

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



PASSIONATE ABOUT GOD
UPWARDS

PASSIONATE ABOUT LIFE
INWARDS

PASSIONATE ABOUT PEOPLE
OUTWARDS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



I stepped away from my career in civil engineering to be the Pastor at MCC on the first of March in 2020 at the lord's direction, just trusting in his calling. We recognised the weight of following his voice, even though we had little idea what we were getting ourselves into. We are now amazed at what the lord is accomplishing right now with just under five months away from our fourth anniversary. The Lord's work is becoming more and more evident, and Åsa and I are grateful to our partners, those called to leadership roles at MCC, those who consistently volunteer, those who call MCC home, and those who work for our professional organisations, including MoCoCo house and canal conference centre.

In many ways, 2022–2023 has been a good year, and we believe that despite difficulties, the church of Jesus Christ is advancing. In partnership with Alsager community church, we intend to establish a new church in Sandbach in the spring of 2024.

As Roy Bridgeman stepped down from church leadership, we honoured him and expressed our gratitude. We are appreciative of his years of steadfast commitment to our church.

In 2022/23, we said goodbye to two of our partners who went to be with the lord. We remember Steve Cockram and Jackie Farrington. May they rest in peace with our Lord Jesus Christ.

The church witnessed two marriages, which was a blessing. First to tie the knot were Julia and Lee, then Caz and Simon. We as a congregation had such a great time celebrating both couples and we pray that they have a successful marriage. We regularly offered 'Foundations courses' for new attendees intending to be part of our church. We also had 4 weeks of "Conversation on Values" as a congregation. Renovation works were carried out at MoCoCo House and at MCC, we refreshed the aesthetics of the building, and new equipment was purchased.

Our goal is to keep modernising while preserving 'a welcoming' environment for both churchgoers and the general public.

Finally, 2024 is almost here. We are eager and full of expectation as a congregation for what the Lord has in store for us. We are grateful that the members of our congregation are seekers after God and yearn to experience more of His presence. We hope and pray that as time goes on, we too start to notice this in our kids and young people.

Thank you to all leaders and partners who took time to produce reports used in this report and for our administrator - Mary for compiling and editing it!

We are building His House.

Blessings
Antony & Åsa

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Middlewich Community 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, Sandbach, Northwich, Knutsford, Nantwich, Crewe, surrounding villages, and hamlets. Our Objectives as a church may be described as follows:

- Advancing the Christian Faith in accordance with our statement of faith.
- Providing Service that brings health to people, by helping them spiritually, physically, financially, mentally where we deem necessary, by focusing on our vision, mission, core values and DNA.
- Providing facilities that help train and advance education within our community as we deem necessary.

The trustees wish to put on record their appreciation to the congregation, who have remained faithful throughout another year. Churches such as MCC depend on the commitment of both its staff and members to ensure that its programme is carried out. In particular the work of volunteers, i.e. partners who call MCC their spiritual home, is greatly appreciated.

The cornerstones of the regular church programme are the Sunday service, midweek life groups, prayer meetings, the children's & youth ministries serving both church families & the wider community. The church successfully operates two areas of activity in addition to its regular church services. Canalside conferencing continues to be a prime facility for day conferencing within the local community. Our Conference Manager continues to deliver a higher level of service to our clients which amongst others include local authorities, Police, NHS and businesses.

MoCoCo House was birthed out of a desire to provide safe accommodation for vulnerable young people. After several years, the facility is proving its worth, and does its best to achieve a high occupation rate. The semi-independent housing has proven essential over time in addressing the needs of both local vulnerable youth, primarily from Cheshire, and those who came to the UK unaccompanied as asylum seekers. Our personnel are highly regarded within the care community, and we are glad to be able to address these demands at this time.

MCC continues to help and support projects and personnel locally as well as working in different parts of the world. This has included, but not limited to, supporting the local foodbank and mission work in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Finally, MCC continues to be a key member of Churches Together in Middlewich, being involved with various initiatives throughout the year. The trustees consider the church to be in a strong position right now, ready to carry on serving the local community and everyone who considers Middlewich Community Church to be their spiritual home.



ABOUT US



OUR VISION

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).



OUR MISSION

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



OUR CORE VALUES

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!



MOCOCO

Hope is our value! building positive futures!



CANALSIDE CONFERENCE CENTRE

Hospitality is our value! we love people!

STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD - that the Bible (i.e. the Old and New Testaments), is the inspired, 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.

TRUST DEPARTMENTS

THE CHURCH

ANTONY BHUNU (PASTOR)

The past 12 months have seen exciting times. We celebrated two weddings and two water baptism service days. We have seen an increase in those going through our Foundation Course and staying to be a part of the church. The Kid's Ministry has seen an increase in activity, from hosting Youth Nights to going to Germany as part of learning from other young Christians in different cultural settings. The building has also been refreshed or modernised. Our aim is to make the church relevant to this generation without compromising the gospel of Christ.



THE CANAL CONFERENCE

SUE BRIDGEMAN (MANAGER)

The Conference Centre runs throughout the week here at MCC. 2022-2023 was a good year for Canalside, with many new clients coming to use the centre. It was also good to have our previous clients returning, some monthly, to do their regular training with us.

Over the past year, the Canalside team has increased their support in assisting to set up events and serving at church meetings. The team have had the pleasure of dressing the venue and being part of both Caz and Simon's wedding, and Julia and Lee's blessing. We are looking forward to the coming year.

God has been good to us, and we praise God for all he is doing.



MOCOCO HOUSE

KEVIN PEPPER (SERVICE MANAGER)

MoCoCo House continues to be recognised within Cheshire as an excellent supported accommodation service for young people. We have continued to remain at full capacity, and the service continues to be well sought after. This year we have been preparing for registering with Ofsted, and we have been working to ensure all documents are going to meet the requirements set by them. Through this process, we have implemented many new documents in preparation for that registration process, which we hope to complete before the new year. We are confident that the service will meet the required standards upon inspection. As in previous years, we continue to improve our service delivery, always striving to make positive changes to the young people's lived experience of MoCoCo House. As part of this registration process, I need to complete the statutory 'Registered Service Manager' application, and at the time of writing I am currently preparing.



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MOCOCO HOUSE

We have made some significant changes to the building, where a staff bedroom and new manager office have been created, which has allowed us to accommodate more support staff to provide services to young people.

The changes we have made have been positively received by the young people, staff, and the professionals we work with day to day, making the service function more effectively.



Over the summer the young people have enjoyed trips to the cinemas, bowling and a beach trip, and further outings are planned for the autumn/winter.

We are pleased that 8 out of the 9 young people we currently support have enrolled into college and are engaging well to better their futures. We have now introduced a weekly study evening for those going to college, along with the weekly house meal and other activities.

The staff team continue to be well supported and developed in their roles at all levels, which is the key to great success within this sector. The staff work very hard as a team dealing with many complex issues day to day, whilst always keeping their spirits high, and maintaining good staff moral overall. MoCoCo House staff really do make real positive outcomes for the young people we support.



We wish to take this opportunity to thank the church for their continuous support and encouragement, and in 2024 it is envisioned that we are going to create further links with the church, by implementing a mentoring team, which we find very exciting.

