providing services that bring health to people, by helping them spiritually, physically, financial, mentally through focusing on vision, mission and DNA.
- Providing facilities that help train and advance education within our community.

We finally bought the Brooks Lane building and its associated land in the February 2022. In so doing, after liaising closely with the Local Authority and the Charity Commission, we also entered a promotion agreement which will lead to the sale of the Church land on Centurion Way. The land is now designated only for the development of residential buildings only by Cheshire East Council making it not useful to our objectives as a Trust.

As the new owners of our church building, we are in the process of carrying out all the necessary building maintenance and improvements, such as ensuring the integrity of the roof, replacing our outdated heating system, investing in modernising our IT equipment, the buildings aesthetics, and investing into the equipment.

Improvement works are scheduled to be undertaken at MoCoCo, resulting in better, safer facilities for staff and service users. MoCoCo continues to excel in looking after young people,

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giving them an opportunity to excel in life. Conferencing has emerged from lockdown and is picking up steam. Overall, our primary aim is to ensure the employee health is prioritized by developing processes and systems that ensure that our objectives are met in a sustainable way. To ensure a robust financial management, an external financial consultant has been engaged to improving our financial planning and decisions.



Legally, we have updated our Constitution to reflect our current set up and as such on 11 April 2022 a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation (number 1199612) was formed. During 2023 the CIO will take over the activities of the church, assets to be transferred and then the original charity dissolved. In line with new Constitution, the Trustees Board are now responsible for the legal and financial matters of the Trust whilst the Leadership Team is responsible for the Spiritual leadership of church focusing on getting the vision

of the church realised.

The Board would like to thank Chris Shepherd for her dedication and faithfulness over the years as our Church's safeguarding Officer and we welcome Jamie Forster who is taking over this role with immediate effect.

Finally, we are looking forward to the upcoming year trusting the Lord that he is with us, directing us and blessing us.

MCC Trustee Board

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1.1. Vision, Mission, Core Values and DNA



We aspire to be passionate about Christ resulting in times of refreshing coming from the Lord (upward) enabling us (inward) to refresh others by spreading the gospel (outward).



To bring times of refreshing to the community by bringing the community to Jesus.



Faithful – Our response to a faithful God Passionate – Worshipping Jesus is our passion! Hospitality - We love people! Hope – Hope is us! Family – we are a community! Generosity – is our norm! Stewardship – Serving is our privilege!



Hope is our value! Building positive futures!



Hospitality is our value! We love people!



Passionate about God! - Upward

Passionate about life! - Inward

Passionate about people! - Outward

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1.2. Statement of Faith - What we believe

- THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD that the Bible (i.e. the Old and New Testaments), is the inspired Word of God, the infallible, all sufficient rule for faith and practice.
- UNITY IN THE ONE TRUE AND LIVING GOD in the unity of the One True and Living God who is the Eternal, Self-Existent "I AM," who has also revealed Himself as One being, co-existing in three Persons Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- **LIFE OF JESUS** in the Virgin Birth, Sinless Life and Miraculous Ministry. He died on the cross on our behalf and rose again after 3 days, He went up to heaven and He is currently at the right-hand side of God the Father (He now offers us salvation through faith), and in the last days He will return again for his church.
- FALL OF MAN who was created pure and upright but fell by voluntary transgression.
- NEW BIRTH (BORN AGAIN) this experience of salvation is also known as the new birth
 and is an instantaneous and complete operation of the Holy Spirit upon initial faith in the
 Lord Jesus Christ.
- BAPTISM BY IMMERSION IN WATER that all who have truly repented and believed in Christ as Lord and Saviour are commanded to be baptised by immersion in water.
- BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT as an enduement of the believer with power for service, the essential, biblical evidence of which is the speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.
- **GIFTS IN THE HOLY SPIRIT** in the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of Christ in the Church today.
- HOLINESS OF LIFE in conducting our lives in obedience to the command of God.
- DIVINE HEALING in deliverance from sickness, by Divine Healing that is provided for in the Atonement.
- BREAKING OF BREAD (COMMUNION) all who have truly repented and believe in Christ as Lord and Saviour should regularly participate in Breaking of Bread.
- RESURRECTION OF ALL WHO TRULY BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST we believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the everlasting conscious bliss of all who truly believe in our Lord Jesus Christ and the everlasting conscious punishment of all whose names are not written in the Book of Life.

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1.3. TRUST DEPARTMENTS



1.3.1. The Church

Antony Bhunu, Roy Bridgman & Caz Haylett (Church Leadership Team)

What an exciting year 2021-2022 has been. The church has been vibrant, and we still have lots of work to do. The ministry teams have been faithful and dependable but there is a constant need for volunteers and leaders to help with the work. A process to ensure



good church health and growth as the Lord intends started with our Foundation course. The aim is to help



visitors become regular attendees by knowing and embracing our vision and values, leading to partnership which unlocks the privilege of serving at MCC.

1.3.2. Canalside Conference Centre Sue Bridgeman (Conference Manager)



Welcome to Canalside, we are the CONFERENCE CENTRE
Conference Centre that runs throughout the week here at MCC. 2021 –
2022 was a good year for Canalside, Once the world reopened after
Covid-19 we were up and running again. We have many different
companies using our facilities here. We have taken on a new staff member

and are looking forward to the coming year. God has been good to us, and we praise God for all he is doing.

1.3.3. MoCoCo House

Kevin Pepper (Centre Manager)

MoCoCo House continues to go from strength to strength within the supported accommodation sector, and we remain to have strong relationships with our local authorities Cheshire East and Cheshire West.





Interest in our services has increased, and we are now in a position where the occupancy rate is stable. We have successfully supported 19 young people between April 2021 to March 2022, who have all moved on into their own accommodation, after utilising the support of the service.

Young people continue to receive high quality support through our tailor-made Key working program, leading to best outcomes for our service users. With the addition of baby simulators,

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the service has enhanced the support offered to mother and baby/child placements, gaining the interest from the local authorities for these types of placements, something we aim to develop further over the next year. To accompany this support package, the service has now developed a mother and baby Key working pack, which runs alongside the already implemented Key working program for all service users that consists of ten independence modules.

