



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STEPHEN DERBYSHIRE

CITY GATES ACADEMY

I am writing this after just returning from visiting City Gates Academy in the Philippines. For those who have recently begun attending City Gates you may be unaware that approximately 17 years ago the then leadership had a vision and desire to build a high-quality school in one of the poorest squatter districts in Manila (Antipolo). The land was purchased, and the school built and since then an additional building has been added to the campus along with the installation of a multi-use facility. Earlier this year a shaded cover for parents, was built, again for multi-use. The finance for this was raised in memory of Charmaine Broome, the late wife of Elder Mike Broome and a Core Team member of City Women. A plaque has also been erected in her memory.

City Gates members have financially supported the school over this time through individual or joint sponsorship as well as through generous gifts. From time-to-time special offerings have been taken to support the many social projects the school has been involved in within Antipolo thus improving the lives of many within the community.

I was the first person to visit the school since the pandemic. International travel resumed a few months ago although restrictions are still in place. I was desperate to see Pastor Glenn Isaguirre, the project leader along with his wife Nadette. Also, Lynette Orange, an Elim missionary and Head-teacher of the Academy as well as the teachers, staff and helpers of the Academy because I have missed them very much.

Glen arranged a mini reunion of students who had graduated in 2006. I was both amazed and deeply blessed to hear the stories of these students, many of whom, if not all, are now doing extremely well in their careers.

After establishing the Academy, a church was also planted on the premises and is now thriving within the community. The Pastor Salmond is himself a former student and many other former student are serving in ministries.

I would like to thank those who have given consistently since the establishment of the Academy. Your faithfulness has been richly rewarded in the progress made over many years.

I would also like to ask others if you would consider sowing into this good soil. Without consistent giving these children and young people may not have the opportunity of a first-class education or to hear the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you.

TEEN CHALLENGE

Over the last couple of years Javier and the Trustees have been concerned on two fronts; one that Teen challenge London has outgrown its present facilities, Wilkerson House and two, that the location of Wilkerson house isn't conducive for the clients.

After a few years of negotiation with the Lind Trust a door opened for the Charity to lease Drayton Hall, a superb facility, set in its own grounds in Norwich. Following a visit to our present site in Ilford, Lind Trustees were so impressed with the work of Teen Challenge they decided to donate the freehold of the property with fixtures and fittings included. This is an extremely generous gesture considering that Drayton Hall is worth a considerable amount of money. I am extremely grateful to the Trustees of the Lind Trust for making this bold and generous decision in favour of Teen Challenge, London. The legalities are almost complete, when contracts will be exchanged and, hopefully, Teen Challenge will be relocating later this year. The present facility, including the re-use centre will be retained for use by the clients on Phase Four of the programme as well as for the Re Use Centre.

CITY GATES CHURCH

We are delighted that new people joined City Gates in 2021, the majority after making contact through our online Sunday services. It has been encouraging to see many now settled into small groups and serving in the church. We are almost reaching pre pandemic levels of attendance and financial giving has remained high with many now used to giving online etc. Society is certainly heading towards being cash free and it's important that giving doesn't get reduced in any way. If you would like to know how to give online, please visit our website or contact the office who will be happy to help by answering any questions you may have regarding online giving. However, you are still able to continue giving by cash or cheques in the Sunday offerings.

The departmental reports are very encouraging. As Lead Pastor of City Gates, the unity of the staff is a huge blessing to me. There is a tangible “can do” attitude along with a belief that great things can be achieved through City Gates for the gospel of Christ and the glory of God. We believe the Lord has planted us in an amazing location with many residential homes now being built around us. We are praying “here we are, send us Lord.”

I would like to put on record my appreciation for Pastor Daniel Shillingford who was a rock throughout the pandemic. We miss Daniel, Sarah and their girls, as do many of you but we know that he’s been courageous in following his heart to minister to broken young people in East London. Daniel is also assisting Pastor Glenn Podd at the Elim Church, in Romford.