TOWARDS THE FUTURE

In 2022, we moved from renting the church building on Brooks Lane to owning it. God has blessed MCC with assets and it is our intention to be good stewards for what He has bestowed on us. In the previous reports, we called this Hurdle 1, and we have now cleared it. We have ensured that the church's assets are well managed by those qualified to do so. This leaves the pastorate focussing on spiritual matters, of which is the main reason of the church.

ENLARGE YOUR HOUSE, BUILD AN ADDITION. SPREAD OUT YOUR HOME AND SPARE NO EXPENSE".

ISAIAH 54:2

The second Hurdle was previously titled Preparation of Growth, with the following targets:

a) Spiritual Growth

Within the past 12 months we have had targeted courses, such as, Freedom in Christ. The uptake has been satisfactory to good, and we feel we are going in the right direction. Our services are usually Spirit led with members of the congregation taking part. The focus on prayer is on the increase and we are currently preparing to host a Worldwide House of Prayer meeting.



b) Financial Growth

The church giving, saw an increase from last year. Maturity in the Christian context is directly proportional to giving, or simply moving away from being self-centred or stingy, to realising we have to give, because Christ gave. We give freely and it is encouraging to see the church giving increase. The financial management of the trust has also improved with a professional accountant now doing our books. This takes away all the risk from the church that financial management carries.

c) Numerical Growth

We are growing and the church seems to be attracting new people week in week out. The goal is to develop a process to ensure that church attendees settle quickly into the church. Without this process, our experience is, they will feel as if they are just a number and will not commit or even return. After attending our church for more than a couple of times, new attendees are usually invited to attend the Foundation course. The aim of the course is to lead the new attendees into being regular attendees and being partners. We have had approximately 20 people take up the Foundation course within the past 12 months.

Although we are still completing the Hurdle 2 phase, the Hurdle 3 phase: Growth, has begun. In spring 2024, we will be planting a new church in Sandbach. It is our hope to establish an AoG church in Sandbach and we are thrilled about the opportunity. As a church we are anticipating 2024 to be a year of growth.

OUR REGULAR EVENTS



TIMES OF REFRESHING

The church has been meeting and seeking the face of the Lord, on the first Tuesday of the month. We feel and sense the need to increase these meetings, but it is a balancing act with the Life Groups meetings, as we are keen for them to flourish. Participation by the attendees at the Times of Refreshing meetings has been wonderful as we are led by the Holy Spirit in prayer.

We recognise that prayer in our church and our personal lives is our lifeline. Without prayer we will not get far – we are on sinking ground, and so, all who call Middlewich Community Church their spiritual home are encouraged to attend.



FOUNDATIONS

Over the year we have seen this course evolve. The main purpose is to introduce MCC, with a focus on:

- Our history
- Our beliefs
- Our Values, Vision, Mission, and DNA
- Our set up
- Our next steps

The process leads the new attendees towards partnership.

DREAMING THE IMPOSSIBLE (DTI) CAMP 2023

This was our second year at the Dreaming the Impossible camp, and it just got better. Along with 3700 other youth, we camped at the Staffordshire Show Grounds for 5 nights from the 29th July – 3rd Aug.

We enjoyed meetings with various preachers, awesome praise & worship, and times where the Holy Spirit really moved among the youth. There were plenty of seminars covering many different topics, as well as lots of activities during the day and after the evening meetings.



OUR REGULAR EVENTS

DTI (2023) CONTINUED



Our youth took part in the football tournament and the obstacle course, along with enjoying the wacky warehouse full of inflatables, bandeeoke, games evening and much more.

On the last night we joined in the Christmas themed silent disco to end off a great week at DTI.

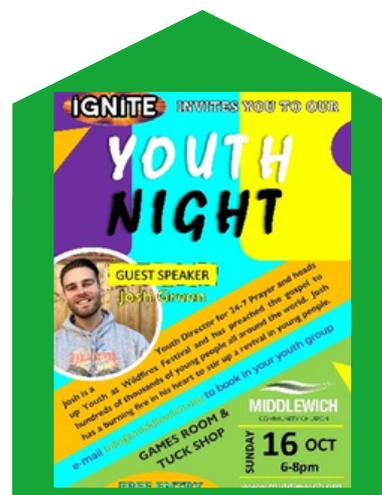
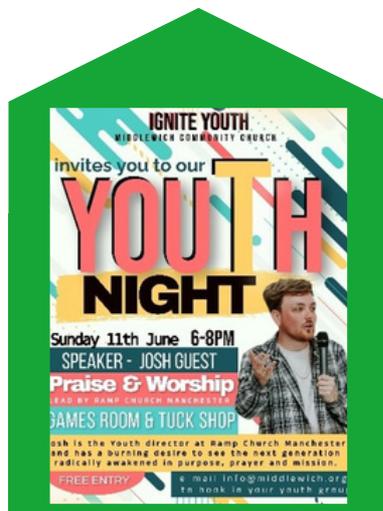
Our youth that attended received an awesome boost to their faith and we can't wait to go back!

YOUTH NIGHT

In October 2022, we launched our very first Youth Night, with guest speaker, Josh Green. Our vision is to not only to ignite the faith in our own youth but to reach other youth and youth groups in our area and provide an evening for all young people to be encouraged in their faith and experience the Holy Spirit.

We've also had visiting youth worship bands to inspire the youth in their praise & worship. In June 2023, we had our second Youth Night, this time with Josh Guest and his church's youth band, and it was another very successful evening.

This was followed by a successful Youth Night on the 24th of September with Zeke Rink, a preacher and organiser from DTI.



OUR REGULAR EVENTS

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MIDDLEWICH



Middlewich has five churches that meet every 3 to 4 months to pray and strategise fellowshiping together. These include St. Michael's (CofE), St. Mary's (RC), United Reformed Church, Middlewich Methodist and ourselves, MCC.

The meetings we have as church leaders, are always friendly, cordial, and the focus is always on Jesus Christ, as we have realised, we have more in common than what differentiates us.

BAPTISM SERVICE



In 2023, we have had two baptism events, where four people were baptised. We are hopeful that in 2024, we will have more people being baptised, as this is one of the indicators of how well, we as a church, are doing. It is Jesus who said, we should go out into the world and make disciples, "baptising" them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Greek word used for baptising, is baptizo. Meaning to immerse or submerge. As such we do not sprinkle babies with water but submerge those who have decided of their own accord to do so.

Our baptism services are done with children and guests in mind and God is glorified.

YOUTH MISSION (GERMANY)



On the 24th August we were privileged to go on a 3 night trip to visit The Elim Church (part of AoG) in Hamburg, Germany, to experience a large church youth group and the German culture. Six of our youth signed up for the adventure and along with three leaders, everyone had a great time!

We enjoyed a worship & prayer evening, Youth Night, church youth small groups and social, as well as sight-seeing. Their Youth Pastor, Jonas, looked after us and made us feel very welcome. It was a great experience for our youth, and we are very thankful for it.

OUR MINISTRIES

PREACHING

PREACH THE WORD; BE PREPARED IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON; CORRECT, REBUKE AND ENCOURAGE—WITH GREAT PATIENCE AND CAREFUL INSTRUCTION. FOR THE TIME WILL COME WHEN PEOPLE WILL NOT PUT UP WITH SOUND DOCTRINE.