As we came out of lockdown conditions, we re-introduced weekly house meals and continued



with our summer trips program including: Alton towers, Chester Zoo and a beach trip in Blackpool. We plan to take the young people on trips in the autumn for bonfire celebrations and take them to see the Blackpool lights.

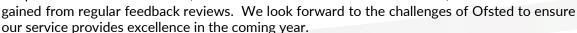
Plans are now in place to upgrade the current staffing working conditions, creating a separate bedroom for sleeping, and more office space for staff to work. Plans also include a dedicated office onsite for the Centre Manager. This will also mean that

the current communal space where young people gain support is used more effectively. We look forward to the changes over the next year to improve the service. As we look to the future, we anticipate the implementation of Ofsted regulations as planned by the UK government for supported accommodations across the board. We are confident and have been advised by our local authorities that MoCoCo House is in a great position to welcome these new regulations, as we strive for high standards across the board. We will endeavour to make any changes needed to meet all Ofsted regulations when they are published later in the year.

With the continued success of MoCoCo House and the need to support more cared for young people, it is clear that there is an opportunity for MoCoCo House to expand and open new provisions within the boundaries of Middlewich and further afield. There are many options we could consider including a specific mother and baby provision, a further supported accommodation provision for young people, or a provision that supports 18+ young people

where staff are not on site 24/7, but outreach is offered throughout the week to those we have already supported, which would be the ideal next step for them on their journey to independent living. There is also the option of expanding MoCoCo House by buying the adjacent building which we plan to explore.

Overall, MoCoCo House is now established within the Cheshire area, working in partnership with other services that support young people within the area. Our service feedback is overwhelmingly positive by staff, the professionals we work with, and the service users that use our service,



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1.4. Towards the future



Vision is about seeing where God is taking us. We are clear about being a church where the presence of God is evidenced by the passion of Jesus in our lives. The following hurdles were identified in 2021 and there is an update of where we are.

Hurdle 1 - No more renting



The foundations course to help us receive those the Lord is bringing to our midst. This process is ongoing.

Attained, February 2022. We now own our building!

Hurdle 2 - Preparation for Growth

Numerical increase is never our target but is an expected accidental consequence of the presence of God in our lives as a Church., He draws both men and women to Himself. As such, we will continue to invest in relevant assets knowing growth is inevitable as we seek the Lord collectively and host His presence as a community. Growth has many facets which include the following but not limited to:



a) Spiritual Growth

Our aim is to ensure quality of sermons. I was so glad to speak to a regular visitor to our church who is a member of a local traditional church, who said that they attend our church to be filled and to receive the 'solid food' of the word! This enables them to go back to their church and give! You can only give from what you have! It is so wonderful to be known as this type of church by the body of Christ.

b) Financial Growth

Jesus taught us to give and not to be stingy. Giving is a sign of maturity and people give what they believe in.

c) Numerical Growth

A long as the gospel is preached and truly lived in truth and Spirit, numerical growth should be expected.

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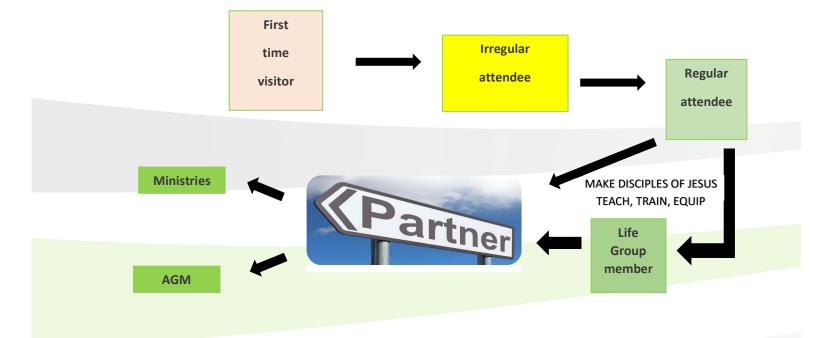
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Hurdle 3 - Growth

Growth is measured as follows:

- Increase in spiritual maturity within the church attendees.
- Increase in participation of church activities, i.e., volunteering within the different ministries of the church.
- Increase in regular attendees choosing to be partners resulting in the increase of the church's ministry team members. Leading is not for the few but its foundation is a calling from the Lord. Our experience is God's calling to lead is usually not a problem or hinderance.
- Increase in generosity. This is from the giving of one's time for God's events, to giving finances to the kingdom of God.
- Increase in the operation of the gifts of the spirit in our services. We believe in the priesthood of all believers! That is everyone can be used by God in any of the gifts of the spirit.



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2. OUR REGULAR EVENTS

2.1. Times of Refreshing Meetings

Our goal as a church is to be always dependant and centred on God relying on and always allowing God, the Holy Spirit to guide us and direct us. Life without God is spiritually taxing and dry, as such, we all need refreshing in His presence. This gives us the ability to refresh others, in our homes, communities, workplaces and schools. The worship and prayer night previously held on Thursday



nights has been moved to the first Tuesday of the month and whenever we meet, we expect to be refreshed. Without His presence we can do nothing.



Andrew Murray shared at our Times of Refreshing event and we are looking forward to having again at our 2023 event.

2.2. Foundations

This course is held after Sunday church service and lasting approximately half an hour.

It is for people who are new to our church, maybe new Christians or people from other church backgrounds. It is a time of teaching and discussion. It is important that people joining our church know



what we believe and perhaps how we differ from other churches. We've looked at Creation and the fall of man, Jesus, the Trinity, the New Birth and Baptism, the fruit and gifts of the spirit. We have had some lively discussions, ironed out some previously held beliefs, or explained areas where we differ from other churches especially in baptism and the gifts of the spirit.

We have had a regular 3-4 people attending, three of whom were recently baptised. Praise God.