Stewart Lee took over from Daniel to develop the Connect Group structure. I have always been convinced that it is imperative our groups need to continue to increase not only numerically but also in areas where a significant numbers of our members live. Following lock-down when we had many joining our live stream, now we are meeting in person they are requesting to join a group. We need more leaders and homes that can host a group and practice hospitality. Hopefully by this time next year there will be a significant numbers of new groups established. Thanks go to Stewart for doing an excellent job in this important ministry. My thanks also to the regional leaders, small group leaders and all hosts. We could never disciple people and take care of the church without you. Your work is invaluable, and your service is most certainly not in vain.

Finally, the encounter meetings and three days of prayer and fasting are more decisive than we will never fully comprehend. These are significant times when I hear the voice of God more clearly than at any other time in the life of the church. I’m praying that every partner and those who consider City Gates their home would make these times a priority in their calendar.

I mentioned earlier about our local community expanding through the building of many homes around the church. As believers in Christ, we have a burden for this community where God has placed us. I am thankful for those within City Gates who gather for prayer not for what they can get out of it but because they want to carry the load and shoulder the load of Church life in reaching our community through prayer.

In conclusion, I would like to thank each and every Elder, Ministry Leader and Worker, and Staff members of City Gates who make everything we do possible. It is my absolute privilege to be your Pastor and Senior leader of this amazing church.

Thank you all who give generously in time and finances; your generosity and sacrifice never ceases to humble and challenge me. Your love for the Lord and His people is plainly evident. Thank you, also, to everyone who considers Sunday worship services important as you encourage me to “keep on keeping on”. I am blessed by your commitment.

Let’s keep enlarging our tent and growing in our knowledge of Christ as we endeavour to make him known to this lost and confused world around us.

Pastor Stephen Derbyshire

Lead Pastor

OPERATIONS

2021 continued with challenges of the pandemic which required maintaining systems from the previous year. Some activities such as the Food Programme were also extended.

As restrictions became more and more eased, we focused on activities that could bring people together such as the Boat Party and Summerfest. Both events were very successful and provided again the opportunity to fellowship together.

Core responsibilities of the Operations Directors remained mainly the office management, Human Resource management as well as supporting Sunday ministries leaders.

Our administration team has changed as Deborah Francis moved on to start a different career.

The Admin team in 2021:

Kanta Wilson: Finance Officer

Derek Wilson: Facilities Manager

Leila Lindsay: Graphic Designer

Michele Ngabonziza: Operations Director

As usual, the aim of the Administration team is to provide support to the ministry staff and Pastoral team so that they can be released to focus on the work God has called them to accomplish.

Supporting Sunday ministries is an integral part of my role. The success of Sunday services is attributed to the excellent teams that serve faithfully and selflessly to ensure that City Gates Members and guests have a great worship experience.

Hospitality Ministry: led by Nike Adenegan

Housekeeping Ministry: led by Audrey Thomas Surge

Usher Ministry: led Katia McKoy & Barbara Thompson

Host Team: led by Debby Brady & Emelia Amenu

Next Steps team (Info Desk): led by Yvonne Lamothe

I would like to appreciate the admin team and ministries leaders; Housekeeping, Host, Ushers, Next Steps, Hospitality for their commitment and excellent work throughout 2021. I am thankful for you all.

Michele Ngabonziza

Operations Director

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUMMARY

City Gates Kids (CGK) is the children's ministry here at City Gates. This is a place where children can build a strong relationship with Jesus and their peers in a safe environment. We believe that discipleship starts at home and our mission is to partner alongside parents to make Jesus known to children! We have a seamless structure for children aged 2 years old through to 11 years old (when they move to City Gates Youth).

Each class has a basic structure of worship, Bible stories and prayer with a mixture of games, arts and crafts, discussions, and movie clips. These classes are available every Sunday during both morning services and are staffed by committed Christian volunteers who are all DBS checked. Our aim is to help every child discover their God given potential.

SEND MINISTRY

In 2019, we established our own SEND Ministry for children with additional needs.

This ministry exists to support special needs children in all aspects of their spiritual growth, including learning Biblical truths, fellowship and identifying their giftings.