TIMOTHY 4:2



The sermons this year have covered a wide variety of themes. Earlier in the year we focussed on topics including partnership with the church and The Holy Spirit, to more recently, a series on the Beatitudes.

This year we have been blessed by a variety of different speakers taking to the lectern some from within our own MCC family, including; Antony, Roy, Amy, Caz, George and more recently Liz Webb, as well as guest speakers including; Dave Hughes, Brian Hewitt and visitors from AoG and its associates. Each person brings their own unique personalities and experiences as they deliver the Word of God to our church.

Our family services are now embedded into the calendar on the first Sunday of the month, as a time for the whole church family to share in Worship and the Word together. This provides the preacher with the added challenge of engaging a vast age range of listeners!

We want to thank all those who have given their time to pray and prepare the sermons that they bring on a Sunday, and we trust that they are not only a blessing to the congregation but they in turn are blessed as they minister.

PASTORAL SUPPORT TEAM

ANTONY, HELEN, JULIA, HAMILTON AND PETRONA

CARE FOR THE FLOCK THAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU. WATCH OVER IT WILLINGLY, NOT GRUDGINGLY—NOT FOR WHAT YOU WILL GET OUT OF IT, BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE EAGER TO SERVE GOD.

1 PETER 5:2-6

It is a privilege to serve on the pastoral team at Middlewich Community Church.

There have been some changes this year. Roy and Sue have stepped down after giving wonderful care and support to many of us at MCC. Now the team consists of Antony, Hamilton, Petrona, Julia and Helen. At MCC we are committed to building relationships and growing stronger together in God. We are passionate about family and reaching people with the love of Jesus. Our desire is to support, encourage and minister to people: we don't want anyone to feel undervalued or overlooked.

Please contact any of the team or Life Group leaders if you need support or help. We value confidentiality and would love to stand with you and pray for you.

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PASSIONATE ABOUT GOD
UPWARDS

PASSIONATE ABOUT LIFE
INWARDS

PASSIONATE ABOUT PEOPLE
OUTWARDS

KIDS AND YOUTH MINISTRY

CAZ THOMPSON-HAYLETT'



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

IGNITE



Ignite meets on Sunday evenings at the church and enjoy various activities and themed evenings such as, dress up competitions, Valentine's bake off, summer bbq, autumn fires & toasting of marshmallows, wacky races, movie nights, the floor is lava, quizzes, pizza decorating, Christmas dinner & karaoke, loads of games and challenges, archery, and so much more... no Sunday is the same!

They've also enjoyed trips to Flip Out, Ninja Warriors and Wildshore. It has been great to see the youth group growing as they have begun to bring along their friends to join in the fun. Every week the youth are given a yummy meal and receive a 'God Talk' to encourage them in their faith.

We have introduced testimony evenings, where our youth leaders share what God has done in their lives. This year we gave all our youth their own Ignite hoodies, which we all love. We have seen many first-time salvation commitments, as well as re-commitments. We appreciate your continued prayers.



All this has been possible thanks to our wonderful team of Youth leaders, Sally, Stefan, Stuart & Sue. We are also very thankful to the parents who help us with our youth trips.

YOUNG LIONS



At the beginning of the Easter holidays, we went to our very first Young Lions Camp, which is a camp that AoG run for young and aspiring leaders. It offers a unique mixture of ministry, teaching, coaching groups & practical challenges, all designed to identify, develop, and assess the next generations of young leaders. This is for those who are aged 15-19 and express an interest.

It was a very intense program that was non-stop, so it really tests your stamina and abilities.

KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRY

KIDS CHURCH

Kids Church have enjoyed a few different series over the past year, where we have learnt about God and His word. In our 'Hey God' series, the kids were able to see that they can talk to God in any way, about anything, anytime, and anywhere.



It's as easy as saying, "Hey God!" They learnt that one way they can pray is by following the acronym PRAY - Praise, Repent, Ask, and YES!

Later we went into the Amazon jungle to watch the Amazonia challenge and take part in some of the challenges ourselves. This series was teaching the kids more about the character of God.

The kids have also learnt that God wants to be our best friend. Just like we spend time with our friends every day, we can spend time with God and grow our friendship with Him. We do that by Getting quiet, Reading His Word, Opening up our hearts to Him, and Worshipping = GROW.

When we do those things, our friendship with God will grow and we'll know how to follow Him! They have made many different crafts throughout our different series, including their own prayer journals.

Each week is full of full of fun-packed stuff, including singing & dancing, crafts, games, multimedia, and juice & biscuits all led by our amazing team of leaders.

Our vision is to help our kids & youth to GROW in the faith, KNOW God more and want to SHOW their faith to others. Our kids, along with the youth, spent the end of last year putting together a Christmas Nativity play for the church and the community.

GLOW PARTY

Last year's Glow Party was lots of fun. Instead of celebrating Halloween we provided an alternative celebration to celebrate Jesus and being a light in this world.

Whilst kids are out trick or treating and wearing scary costumes, we provide a party where kids can still dress up (no scary costumes) and enjoy dancing, games, sweets, activities, crafts, glow in the dark face paint or nail varnish, and a café.

The party is aimed at primary school aged children, but we encourage all our youth to come along and help run the party, so there's something for everyone.

We use this opportunity to show God's love to the children and adults and hand out gospel resources in our goodie bags.



KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRY



YOUTH CHURCH

Youth Church, which takes place on Sunday mornings alongside the main service, is a youth group where they dig deeper into God's word by taking part in a bible study, which includes activities and multimedia.

One of the series they have completed was called 'Sharpening Your Sword', where they learnt key scriptures and how they can use these in their daily lives to build up their faith, especially when times are hard. Currently they are working through a 'Bible Heroes' series, looking at the lives of certain men/women of God in the bible and comparing them to today's superheroes, but also learning we can all be used by God.

I am very grateful to our team of leaders who deliver these bible studies each week.



The children in Kids & Youth Church did an amazing job of performing 'The Christmas Mouse', which is a story about a mouse's journey up the Christmas tree and along the way she discovers what the real meaning of Christmas is. We had actors, singers, puppets, dancers and a stage crew, who all worked very hard to make it a wonderful morning for our church and community to come and enjoy.

Our leaders did an outstanding job of organising everything involved, including activities after the performance for everyone to enjoy. There were crafts, gingerbread men decorating and a Christmas photo booth.

Thank you again to everyone who got involved, it is wonderful to remember that Jesus is the real reason for the season!



FAMILY SERVICE

We have continued to enjoy our monthly family services, which include more kid friendly songs with singing and dancing. Also, 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 & Youth time to prepare for their Christmas nativity play on the 10th of December.



KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRY

MICROTOTS

Microtots continues to be a popular baby & toddler group in our community. We saw a huge growth towards the end of the school year where we sometimes had up to 70 parents & tots visiting us.

Some of these tots have now left to move onto school, but we made sure to send them off in style with a big Summer Party and gave them a certificate, bible, chocolates and prayed over the children moving on.



Our aim is to make parents/carers feel welcome in a safe environment where they can relax and unwind whilst their little ones enjoy a morning of fun.