2.3. Bible Study

Our church Bible Studies have continued this year, and as last year, all other meetings were cancelled during the two weeks of the studies to enable the whole church to come together to focus on the same topics, to share opinions and ideas in small groups. The studies continued to focus on 'What We Believe' from the AOG



website. In February the first study, led by Naboth focused on the 'Fall of Man', then the second one, led by Chris Jackson focused on 'Salvation Through Faith'. In June Chris Shepherd led the first study on 'New Birth' and Chris Jackson led 'Baptism by Immersion in Water'.

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The studies were well attended on Zoom, averaging 17 people, and as before began with prayer, a worship song, and a short period of teaching. Attendees were then placed into small groups in the Breakout Rooms to discuss some of the study content mentioned. A list of questions, or discussion topics was given to those leading the small groups to encourage discussion. People then had the opportunity to share ideas and experiences relevant to the theme. Feedback from each group, which was given at the end of the evening, indicated that some lively and interesting discussions had taken place.

2.4. Folk and Boat Festival

Folk and boat festival is an annual community led event in Middlewich. MCC took part with other Local churches which mainly included St Michaels Church of England and St Mary's RC. Hundreds of people from the community were in attendance and the gospel was preached.



2.5. Dreaming The Impossible (DTI) CAMP 2022

Dreaming The Impossible lead by Vineyard is a youth Christian camp open to all denominations who wish to come and grow in their faith and encounter the Holy Spirit. IGNITE youth group joined up with AWOL youth group from St Michaels and camped at the Staffordshire Show Grounds for 5 days where there were 3000 people in total. We enjoyed listening to dynamic preaching geared at the youth, had praise and worship every morning and evening, we could attend various workshops in the afternoon. The balance between the spiritual side and ensuring the youth had plenty of activities and fun in-between was just right. They enjoyed inflatables, fairground rides, neon silent disco, movies, karaoke, the cube, and loads more.







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2.6. Churches Together in Middlewich

As for Church unity, Middlewich is a blessed place. In the past 12 months we have met for prayer meetings with each Church having an opportunity to host. The Churches joined together to host a Sunday Folk and Boat Festival Service, a Good Friday Procession and The Remembrance Day Service. The personal relations



between the leaders are very good and healthy for the body of Christ. Roy Bridgeman coordinates the Churches Together in Middlewich, and they meet up every 2 months.

2.7. Bowling Social Event

The Church has continued with an occasional outdoor service. We had was a successful Sunday family service which was followed by a BBQ and afterwards, the Bowlers entertained us by showing us how to bowl properly. We are looking forward to repeating this event next year working in liaison with Middlewich Community Bowling Club.







2.8. Baptism Service

Romans 6 verse 3 states '.... Or don't you know that all of us were baptized into Christ Jesus ...' Yes, as believers we should all be baptised, and we encourage everyone to be.









At the Sunday Baptism Service, we had seven people who got baptised! The service was wonderful, and the presence of the Lord was with us.

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2.9. Remembrance Day Breakfast

MCC hosted a breakfast for the community as part of the Remembrance celebrations. Members of the community from the Council, local churches, the bowling club, and some of our church members were in attendance. George Parrot shared about how he was drafted into the Royal Air Force and of his personal experiences. He finished his message with a gospel message.

2.10. Germany Mission

Pastor Matthias Wolf of the Elim Church in Hamburg, Germany welcomed Antony while he was in Germany on missions. Over 700 people attend Elim, a city church, which holds two services every Sunday.

During Antony's final week in Germany, happened to be the time that Germany AOG, of which Elim Church is part of,



held its annual Pastors Conference for the church in Sauerland. Antony was grateful to be there after accepting the invitation to come.



MCC youth will visit Hamburg for their yearly mission weekend in the summer of 2023 as a result of the increasing relationship between MCC and Elim. Parents will soon be informed of the trip's specifics, and we are confident that it will benefit our children both spiritually and socially.

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3. OUR MINISTRY TEAMS

3.1. Pastoral Support Team

(Roy, Sue & Helen)

The Pastoral Team consists of Roy, Sue, and Helen. Here at MCC we value relationships, family and sharing fellowship, thus becoming stronger in Him together. Our desire is that no one feels overlooked or undervalued in our







church. Together we want to demonstrate His love - meeting people at their point of need and bringing support, hope, healing, and care. We are not meant to do this alone but in relationship with each other.

The aftereffects of Covid, the war in Ukraine and The Cost of Living Crisis have/will put big challenges on our Mental Health, and we are acutely aware of the need to support people at this time. Please do not hesitate to contact the Pastoral Team if you need help or support in any way. We value confidentiality and would love to stand with you and pray for you at this time

3.2. Preaching Team

(Antony, Roy, and Amy, Caz and George)

The topics of the sermons this year have covered a wide variety of themes. Earlier in the year we focussed on topics including gratitude and worship, to more latterly, a focus on partnership and community. Within the last few months, we have thought about what it means to be part of the MCC family and the importance of being connected. It has been great to see some different members of the congregation take to the lectern this year, using their giftings, talents, abilities and experience to deliver the Word of God to the congregation.

Our family services have continued to feature on the first Sunday of the month and this provides the challenge of delivering a shorter message relevant to all ages of our congregation. At MCC, we count ourselves fortunate to have a gifted, talented and diverse preachers. George has been a tremendous addition; the church has benefited from his knowledge and leadership skills. A short message of 30 minutes of, preaching requires a significant amount of time in prayer and seeking the Lord. This is the reason we give thanks to those who make it possible there is spiritual food every Sunday. We appreciate their steadfastness in the Lord.











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3.3. Kids & Youth Ministry

Caz (Kids & Youth Pastor)

It has been wonderful to meet up in person the past year and see our youth grow in their faith and begin to bring their friends along to Ignite. We've had loads of fun this year with various activities and games each week, including the Valentine's Bake Off, Christmas Party, The Cube, the floor is lava, Laser Quest, and so much more. Each week is full of fun along with a 'God Talk' to ignite them in their faith. This year Ignite joined forces with AWOL from St





Michaels and went on the DTI camp where we camped for 5 nights along with 3000 other campers. The youth

had an amazing time with the right balance of fun and growing spiritually. We will be going back next year!

Kids Church have enjoyed a few different series over the past year where we have learned about God and His word... we've been pirates, cowboys, and then scientists in our 'Wonder Why' series where we answered some of the questions we have about God and His word. We saw wacky science experiments that helped to explain the wonders of God. Each week we enjoy singing & dancing, games, activities, media, and crafts.





Youth Church have completed the Alpha Youth series which explained the foundations of our Christian faith, along with another series on their emotions and what the bible says about this. They have also done a bible study on the Armour of God and the importance of this in their Christian walk. These bible studies are catered for their age group to be engaging and include activities/games/media to make it fun.

Microtots continues to thrive and be a popular baby and toddler group in the community. Our aim is to make parents/carers feel welcome and in a safe environment where they can relax and



unwind whist their little ones enjoy a morning of fun. We do our best to encourage them on their parental journey and show Gods love to them. The morning includes loads of toys, activities, baby area, soft play, along with snack and craft time and is finished off with singing & dancing. We've loved having some young people from MoCoCo House and our youth group come and volunteer. Our Summer Fun Day was a big hit this year and they all loved coming to our Kids & Carers events too. The group is also successfully run thanks to the help we get from our Canalside Conference team. However, we always need volunteers for people to come and mingle with the parents/carers.

We've had 3 Kids & Carers successful Kids & Carers events since the last AGM, along with our Glow Party which is a Christian alternative to Halloween. The kids and carers who come to our events enjoy loads of fun, including crafts, activities, singing and dancing, etc. These events are a wonderful outreach to our community, and we are fortunate that the community are coming to



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us. We use this opportunity to show Gods love to the children and adults and hand out gospel resources in our gift bags. These events rely on volunteers helping, so if you are interested, please get in touch.

We have continued to enjoy our monthly Family Services which include more kid friendly songs with dancing, etc. and the word is preached in a way that there is something for all ages. This year there will be no family services in November/December in order to allow the Kids and Youth time to prepare for their nativity play on the 11th December.

The bible says we should "start the children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6. This is our aim with the kids and youth at MCC, we want to create a generation of kids and youth who are excited to **Grow** in their personal relationship with God, **Know** God and understand his word, and **Show** God's love to others.

I feel honoured to be a part of the kids and youth ministry. Here's to another great year ahead.

3.4. Worship, Sound & IT Team

Chris Sellers (Leader)

Since the last AGM, the worship and sound team have enjoyed being able to meet again for practices which had not been possible during the Covid lockdown. In summer 2022 we also took the decision to stop streaming allowing us to have an extra person on the stage playing or singing which we feel improves the overall worship experience.



Our main aim is to glorify God by leading the congregation in worship in such a manner that all can feel a freedom to praise God in their own way and experience His presence during our services.



We have introduced several new worship songs recently and have also learnt several kids songs for use in family services. Overall, we try to provide a good mix of modern, traditional, and well-known favourite praise and worship songs as the Spirit leads us.

We have recently invested in an updated version of Easy Worship (used to project media to the main screen) and are also in the process of replacing the main speakers to improve sound quality for the congregation.

We are always looking for new members (either musicians, singers or on the sound desk), so please talk to Chris if you feel you have giftings in this area.

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3.5. Life Group Ministry

Chris Shepherd (Leader)

Our Life Groups have continued to be an integral part of church life this year. We began the year with three Groups lead by Roy and Sue, Faith and Paula, and Chris Sellers. Chris began as leader of the Worship Team's Group, but because of other commitments in the church he stepped down in March and Jeremy took over. All Groups have met weekly during term time, except for the week when we held a Time of Refreshing meeting for the whole church. Group meetings were also cancelled during the Bible Study weeks. All meetings took place using Zoom.



Roy and Sue's group averaged 7-8 attendees and, using RightnowMedia, have studied the Books of James, Philippians, I Peter, Be Still, Kingdom Heroes and 'You'll Get Through This' with Max Lucado. They finished the year with a social gathering at Helen's house.

Faith and Paula's group also averaged 7-8 attendees and as well as taking Communion regularly, the Group studied 1 Corinthians, James and Be Still. They also held a very successful Christmas Quiz.

The attendance for Jeremy's group has been between three and eight people per meeting. They have studied Acts and 1 Peter.



Each member of the group is encouraged to join in discussions, to share opinions and experiences, and then also either to lead a study, or the Prayer time, or to choose a worship song for the meeting. Friendships have been made as people support each other through prayer in a safe and friendly environment. Each group uses a WhatsApp group to keep in touch.

At the end of this year Roy and Sue stepped down from Life Group leadership to concentrate on their other commitments within the church. We would like to thank them for all their hard work and pray that they will be truly blessed in all they do next.

This new season there five groups, including two new ones, one lead by Bridget and the other by Helen. All Meetings are held on either Tuesdays or Wednesdays with some groups using Zoom and others meeting in person. One Group meets in the afternoon.

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Trustees: Antony Bhunu, Chris Sellers, Sally Chilakalaka, Faith Davies

3.5.1 Roy and Sue's Life Group

We had an average of 6-7 people turn up every Wednesday Evening by using the Zoom software. We looked at various bible studies such as "Be Still" by Brian Heasley, and "You'll get through this" by Max Lucado - both through the RightNow Media Website which provides excellent Bible resourcing materials. As we step down from leading the Lifegroup we just want to say a big "Thank You" for all our Group members who were able to turn up when they were able to.



3.5.2 Paula & Faith's Life Group

Over the past year we have completed several studies including 1 Corinthians, Be Still and we were studying the book of James when we finished for the summer in July. The studies have spoken into our everyday lives. There are six to nine of us who meet weekly on a Tuesday.





We have grown together sharing the love of Jesus,

honouring each other. Several in the group have led different studies which have added an interesting dynamic to the Life Group. New people are welcome; we have a great prayer time and testimonies to answered prayer. As this group comes to an end, we want to say thank you to all who participated, and we look forward to the setup.