We do our best to encourage them on their parental journey and show God's love to them. The morning includes lots of toys, activities, baby area, soft play, snack or tea & coffee, craft time and is finished off with singing & dancing.

Over the past year a couple of our young adults and a couple of home educated youth have volunteered their time to help each Wednesday. Sometimes we also have young people from MoCoCo House come and volunteer.

I am also very grateful to Sue & Ken who prepare the crafts each week. These often come with little encouraging verses or scriptures. We love sharing God's love with our community and appreciate all the help we can get.



KIDS AND CARERS

Kids & Carers took place in the February half-term holidays this year. We find that this is the one holiday where not many people go away because of the weather. This is a great opportunity for us to throw an event for our community so we can show them God's love. This year we had a 'under the sea' theme and enjoyed activities, crafts, singing & dancing, prizes, and refreshments.

All the children received goodie bags which included gospel resources as well as a balloon to take home. Our youth volunteered to help, along with some wonderful people from the church and our conference centre team.

This time the local fire brigade also visited us! These events rely on volunteers helping, so if you are interested, please get in touch.



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 & YOUTH AT MCC. PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN.

THESE TIMES WE LIVE IN ARE GETTING HARDER AND HARDER FOR OUR CHILDREN WITH SO MUCH CONFUSION BEING FED INTO THEIR LIVES. WE WANT TO HELP THEM BE CLEAR IN THEIR INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. I FEEL HONOURED TO BE A PART OF THE KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRY AND APPRECIATE EVERYONE'S SUPPORT. CAZ

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WORSHIP, SOUND & I.T. MINISTRY

CHRIS SELLERS

COME, LET US SING FOR JOY TO THE LORD; LET US SHOUT
ALOUD TO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION.
LET US COME BEFORE HIM WITH THANKSGIVING AND EXTOL HIM
WITH MUSIC AND SONG.

PSALMS 95: 1-2



The purpose of the worship & sound team is to encourage and facilitate the glorification of God through worship by the congregation (which includes the worship team members). 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 consider the best worship times to be those where the band goes unnoticed as the congregation become lost in the presence of God, and believe that worship is a form of spiritual warfare.

We have continued to introduce a number of new songs (including kids' songs for use in the family services), whilst retaining some of the more popular traditional songs (in particular those that appear to be more "anointed" when sung at MCC).

Overall, we try to provide a good mix of modern, traditional, and well-known favourite praise and worship songs as the Spirit leads us.

The past year has seen investment in new speakers to improve sound quality for the congregation and TV monitors to provide the same viewing experience from each side of the church for words and notices. This also allows the worship team to be positioned more centrally.

Although not directly related to the worship team, the main room and stage area have benefited from a make-over and now look much smarter.



We have recently had a few new people start coming to practices with us and are looking forward to them serving in our Sunday services.

However, we are always on the lookout for new members (either musicians, singers, or sound people), and have now produced guidelines on what is expected. Please talk to Chris if you feel you have gifts in this area.



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LADIES' MINISTRY

ASA BHUNU

The main events are held twice a year, and we enjoy either breakfast or afternoon tea together. This is followed by an invited inspirational speaker.

Our last event, in March 2023, was an afternoon tea, with Debra Green from Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) being the speaker. Fifty ladies attended this event – a full house!

In November, which is our next event, we are planning to do things a little bit different - we will all go out for a meal at a lovely restaurant! Further details will be provided closer to the time.

The WOW team would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped out for these events to happen.



CHARM IS DECEPTIVE, AND BEAUTY IS FLEETING; BUT A WOMAN WHO FEARS THE LORD IS TO BE PRAISED.

PROVERBS 31:30

COFFEE & CHAT SUE

Coffee and chat didn't really get off the ground this year, but the couple of meetings we had were fun. As the title says, we are a group of ladies of all ages, who come together to chat, share, laugh, cry together and eat cake!

Ladies you are all welcome, come and enjoy each other's company. There are no dates booked as yet due to a full church programme, but don't worry we will be back. God bless you all.



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PASSIONATE ABOUT GOD
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LADIES MINISTRY

CONNECT 50

HELEN

Sue and I have had a challenging and wonderful year leading Connect 50. We average between 15 and 20 ladies. A quarter of those do not attend any church. We've had lots of fun doing craft, cake decorating and games.

Jesus is central in our group. Each month we have a theme where different speakers share their thoughts and testimonies, helping us focus on the Lord and encouraging us in our personal lives.

It's been wonderful seeing friendships formed in a relaxed, safe atmosphere of God's love.

We are very grateful to Sue B and the conference staff for making the room look welcoming and for preparing the drinks and nibbles for us to enjoy.

Thanks also to Ken for all the work he does behind the scenes.



MEN'S MINISTRY

IAIN ANDERSON

It has been a real privilege to be part of the Men's Ministry for the last 12 months. The aim has always been to offer a place where men can get together, enjoy each other's company, and meet new people. It has also been to strengthen, encourage, challenge, and inspire men to be the person God has called them to be.

Over the last 12 months we have had 4 breakfast meetings plus a social night organised by Roy. In the breakfast meetings we have various guest speakers who brought different experiences and messages.



BEHOLD, HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS FOR BROTHERS TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY! IT IS LIKE THE PRECIOUS OIL [OF CONSECRATION] POURED ON THE HEAD,

PSALM 133:1-2

In October 2022 we were blessed to have Iain Dixon. Iain is an out and out Evangelist and he brought that challenge with him. He has an incredible outreach to Muslims, and he encouraged us to look beyond any barriers so that we can love and reach Muslim people.

In February 2023 we were visited by Robert Mountford who shared with us about the prayer movement in Stoke on Trent. He shared that he and other Church Leaders were not happy to accept that their city was considered one of the worst places to live in, and gathered believers to pray. He shared amazing stories of God's answers to prayer and left us the challenge of what will we do for our local area.

In April it was great to have Laurie Bradley share some of his life experiences. Laurie had a very difficult start in life which impacted him greatly. He shared about being part of the Army and then returning home to hearing the voice of God to be a Christian. Laurie's life has been full of adventure from pioneering 2 Churches to serving God abroad in Albania, India and the USA.

In June, Jim Earlam came to speak. Jim had been in the Police Force for 30 years including the Met. He shared about how God had protected him on numerous occasions and guided him through his life. Jim also brought a challenging message about David in the Bible and compared the various stages of David's life to the stages of life that men today go through, and how we can honour and serve God.



FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Going forward we are starting a Freedom in Christ for men on Saturday mornings and look to build upon the breakfast meeting.

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

HOSPITALITY TEAM

SUE

Another busy year providing refreshments after the service. It is a time to chat with friends, encourage each other and meet new people, over a cup of tea and a biscuit or sometimes cake!



There is a rota for setting up, serving and tidying up. Although this task usually falls to the ladies it would be a nice gesture if the menfolk offered their help too.

Special thanks to the existing team of dedicated people who have served so selflessly.

We would encourage you to join the rota. With an increasing congregation we shall need more volunteers. If EVERYONE volunteered 2 or 3 times a year it would be a great help.



WELCOME TEAM

MIKE

It has been another great year and an honour for the welcome team to have the privilege of extending a warm and friendly greeting to all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

It is wonderful to see the congregation growing through our existing members and through new people who have joined us at church.