November 2022 Update

3.5.3 Chris' Tuesday Night Life Group

This life group is currently run by Chris Sellers and initially started life as a "worship" life group with the aim of possibly combining life group and worship practice into one evening. However, as it has now become clear that this would not be practical, the group is now a general group open to all. Unfortunately, group members have reduced slightly recently due to changing work and life circumstances, but we are still enjoying meeting and fellowshipping together at 7.45pm on Tuesday evenings. Although there is



now the option to meet in person, we have continued to use Zoom for convenience and are still benefiting from meeting in this way. Meetings generally consist of times of fellowship, prayer, and video-based bible studies. Example of topics we have looked at in the past year include a Louie Giglio study on Acts and a Nicky Gumbel series on listening to God in times of crisis. Our meetings were fun, interesting and thought-provoking with all group members able to share thoughts and personal experiences. We have also had some amazing prayer times and are able to support and encourage each other through the week using our Facebook and WhatsApp

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Trustees: Antony Bhunu, Chris Sellers, Sally Chilakalaka, Faith Davies

3.5.4 Paula's life group

Since September we have been working through the study Philippians by Jo Saxton; this is an eight-part series and will be completed by Christmas. The study highlights the salient points for discussion which are interesting and challenging. We have 5 – 9 who attend on zoom, and this depends upon other meetings within the church. I want to thank people for attending when they can. The group provides a confidential space where people can be themselves. We pray for each other and have a time of worship. We welcome new people to the group and share testimonies of answered prayer.



3.5.5 Faith's life group

Our new life group started in September this year. Five to seven of us meet weekly on a Wednesday night. We are currently studying the book of Colossians. Several in the group have led studies as all members of the group have so much to give. This makes our studies interesting, interactive, and dynamic.



We are getting to know one another more and more and members of the group feel safe to share as confidentiality and honouring one another are core values of our life group. New people are welcome; we have a great prayer time and testimonies to answered prayer.

3.5.6 Helen B's life group

Chris S and Helen B host a daytime Life Group. We've enjoyed getting to know one another and praying for each other.

We studied the book of Philemon and are now studying Colossians with RightNow Media.



We are a small group due to different circumstances but really enjoy fellowship and learning more of Him together.

3.5.7 Bridget / Richard's life group

We are enjoying meeting at Richard's farm on Tuesday evenings. 8-9 of us are attending weekly. We are doing a "conversational" Bible study through the book of James with everyone present participating. We are ever looking to remind ourselves of great truths and new revelation and inspiration from God's Word Our times together are a blessing and trust for great times ahead.



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3.5.8 Helen C's - Keep in Touch group

A small group of us have been meeting for the past year on Zoom. It has turned out to be those who either live alone or are free on a Thursday night between 8-9 and enjoy a chat We spend the first 30 or so minutes chatting and/ or supporting each other followed by a "Thought for the day "discussion and then finish with prayer. We would welcome any who may wish to join us



3.6 Men's Ministry

Roy Bridgeman - (Outgoing Leader)

"Called To Greatness" is our Men's Ministry title and is taken from the story of Gideon in Judges 6:12: "The LORD is with you, Mighty Warrior!" Our Vision is for men to realise who they are in Christ and to rise up and do great things for God. We want to cultivate an environment where men can be open and honest about themselves in a non-judgemental atmosphere.



We meet every 2 months on a Saturday morning. A cooked breakfast is provided for us, and we generally arrange for a guest speaker to share their story with the group.



As I pass the Leadership of this Ministry on to Iain Anderson, I am totally confident the Men's Group will continue to grow from strength to strength.

lain Anderson (incoming Leader)

It has been a Privilege to serve in Men's ministry and build upon the great work Roy and team have done previously. We want to provide encouragement, support and opportunity and the ways we envisage this happening are by:

Breakfast meetings that allow us to build relationships with each other and hear inspiring speakers. Next year in February we have Robert Mountford: sharing about a Prayer movement that changed the area of Stoke on Trent. Hopefully in April we will have a speaker who will share how God has been with him through



his work as an emergency response worker as well as his international mountain travels. Also, in June we will have a speaker who will share the amazing work of Redeeming communities.

In October 2023 we want to hold an open invite breakfast that will be an opportunity to invite people who are not followers of Jesus to hear a Christian true-life story. Resources to support us, this may be a website or sign posting people to some of the amazing resources already out there for men. Friendship, accountability and trust – we do not want any man to fall back in their life with Jesus. We want to be strong, non-judgemental supporters of anyone who needs it. Believing in Gods amazing plan and identity for each man, even when they are facing challenges, spiritual, physical, emotional etc we want to stand by Men and offer prayer, conversation and encouragement.

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3.7 Ladies Ministry - WOW

Åsa (Leader)

Women of Worth (WOW) is our Ladies Ministry here at MCC. The purpose of WOW is for all women at MCC to feel valued, seen and supported through life's ups and downs. This can only happen if there are strong and genuine relationships between us ladies. WOW was started to create opportunities to get together and get alongside each other. There are three arms of this ministry, namely the main events, Coffee & Chat and Connect 50 (Coffee & Chat and Connect 50 will be explained below).



The main events are held 2 or 3 times a year and we have either breakfast or afternoon tea



together. In November 2021 we had our first ladies' breakfast with a speaker from Mercy with almost 40 ladies attending. In April 2022 we had another breakfast together with a Christian GP speaking about health and wellbeing from a

Christian perspective. We were glad to see that these mornings were a blessing for many. In Nov 2022 we had another breakfast with a lady from Open Doors, an international organisation which supports persecuted Christians around the world. The WOW team would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped out for these events to happen.





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3.7.1 Connect 50

Helen (Leader)

It has been a great first year of Connect 50 where we have built friendships and shared life together, listened to testimonies of God's loving care, enjoyed some hilarious activities and demonstrated our creative skills. At the end of each Connect the ladies received a spiritual "take-away," a reminder relevant to the scripture of that day, to encourage and challenge them.

Our initial group of 10 ladies has now grown to 16, including several who have no church connections, so we need to build bridges and share Jesus with them.