We have seen the welcome team grow this year too but would also encourage more people to join us on the welcome team, to extend God's love to all who come to MCC.



"DO NOT NEGLECT TO SHOW HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS, FOR THEREBY SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED ANGELS UNAWARES"

HEBREWS 13:2

LIFE GROUP MINISTRY

CHRIS SHEPHERD

EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS.

PETER 1:4-10



Our Life Groups have been an important part of our church life again this year. From September until April 2023, we have had five life groups meeting weekly throughout term time, except for the weeks when a Time of Refreshing meeting was held at church for everyone. Three of the groups continued to meet using Zoom for convenience, but two of them met face to face.

The three groups using Zoom were led by Chris Sellers and Paula on Tuesday evenings, and Faith on Wednesday evenings, whilst those meeting in person were led by Bridget, Helen and Chris Shepherd. The groups either made use of the excellent Bible study resources found on RightNowMedia, or they used their own Bible studies.

Bridget's group have met on Tuesday evenings at Richard's house. This group have enjoyed meeting together, learning and reminding themselves of great truths. Attendance averaged 9-10 people each week. Their studies have included a 'conversational' Bible study through the Book of James, 2 Chronicles 7:14 and a study on The End Times – a pre-tribulation view, the millennium and the second coming of the Lord.

Helen and Chris's group met at Helen's house on Tuesday afternoons. There have been 3 - 5 people who have attended. This group have studied Psalm 23, Psalm 65, Philemon, and Colossians. They have enjoyed the fellowship of meeting together, discussing and sharing experiences as they studied God's Word.

Faith's group were all mature Christians who have engaged in discussions and who have been invested in the group. Different people have led the studies alongside Faith. There have been 6 – 8 people at the meetings. This group has studied Colossians, Psalm 23, and Jenny Allen's 'God's Unbreakable Promises'.

Paula's Group has averaged 6 people. The group has provided a confidential space where people can be themselves to join in discussions and share thoughts and experiences. Amongst their studies was Philippians and a challenging study on Revelations.

Chris's group, which began the year as a group for the Worship team is now open to anyone. Attendance hasn't always been consistent due to changing work and life circumstances. The Group have studied 'Listening to God in a Time of Crisis' by Nicky Gumbel, and a study about prayer.

All Life Group meetings, whether using Zoom or meeting face to face, include times of fellowship, prayer, Bible studies and discussion. Meetings provide opportunities to share experiences and to support and encourage each other. Each group has their own WhatsApp group to enable them to keep in touch throughout the week.

Life Groups stopped this year at the end of April to enable the whole church to take part in The Freedom in Christ Course. They will resume in September.

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LIFE GROUP MINISTRY

CHRIS' TUESDAY NIGHT LIFE GROUP

CHRIS SELLERS

Prior to our hiatus for the Freedom in Christ course, this life group was run by Chris Sellers. It initially started life as a "worship" life group with the aim of possibly combining life group and worship practice into one evening. However, although it still contains several members of the worship team, the group is now a general group open to all.

Whilst the number attending overall has reduced slightly in the last year, the highlight of the year was undoubtedly the arrival of Abigail Reid who was occasionally able to bless the group with her presence and was a real answer to long term prayer within the group. Congratulations to Andy and Heather!

The group has enjoying meeting and fellowshiping 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 still find meeting in this way beneficial. Meetings generally consist of times of fellowship, prayer and video-based bible studies. The most recent topic we have looked at, being a study of prayer produced by the 24-7 prayer organisation, which I would highly recommend.

Our meetings have been 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 groups.



PAULA'S LIFE GROUP

Since our last AGM, our group has continued to meet on Zoom and completed a study on Philippians. We are currently studying Revelation, which is a very enjoyable and challenging study. Our aim is to become more like Jesus, growing together and sharing the love of Christ.

We are a supportive group, who pray for each other and the wider needs of the church and communities.

Thank you to all who have participated, helped with leading the studies and shared your testimonies of encouragement to answered prayer. New people are welcome to attend.

BRIDGET'S LIFE GROUP

We have had a very helpful and blessed time with the group this year. Meetings were attended by 9 or 10 people.

After finalising a study on the book of James, we concluded the year with an End Times study on the pre-tribulation view, millennium and the second coming of the Lord. Sadly, we have lost Nicole who returned to Canada.

We praise God for His help and the close unity that we all enjoyed.

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LIFE GROUP MINISTRY

FAITH'S LIFE GROUP

Our new life group started in September 2022. Six to eight of us meet weekly on a Wednesday night. We have studied the book of Colossians, a study called, God's unbreakable promises and started Psalms which will be continued in September. The Life Group meetings paused at the end of April as the whole church meets on Tuesday evening for Freedom in Christ.

Several in the group continue to lead studies. We are closer now and group members feel safe to share as confidentiality and honouring one another are core values of our life group. We have a great prayer time, communion and testimonies to answered prayer.



HELEN B'S LIFE GROUP

Chris and Helen's daytime Home Group meet Tuesday afternoon in Helen's house.

Although we are small in number, we've really enjoyed meeting together; sharing and praying for each other. It's been great studying a couple of Psalms, Philemon, and Colossians. We've learnt things and had good discussions.

We are looking forward to starting up again in September and to welcoming new people to our group.



HELEN C'S KEEP IN TOUCH GROUP

Keep in Touch is a zoom-based meeting held every Thursday evening 8:00 – 9:00pm.

It is open to any age range, especially those who miss the weekly meetings or those who can't or don't like going out on dark nights, especially in the winter.

The aim of the Group is to share with and encourage each other, chat about day to day matters and experiences, laugh together, and pray for each other.

People can drop in for a while and say hello or stay for the hour.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACHES

ANTONY BHUNU



MIDDLEWICH & DISTRICT FOODBANK MCC SUPPORTS OUR LOCAL FOODBANK.

Middlewich & District Foodbank would like to start by thanking Middlewich Community Church for your donations that have enabled us to purchase fresh produce such as fruit, vegetables, cheese, meat & eggs to add to our food parcels.

We help people in our local community who are in crisis, by providing emergency food parcels to people in food poverty. The charity is part of the Trussell Trust Network and relies on volunteers, members of the public, churches, community groups and retailers across the district to donate their time and food donations to keep the wheels turning on our vital charity. We support the community of Middlewich and people living within a 10-mile radius of the town. Middlewich & District Foodbank are always looking for volunteers to help with the monthly supermarket collections, so if you have the occasional hour free then please get in touch with Nicky, our Project manager, on 07712 279 949.

Once again, a massive thank you as without your help we could not continue the invaluable work we do.



DO NOT NEGLECT TO DO GOOD AND TO SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE, FOR SUCH SACRIFICES ARE PLEASING TO GOD.

HEBREWS 13:16

SUPPORTING THE GOSPEL IN THE UK

MCC SUPPORTS AN AOG MINISTER IN TRAINING

Thank you so much for your sponsorship. It came at a very needful time. I was struggling with my daughter going blind, the responsibility of a church being put upon me, and my husband being diagnosed with cancer. I felt if I was to lead God's church, I needed help and quickly. The church only had eight members after Covid and was struggling. Things got worse; I lost my job, and I lost my house. Then one prayer meeting when I was being verbally attacked for the wrong choice of song, my spirit shouted to God, I'm not meant to be a leader. A prophetic message came, saying that I needed to lift my hands like Moses to win the battle and two of my trusted church members would help me.