The first get togethers were introducing ourselves and sharing a treasured memory or object. Next, we made Christmas wreathes, watched a flower arranging demonstration and enjoyed a carol service. We learned of a very old English word, "Respair," meaning a time of hope following a time of despair, so appropriate after the pandemic. Valentine cards containing "The Father's Love Letter." were decorated. An Easter trivia quiz and guess the number of mini eggs in a jar caused much hilarity. The Jubilee Street Party was the highlight of the year. Special thanks to Sue B, conferencing staff and Caz for decorating the room and preparing an afternoon tea. Valiant efforts were made to create hats worthy of wearing on this special occasion, using artificial flowers, feathers, and ribbons.



An anagram game introduced of the Fruits of the Spirit and the ladies were given a thought card.

Finally, we considered the choices we make every day and thanked God for choosing us, just the way we are, none of us are perfect but we can be changed. Helen invited us to her home for nibbles and cakes to celebrate the end of the first year.

It is a joy to see the ladies interacting, chatting, and helping each other with crafts and activities, during our afternoons of food, fun and laughter but above all to be able to share Jesus' love and care with them.

Our thanks to Sue B and the conferencing staff for welcoming us, setting the room out attractively and preparing the refreshments. Thanks to Ken for all the work he does behind the scenes.

3.7.2 Coffee and Chat

Sue Bridgeman (Leader)

MCC ladies' coffee and chat is an off shoot from Wow our ladies ministry As



its says it's a place where ladies can get together and chat! Chat together, laugh together and cry together if needed. A safe place to be together chatting and of



course eating cake. You're more than welcome to join us. Find more info on our website www.middlewich.org.

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Trustees: Antony Bhunu, Chris Sellers, Sally Chilakalaka, Faith Davies

3.8 Hospitality Team

Sue Steel (Leader)

We all enjoy the refreshments after the church service, a time to relax, discuss the service and get to know each other better. Firstly, I would like to thank the faithful team of helpers who not only come early to set up and then serve the tea and coffee but also stay behind to clear away and wash up.



In recent months we have had delicious cakes as a treat, some for special celebrations, a bring and share lunch for a dedication and a barbeque after a family service. Many thanks to everyone who provided or helped cook and serve the food.

Volunteering to help is a way of serving God as we serve others. Have you ever considered that it's a great way to get to know people, learn their names, welcome them to the church or give your time to listen to them if they need a chat? It's more than just pouring a drink. With that in mind, with a growing congregation we need more volunteers, men, and women. On a busy Sunday we need at least three people.

There are 52 weeks in the year, so if every person, who is able to, offered to serve just once, twice or even three times the rota would be full.

3.9 Welcome Team Mike (Leader)

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7. It has been great to have the services back in the Church building so that we can worship back inside as a church family. The welcome team extend a warm and friendly greeting to all our brothers and sisters in Christ and have the privilege of being among the 1st to welcome new members and visitors to our Church. We encourage more people to join the welcome team to show Gods love to all who come to MCC.



Church. We encourage more people to join the welcome team to show God's love to all who will come to MCC.

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4. OUR MISSIONS, OUTREACHES & PARTNERS

Davy (Leader)

2021 -2022 has been another milestone where MCC has advanced its missions both internationally and locally. This year MCC has seen an increase in missions following the command Jesus Christ gave us. Mathew 28: 19.- 20

Local Mission

MCC believes there is power in working together. We are faithful in what we do by standing firm on our core values which are; Faithful, Passionate, Hospitality, Hope, Family, Generosity.

To advance our values we have partnered with:

- Middlewich Community Bowling Club –is one of our connections to the local community
 as it continues to use our facilities. MCC wants to see the club being successful in its
 objectives and a productive relationship with it.
- Middlewich Food Bank- in times such as these it has been placed on the hearts of MCC leadership to support Middlewich Food bank financially as well as giving food items through its members to support those in need
- The Lighthouse Centre we work in partnership supporting the wonderful work they do supporting the homeless. We provide transport for the teams going out to support our brothers and sisters sleeping on the streets of Crewe.

International Missions

Within our congregations, we have members who are heavily involved in Missions globally. For example; with Melanie - Founder of Sunflower trust and Davy & Sally Chilakalaka - Founders of Kasupe Charity.

- Sunflower Trust works all over the world where there is need and preaching the Gospel.
 With international connections, Melanie introduced Bishop Moses Chikuta of Christian
 Fellowship Community Church (CFCC) to Pastor Antony.
- CFCC in partnership with MCC has planted two churches in Malawi. This year a member of MCC was sent to go and see how the churches were progressing. God is on the move; the trip was amazing. It was a blessing to see what God is doing in these two churches.
- Kasupe Charity, Kasupe's mission is to create resilient and sustainable communities through education, providing physical needs to the body of Christ. Recently Kasupe has also teamed up with CFCC to provide support to Pastor Boston living in the catchment area of where CFCC is operating.

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4.1 Middlewich High School

Our church annually sponsors a prize at Middlewich High School for the institution's top RE student. Connecting with the community is the goal of this effort.



4.2 Middlewich Community Bowling Club

Geoff Williams - (Chairperson) and Ray Coyne - (Vice Chairperson)

The start of the year 2022 was definitely a challenging one as we set about the task of re-structuring the Management of the Club to ensure that it is fit for purpose, both constitutionally and financially in our ever-changing environment. With this in mind it was agreed at a General Meeting to set up a full Management Committee which consists of 12 elected club members. A new Constitution was written and accepted at the meeting and a subcommittee was also elected to help with the development and future growth of the club.



Another big challenge was the renovating and restoring of our bowling green which had suffered badly due to the hot dry weather. We commissioned Robert Eaton Groundwork to undertake a full overhaul of the green which was completed during a long and busy day with the help of several members of the "Friday Gang". Without the help of the Friday Gang volunteers, who turn up rain or shine, on each Friday, all year round to do crucial maintenance and improvement works on the green, gardens and surroundings, our beloved bowling club would not be able to survive, so a great big thank you to you all.



So, after a busy closed season April finally arrived and we were all raring to get bowling again and I'm pleased to report that our league teams have had quite a successful 2022 season. Our Mid Cheshire League Premier division team won the prestigious Littler Cup (a historic cup competition that has been running for over 100 years) – Well Done!

Bostock Ladies were runners up in their Mid Cheshire Ladies League.