That was the turning point. I applied for MIT as advised by my Hub leaders. I did not know how I was going to afford it. There were initial queries about my application which brought back all my doubts but then it turned out even better than I imagined with your sponsorship and a travel bursary. The MIT first year has been brilliant. My coaching group is so supportive and encouraging- I love them all. The training has been inspiring and challenging. I have tried to put into practice what I have been taught. God is building His church; we are now regularly over 20. We also had our first baptism service in 15 years. Six people were baptised. On a personal level my daughter is back in church teaching the Bible study, my husband's operation has resulted in him being cancer free and we now have a smaller but lovely home.



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God is good! Every blessing to you all. Thank you.

PASSIONATE ABOUT GOD
UPWARDS

PASSIONATE ABOUT LIFE
INWARDS

PASSIONATE ABOUT PEOPLE
OUTWARDS

MISSIONS AND OUTREACHES

MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

MCC, SUPPORTS AWARDS IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL.

We aim, through the school, to connect with the community and contribute into the success of the department.

DO NOT WITHHOLD GOOD FROM THOSE TO WHOM IT IS DUE,
WHEN IT IS IN YOUR POWER TO ACT.

PROVERBS 3:27



MIDDLEWICH COMMUNITY BOWLING CLUB SUE GARNETT

Building on our successful 2022 season we held our Annual AGM in January 2023, where we appointed new committee members and made changes to our Constitution to reflect the progress required in the future.

We welcomed 2 new groups of bowlers; Bostock Ladies (Mid Cheshire league) and the local Farmers bowling team, bringing a membership total to 70+.



Our club secretary also entered two new teams in the afternoon Vets Crewe and Nantwich bowling league. Both teams achieving fantastic results in their first season. One team reaching the top of their division and the other team finishing third, also, our treasurer winning the highest average score out of 100+ players.

The year started well, with a new Chairman and new Treasurer being elected. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances the Chairman resigned in June and took time out from bowling for the rest of the season. Thus, one of our challenges is to appoint a new Chairperson and to achieve a quality bowling surface to league standard.

We have created a 5-year plan for the club titled, A Journey of Change. This will encompass our aims, projects, and challenges in the future.

Via our clubs Reach Out programme, we engaged with the local community to raise the profile of our activities, one of which was partnering with Middlewich Voluntary Services, attending their meetings and having a stall at their event.

We managed to set up a stand at the Middlewich Folk and Boat festival, taking a few names and contact details thus organising a social/training afternoon with refreshments and it was enjoyed by all. Hopefully we will try to arrange it again when the new season begins April 2024.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACHES

MIDDLEWICH COMMUNITY BOWLING CLUB continued

One of our challenges was to provide funding for some of our projects, we applied and were successful in receiving funding from the following organisations: - Middlewich Town Council, British Crown Green Bowling Association, and Middlewich Vision. The monies received will be used for:

- Upgrading our outside toilet to a fully accessible toilet facility.
- Purchase of a mobile irrigation system
- Purchase of a spiking machine
- Upgrade our bowling green Floodlights to LED lights.

Work has progressed on the toilet facilities with a lot of hard work being carried out including repanelling, new Marley tile floor fitted, accessible toilet, new sink with grab handles and locks to be fitted asap.

Working with Pastor Antony our close partnership with the Church continues. A fun afternoon with the Church was very successful, the Church providing a lovely buffet and the weather was kind to us. Many thanks to Pastor Antony and all his staff.

A painting programme to repaint all the fences around the green and building, was agreed in conjunction with Pastor Antony, the new paintwork being the Church's corporate colours.

Many thanks to our hard-working Friday gang (average age 75), who continue with their good work and without them we couldn't maintain the premises to such a high standard.

Our next task is setting up a website, which we aim to have completed by the end of March, this will hopefully attract new members. Like most clubs finding and retaining members is challenging and we have now made steps towards an on-line presence by creating a website for the bowling club.



DO NOT WITHHOLD GOOD FROM THOSE TO WHOM IT IS DUE,
WHEN IT IS IN YOUR POWER TO ACT.

PROVERBS 3:27

Our number 1 challenge is maintaining the bowling green to a high standard but unfortunately the weather is always the controlling factor in addition to the ever-increasing cost of fertilisers etc.

We remain optimistic for 2024 and hope to attract new members.

As part of our community spirit, we collected on behalf of the Mid Cheshire Bowling league and this year's donation was for Downs Syndrome Society.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACHES

THE LIGHTHOUSE CENTRE (TLC) CREWE

The Lighthouse Centre has continued to provide community outreach for the people in the community for the past twelve months.

We have continued to collect food from various supermarkets which include Waitrose, Tesco, Greggs, KFC, Nando's, on different days of the week. The church minibus is used to make these collections daily and the food items are stored onsite and prepared for Tuesdays and Thursdays. We also pull together food parcels for those who turn up in the week.



THE GENEROUS WILL THEMSELVES BE BLESSED,
FOR THEY SHARE THEIR FOOD WITH THE POOR.

PROVERBS 22:9

On Wednesdays, 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 share the gospel and deliver bible study after the lunch time session. On average 20 people attend per week, which amounts to 1,040 people per annum.

On Thursday evenings dinners are prepared again for those in the community, who receive two courses. The first course is from Greggs which is collected on a Wednesday evening and the main course is prepared from chicken from Nando's.

We have on average 22 people attending each week, which amounts to 1,144 people per annum. We have several volunteers who give of their time every week to not only prepare the food, but also serve. A message is always prepared to share with those who attend on a Thursday and is greatly received.

Therefore, we have in total 2,184 people who attend the sessions each year. Food parcels are delivered every Thursday to several families who are in need. 30, This year we have supported the youth by attending National Youth Retreat and taking them to gospel open air events, to not only create inclusion, but also to encourage their engagement with other youth who are new to the Crewe area.



The cost of the minibus lease has increased to £432.00 per month, which increased from July 2022. The minibus has been used to transport attendees to conventions in Newport and facilitated the transport of equipment for our annual Valley Park Festival, which is next to the Flag Lane Baths, which is a project linked to The Lighthouse Centre and Always Ahead Charity.

We have developed a good relationship with UCB, who have utilised the minibus when they had students over from abroad for a few days. We are looking at ways that we can increase the use of the vehicle, which will service not just the ministries in church at The Lighthouse, but also the community. At present we are looking at arranging trips with a few of the men who attend the Wednesday and Thursdays, as a way of befriending and being Christ's hand extended, bringing light to many who sit in darkness.

We at The Lighthouse Centre have greatly appreciated the financial support we have received to fund the lease of the minibus and it has proven to be an invaluable asset to us. We hope and pray that this investment into our church ministry may continue by God's grace.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACHES

KASUPE

DAVE & SALLY CHILAKALAKA

This has been an exciting year for Kasupe as the building work on the Nursery school is nearing completion. This is a purpose-built nursery for over 190 children, giving them access to valuable early years education.

This will be completed very soon, and students will be able to move in by the end of 2023!