Our Evening teams took 3rd place in both the Sandbach and the Holmes Chapel Leagues

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Trustees: Antony Bhunu, Chris Sellers, Sally Chilakalaka, Faith Davies

The remaining 3 teams all competed excellently in their respective leagues, all finishing around the mid table mark.

As well as our league bowling, we managed to organise a couple of Social / Training sessions for prospective new members to come along and have a go which were very successful and led to several of the newcomers joining the club.

We also held a very enjoyable and lively lunchtime event jointly with our hosts the Middlewich Community Church where we were all able to get together and enjoy a couple of hours of social bowling and friendly chat, introducing bowling for both young and old alike.

We are very pleased to have such a good relationship with our hosts from the Church and Pastor Antony is always willing to help us wherever he can. We were kindly invited to and attended a very successful Remembrance Breakfast event at the church in November which we all enjoyed very much.

A major improvement has been made during the season to the Visitor's Stand by the local team from McCarthy Stone as part of their giving back to the community scheme. The refurbishment

has made a vast difference to its appearance and in addition they also provided us with 4 new tables and a quantity of chairs which have considerably enhanced the area outside our clubhouse. The improvements to the surroundings of our Green are a welcome upgrade and one that we hope to build on in the future.



The end of the season is upon us already and the Friday Gang have once again been busy with vital green and grounds maintenance. The Green has been scarified and re-seeded and the perimeter fencing is getting a coat of paint to smarten it up.

The Development Sub – committee are working hard to put together the correct policies and procedures to work alongside our constitution document to provide good Governance for the Club and to hopefully put us in a position to be able to apply for grants etc for an Irrigation System for the Green which is so badly needed.

We are looking forward to continuing working alongside Pastor Antony and the Church and thank them for their continued support as we look to develop and make the improvements to the bowling green, its grounds and surroundings that will be needed to ensure that it continues to be a safe and pleasant environment for us all to enjoy for many years to come.

So, a big thank you to all our members and friends for your continued help and support.

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4.3 Middlewich & District Foodbank

Nicky Harris (Project Manager)

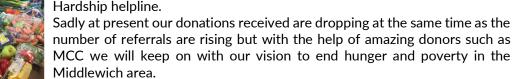
In times such as these it has been placed on the hearts of MCC leadership to support Middlewich Food bank financially as well as giving food items through its members to support those in need. We are a small volunteer led food bank and a registered charity. We are also part of the Trussell Trust Food Bank network and are open three days per week. We have a rota of volunteers who collect donations for us from various drop off points and deliver them to our warehouse in Middlewich, where the food is sorted and each item is dated with a best before date.



We operate a referral system and when a request for food is

received we pack an appropriate food parcel, to allow for dietary requirements and ages of children etc. Referrals are made by doctors surgeries, schools, social services,

Citizens Advice, housing associations, churches or through the Help Through Hardship helpline.



Middlewich & District Foodbank would like to thank Middlewich Community Church for your monthly donation that enables us to buy fresh produce such

as fruit, vegetables and occasionally meat, cheese & eggs on a weekly basis. One of our Clients was near tears when he realised he could have bacon and eggs for his dinner, his favourite meal, and something most of us probably take for granted but when funds are tight fresh produce is often too expensive.

4.4 Crewe: The Lighthouse Centre (TLC) Crewe

Rev'd Dr Julia Johnson (Leader)

We greatly appreciate the financial support of which we receive to fund the lease of the minibus and this has proven to be an invaluable asset to our work of helping the homeless. With this vehicle, we provide transportation for the teams going out to support our brothers and sisters sleeping on the streets of Crewe.



Our vision is about looking after the homeless, the vulnerable, people with mental health problems, the unemployed and lonely. Their activities and services include the following:



- Providing free weekly evening meals
- Night shelter and emergency accommodation service to the homeless.
- External shower block and laundry for use all year-round.
- Clothes bank where service users can obtain free clothes

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Trustees: Antony Bhunu, Chris Sellers, Sally Chilakalaka, Faith Davies

The use of the vehicle enables us to be able to collect food from various supermarkets which include Waitrose, Tescos, Greggs, KFC, Nandos, on different days of the week. We are able to make these collections daily and the food items are stored onsite and prepared for Tuesdays and Thursdays.



On Tuesdays every week, people from various backgrounds, including refugees and asylum seekers struggling with food poverty, attend the church to receive lunches and food parcels. We also provide English with Jesus sessions every Tuesday for those whose first language is not English.

On average 12 people attend per week, which amounts to 624 people per annum.





helped.

On Thursday evenings 2 course dinners are prepared again for those in the community. We help on average 18 people who attend each week, which is approximately 936 people in Crewe per annum. We have several volunteers who give of their time every week to not only prepare the food, but also to serve. A Christian message is always shared with those who attend on a Thursday, it is greatly received and several families in need are

4.5 Supporting the gospel in the UK

The Lord spoke to the church leadership through Pastor Antony about supporting a young minister in training from a rural UK church which was about to close. It was during an AOG meeting where the challenges facing that church were made known and prayers for the minister had been made. As a result, there is a Spirit filled Church which is not closing due to our monthly giving as a church as we partner with AoG. AoG monitor and support the church.



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4.6 Kasupe

(Davy and Sally Chilakalaka)

This year has been a busy year for Kasupe as life has returned to normal. The lifting of travel restrictions meant that Davy was finally able to return to





The main focus this year has been on 3 major projects, namely the Nursery School, the Solar Plant, and Block making machine, with the focus on moving Kasupe towards being self-sufficient.

The block making machine is now fully functional and can produce up to 150 cement blocks each day, employing 4 local men. The blocks are dried in the sun and are stronger than traditional bricks made in the area. Traditional bricks require firing in an oven which contributes to deforestation, increasing the chance of flooding in the rainy season, and increasing air pollution. The block making machine creates employment in the local community thus boosting the economy and is reducing the negative impact on climate change. Kasupe has also planted seedlings this year to help combat flooding and soil degradation long term.



Building work has started on the nursery school using the blocks made on site at Kasupe. This nursery will be the first purpose built nursery in the area, and will allow up to 200 children access to pre-school education. The nursery children are currently meeting in the library of Kasupe Primary School, and desperately need a space of their own.

This year has also seen the installation of a Solar Plant next to the Primary School. This is a self-contained unit which will provide 13kw of electricity to the school for computers, phone charging, lighting, and printing. This will enable the library and classrooms to be used in the evening for the local community, and will allow adult literacy classes to begin, giving much needed skills to the local population.



The feeding programme has also continued this year, with the nursery children receiving a nutritious meal each day along with the Primary children. For a lot of pupils, this will be the only meal they receive each day, and encourages attendance at school. Kasupe are currently feeding over 700 daily.

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4.7 The Sunflower Trust (Melanie Price)



Ukraine Relief work

As a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, many Ukrainians fled their country into neighbouring countries. The Sunflower Trust flew out to missionary stations in



Hungary on the Ukraine country border on Saturday 19th March



coordinating the logistic on the missionary field. The need was overwhelming as there were so many desperate refugees flooding in from Ukraine and the low-income local people were struggling to provide basic help for the refugees.

The challenges that were faced included but not limited to the following:



- Food for feeding people
- Decent shelter to help with their sleep arrangements
- Clothes
- Medicines for the desperate refugees

A call was made, and we are thankful to MCC and for all who gave for Ukraine. A lorry set out on the 17^{th,} of March 2022 by a welcoming party comprising of our director, Melanie, and staff at Hungarian Missionary Station and local people received it in Hungary a few days later. Many were blessed by your giving.



Kenya Evangelism

Sister Melanie travelled to Kenya to restore, heal, mend the broken hearted. She went with her prodigy Kohsin an evalangelist with a powerful testimony as she was healed of AIDS. They visited 9 different churches, with 2 churches visited twice and making 11 services. During this trip, 250 copies of Kohsin's testimony were printed and distributed.

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Sunflower Trust provided food for 27 babies/children with HIV. A programme to sponsor HIV positive children at a cost of £10 per month per child per month with a local Kenyan Pastor, Joseph Lumumba of Kisumu, Kenya was established. The Sunflower Trust is already supporting 16 HIV children.









A similar programme to also sponsor 12 children in the neighbouring town of Kakamega, has also been established with Pastor Stephen Mutuli. Sunflower Trust will buy the food and distribute it.

4.8 South Africa

(Nick and Daisy Muriro - Youth With a Mission, YWAM)

'Our vision is to contribute towards the transformation of Africa through evangelism, biblical teaching, and discipleship. Statistics show that at least 30 000 people come to Christ every day in Africa and yet the narrative of Africa is that of tribalism, corruption, unemployment, bible poverty, etc





The last few months have been exciting with ministry opportunities. We are emerging out of the disrupted season due to Covid. We are beginning to focus on the future with renewed hope and excitement about training more missionaries to reach the world with the Gospel. In the last few months, my

ministry has focused on teaching and equipping others for ministry. I have taught in Durban a few

times and in Cape Town, Muizenberg. I carry significant leadership responsibilities in YWAM Muizenberg and globally. Part of my time has been invested in helping other ministry teams emerge from Covid imposed complexities. Due to visa restrictions, I have ministered on zoom for ministry programs in Amsterdam in April and July.



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4.9 Malawi

(Bishop Moses - Christian faith community church (CFCC) Malawi)

In partnership with Christian faith community church (CFCC), MCC has planted 2 separate local churches in Malawi, two separate local churches along the Lake shore areas in Nkhotakota and Mangochi districts since 2021. Two local church planters receive MK50,000 per month (equivalent to £50) respectively to supplement local support for them to work amongst the tribes of Yao mainly in the areas where Muslims are in large concentrations. We are thankful for Pastor Prince Pofera and Pastor Boston Joseph who sacrificed themselves to leave Dedza district, thus their homeland for a mission work in Nkhotakota and Mangochi respectively.

Nkhunga Community Church In Nkhotakota

Pastor Prince Pofera began the work of witnessing for Christ around Nkhunga community in Dwangwa, Nkhotakota district.

Nkhotakota (Un-kho-tah-kho-tuh) (formerly Kota Kota) (name derived from the Chichewa for "Corner Corner") is a town and one of the districts in the Central Region of Malawi. It is on the shore of Lake Malawi (formerly Lake Nyasa) and is one of the main ports on Lake Malawi. Due to fast growth of disciple groups started by Prince at Nkhunga



after daily person-to person evangelism, the local church began with 12 families who were won to Christ. Local members with their pastor constructed a temporary shelter whilst they were moulding bricks for a permanent building later.

In by end of December, 2021, Nkhunga Community Church with almost 34 members, built a local church structure on their own. The mother church in Dedza supported the new church with roofing corrugated sheets. To date, Nkhunga Community Church has 64 members.

Namkumba Community Church In Mangochi



Namkumba Community Church was started with Pastor Boston Joseph. Namkumba is an Islamic area, and the work has not been so fast in growth. Person to person evangelism has been our mechanism in the area and today 4 families are the committed members who have been baptized into Christ. The church met in a house and later on, a small place was provided by one of the members for the construction of a shade for

meetings. Currently, the members are meetings in a shade for prayers.

Finally, we expect a great growth by end of 2023 and our future aspirations include the following:

- 1. To buy land.
- 2. To mould bricks and build a church building for meetings.

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Towards 2023

- 3. To build a pastor's house at the church premises
- 4. To engage households in farming projects in the community to reduce dependency syndrome on food by poor households.
- 5. To start orphan care projects through provision of basic needs so that they remain in school.

Thank you, Middlewich Community Church, for your partnership.

PASSIONATE ABOUT GOD

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APPENDIX

FINANCIAL REVIEW: 2021 - 22

As required by law, an external independent financial audit was undertaken in November 2022. This resulted in the signing off the 2021 – 22 Year End accounts. Some of our core values are 'Stewardship' serving the Lord is our privilege and 'Generosity being our norm', thank you for your faithfulness of giving whether it has been for your time, your tithe, your skill – it is unto and for the Lord.

PASSIONATE ABOUT GOD UPWARDS

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OUTWARDS

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