Our feeding programme continues, made possible by our regular donors. It costs £5 to feed a child for a month, meaning that a nutritious meal is provided during the school day

Other projects including our bee project and gardens, continue to be fruitful, and provide produce to sell at market, as well as extra nutrition for the meals.



We thank our family and friends at MCC for their continued support which makes all of this possible.

"DO NOT NEGLECT TO SHOW HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS, FOR THEREBY SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED ANGELS UNAWARES"

HEBREWS 13:2

SOUTH AFRICA

NICK & DAISY MURIRO - YOUTH WITH A MISSION (YWAM)

2023 was another exciting year of life and ministry. Our ministry took us to Uganda twice, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. In this season, our ministry is primarily teaching and training other missionaries. We are passionate about it because some of those missionaries then take the gospel to places, we may never be able to go ourselves.

One of Nick's leadership responsibilities is overseeing YWAM's bible training programs on the continent of Africa. They meet every two years to pray, dream, and strategize about reaching Africa with the gospel.

Our team from Uganda has a vision of reaching all the 900 islands of Lake Victoria with the gospel through bible distribution, teaching, and evangelism. So far, they have gone to 80 islands and have distributed 8,460 bibles. Our team from South Africa joined them on 3 of these islands.



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PASSIONATE ABOUT GOD
UPWARDS

PASSIONATE ABOUT LIFE
INWARDS

PASSIONATE ABOUT PEOPLE
OUTWARDS

MISSIONS AND OUTREACHES

SOUTH AFRICA continued

Our team shared a story of a pastor they met on one of these islands. He had no bible. He would borrow a bible from a congregant to prepare his Sunday sermon and then he would return it after church on Sunday, only to borrow it again to prepare for the next Sunday. They gave him a bible in his own language, and he jumped up and down and would not stop celebrating.



IF ANYONE HAS MATERIAL POSSESSIONS AND SEES A BROTHER OR SISTER IN NEED BUT HAS NO PITY ON THEM, HOW CAN THE LOVE OF GOD BE IN THAT PERSON?

1 JOHN 3:17



For years I have not been able to teach or minister in Europe because of visa constraints. This year I was able to go and teach in Amsterdam and will be going again this coming year.

For the past 3 and half years, Nick has juggled ministry responsibilities and studies. Two weeks ago, he graduated with a Masters degree in Christian Spiritual Formation and Discipleship. These studies have helped him immensely in his ministry of discipleship and teaching.

Challenges:

- Our training programs throughout Africa, particularly in South Africa continue to face challenges with getting visas for our students as borders thicken. This has negatively affected student numbers.
- We have struggled to maintain a balance between ministry and family this year. As it has been a busy year of ministry and school for the children. With the year coming to an end, we are feeling quite tired and looking forward to things closing down and having some time to rest.
- Financial support is an ongoing challenge, but we are thankful for what we have been able to do and the places we have visited this year. My family and I are incredibly grateful for the support that we receive from MCC.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACHES

MALAWI

BISHOP MOSES - CHRISTIAN FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

The boards alongside the Church of Christian Faith Community Church in Malawi, do hereby express sincere thanks and gratitude to MCC and the entire leadership, for a fruitful and well progressing ministry partnership so far held between us.

This is a brief report on the department's performance over the previous 12 months through our partnership. It includes some of the challenges, successes, on-going pressures, and future prayer needs/plans.



CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEEDS OF THE SAINTS; EXTEND HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS.

ROMANS 12:13

MANGOCHI MINISTRY UNDER PASTOR BOSTON JOSEPH

- 14 members in the church ministry are being disciplined.
- 18 members of the community are in the Fellowship ministry.
- 26 poorest and neediest persons have been reached out with physical, spiritual and psychological support.
- Pastor's house building project is not at a roofing level.

NKHOTAKOTA MINISTRY UNDER PASTOR PRINCE POFERA

- 113 members of the church are being disciplined by Pastor Prince Pofera at Nkhunga.
- A new church has been started and 18 church members are being disciplined at Ngala branch by Agness Mhone.
- Another new church has been started and 28 members at Chidebwe branch are being disciplined by Stella Banda.



PASTORS SUPPORT

- 2 local pastors are being supported monthly with 50 USD each to supplement their daily budgets and needs.

SOME CHALLENGES AND ON-GOING PRESSURES

- Lack of resources to support the poorest and neediest persons in Mangochi.
- Cholera pandemics along lakeshore districts which also affected growth of churches.
- Lack of proper place for local church meetings at both Ngala and Chidebwe new church centres in Nkhotakota.

PRAYERS FOR FUTURE PLANS

- A continued supply of God's resources for the support of the neediest and poorest persons in Mangochi.
- Ability to source out funds to buy pieces of land where meeting shelters can be temporarily erected at Ngala and Chidebwe churches in Nkhotakota.
- Extension of Nkhunga church where Prince is overseeing.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACHES

SUNFLOWER TRUST

CREWE OUTREACH

We partner with the Lighthouse Centre and Crewe City Evangelism team on Thursdays, giving out leaflets and speaking to the homeless. In the four weeks of October 2023, we have seen four people make their commitment for Christ and two have received sponsored homeless accommodation.



In the four weeks of October 2023, we have seen four people make their commitment for Christ and two have received sponsored homeless accommodation.

ALL THEY ASKED WAS THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THE POOR, THE VERY THING I HAD BEEN EAGER TO DO ALL ALONG.
GALATIANS 2:10

HUNGARY

PASTOR DANI & KATI

After the hurricane in Autumn 2023, property and church storage were ruined. MCC are funding a new store house which will be a well useable space for mums and children to meet and to teach bible classes on Sundays. in Nyirbeltek.

Sunflower Trust in partnership with MCC will be sending shoeboxes with Christmas presents for children to needy communities in Hungary.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACHES

SUNFLOWER TRUST continued HUNGARY

CAZ THOMPSON-HAYLETT'

In the Easter holidays, Melanie (The Sunflower Trust Director), my daughter (Shannon), myself and one of Melanie's young people interested in missions, were able to go on a mission trip for 7 days to scout what our youth group will get involved in when we take them in 2024.

We travelled all over Hungary to explore the options we have in missions that are already established in the country. We met many amazing men and women of God that are supported by The Sunflower Trust.



AND DO NOT FORGET TO DO GOOD AND SHARE WITH OTHERS, FOR WITH SUCH SACRIFICES GOD IS PLEASED

HEBREWS 13:16

We also experienced home churches, saw the underprivileged and were able to help one of the families struggling. We are excited to begin planning our Ignite mission trip to Hungary and feel this will be an experience of a lifetime for our youth.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACHES

SUNFLOWER TRUST KENYA

The Sunflower Trust is supporting three pastors and 37 children. As a result of this support, Pastor Stephen Lukeele based in Samburu, was gifted with a motorbike. This has led to five churches being planted, which he now oversees.



In Kakamega, Evangelist Stephen Mutuli, as a result of our support, has been able to rent three mud huts and he looks after twelve orphans. Our monthly contribution, enables him to buy food for the children and also pay for school fees.

Finally, we support Pastor Joseph Lumumba, who has a ministry for people living with HIV in the HIV ghetto region of Kisumu. We fund 20 children in this needy part of the world with food, medication and educational fees.

The majority of the children's mothers were raped and contracted HIV, some of the mothers sadly died within two or three years of contracting the disease. Others, finding themselves pregnant at the age of 15 or 16, abandoned their children, facing no chance of supporting them due to lack of food, shelter and financial support.



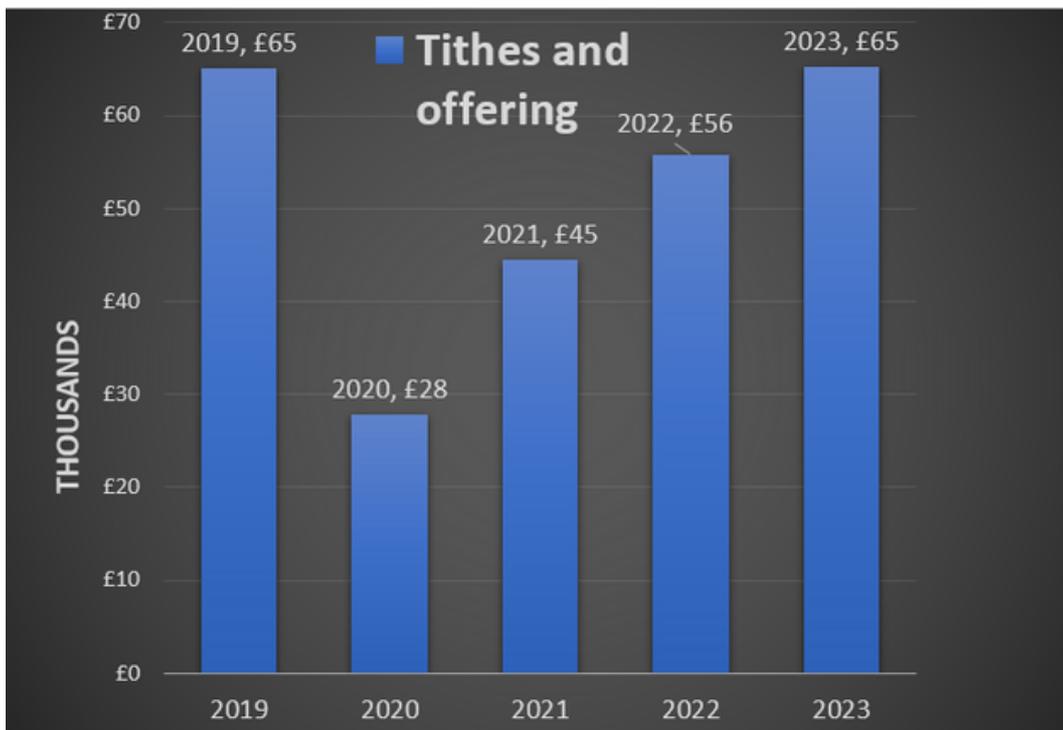
FINANCIAL REPORT



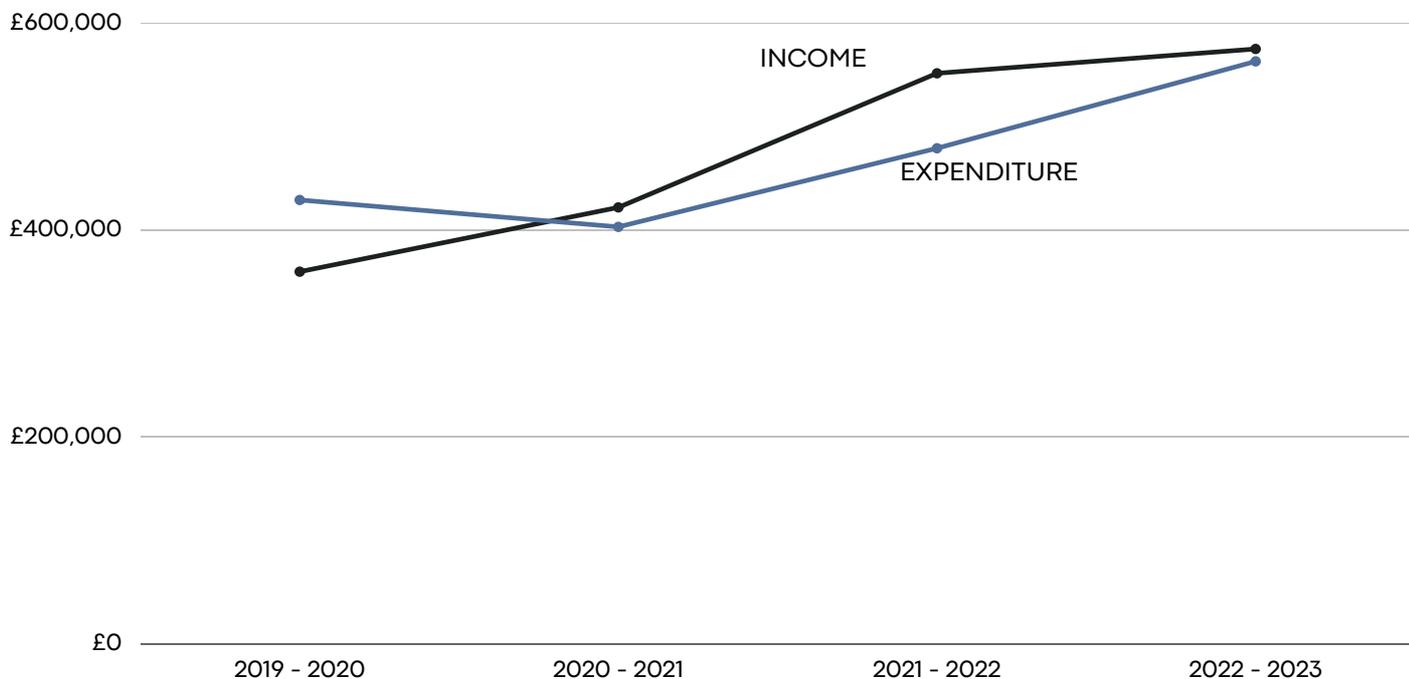
HONOR THE LORD WITH YOUR WEALTH
AND WITH THE FIRST FRUITS OF ALL YOUR CROPS (INCOME);

PROVERBS 3:9

- As required by law, an external independent financial audit was undertaken in July 2023, resulting in the signing off the 2022 – 23 Year End accounts.
- One of our core values is - ‘Stewardship’ serving the Lord is our privilege and ‘Generosity being our norm’,
- Thank you for your faithfulness in giving, whether it has been for your time, your tithe, your skill – it is unto and for the Lord.



FINANCIAL REPORT



EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S COMMENTS

The financial position of the church at 31st March 2023 was as follows:

General funds £203,669 (2022:£190,310)

Fixed asset reserve £376,520 (2022 £376,876)

Investments £2,518,516 (2022 £2,518,516)

A surplus of £12,463 (2022:£72,592) was generated in the year.

On 11 April 2022 a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation (number 1199612) was formed. The CIO took over the activities of the church on 1st September 2023, the original charity will be dissolved within the next 12 months..

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PASSIONATE ABOUT GOD
UPWARDS

PASSIONATE ABOUT LIFE
INWARDS

PASSIONATE ABOUT PEOPLE
OUTWARDS