They provide the following:

- 1 to 1 and small group sessions
- Visual aids and multi-sensory resources to facilitate learning
- Training for teachers and parents in the church to provide a better understanding of the needs of children and young people with additional needs.

2021 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Relaunching Kids Church (April) -

After an unprecedented 18 months, we officially re-opened kids church in April 2021.

We began with limited numbers and operated in 'bubbles' to ensure both team and children kept safe. After 5 months of limited numbers, whilst following Government guidelines, we safely re-opened with no limit on numbers.

Re-opening the SEND Ministry -

The SEND team worked extremely hard to support all families with children with additional needs. They officially reopened their three classes – Moses Solomon's & David's group in August 2021. We have seen a great need for SEND Ministry within our church community and we are in the lookout for more volunteers!

Transition to youth church (August – September) -

Both Pastor Ore & I work closely to ensure any child moving up to youth church and secondary school feels supported! We held a graduation ceremony for all the young people starting Secondary School. Each child was presented with a gift, some useful resources and met their new youth leaders. The main Church joined us in prayer for the young people too!

Online Oxygen Training (October) –

LIMITLESS OXYGEN regional training day coordinated by the Limitless Kids/Youth team. This year's conference was held in-person, these days are designed for the whole youth and children's ministry team to gather for fresh input at the start of the new academic year.

CGK Light Party (November) –

We hosted an alternate Halloween party (Light Party) called FEAR-LESS!

CGK Christmas Party (December) –

We hosted our Christmas party with the kids, in-person! The theme was Winter Wonderland and every child went home with a gift!

UPCOMING TRAINING / CONFERENCES (2021)

City Gates Kids Team Enrichment Day

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Training

Two Bespoke Safeguarding Training (July & November)

Limitless Leaders (January)

Elim Leader's Summit (ELS) (May)

Belong - SEND Conference (Coventry Elim)

Limitless Oxygen – Children's/Youth Worker Training Day (October)

PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR (2022)

Join A Team Day - Volunteer Recruitment (January)

Annual Bespoke Safeguarding Training (September)

Easter Kids Event/Outreach (April)

Ashburnham (May)

Summer Holiday Club (August)

Graduation to City Gates Youth (September)

Light Party (November)

Christmas Party (December)

GIRL TALK CONFERENCE

Girl Talk is City Gates' annual girls only youth conference for ages 11-17. This event is an opportunity for teenage girls to know their worth, receive wisdom and prayers from older women in Christ and have amazing fellowship.

This year we celebrated our 20th Birthday and to top it off, it was our first in-person conference after a National Lockdown. We were joined by around 250 girls from across the UK. The theme was Honour & Legacy.

The conference was a jam-packed day filled with great speakers including Tanya Chand, as well as break-out sessions for both young people and their youth leaders.

We praise God for the 30 girls that asked Jesus into their hearts. Every girl who attended left feeling well fed, impacted and encouraged. Next years conference is Saturday 5th November 2022.

Siobhan Cunningham-Rapley

Children's Ministry Leader

CITY GATES CONFERENCE CENTRE

The conference centre stopped accepting bookings in March of 2020 due to the pandemic. In anticipation of reopening, we are rebuilding the website and reviewing the prices. Our conference directory subscriptions were cancelled. The marketing and promotion will restart to build awareness of the venue and make people aware that we will be reopening.

As soon as the decision is made to reopen, we will commence with an aggressive marketing campaign via social media, email, and where appropriate snail mail. An email will be sent to clients who have events on hold and our primary marketing strategy will be to secure big auditorium conferences, worship events and expos.

Romord Lindsay

Conference Centre Manager

CITY WOMEN & PASTORAL CARE

CG PASTORAL CARE COVERED BY:

CONNECT GROUP LEADERS:

OTHER FACILITATING GROUPS:

CGCREATIVE	Joseph Perry
CGKIDS	Siobhan Cunningham-Rapley
CGYOUTH	Ore Adeyemo
CGYOUNG ADULTS	Joseph Perry
CG COUNSELLING	Professional Counselling Ministry

CG PASTORAL CARE TEAM OVERSEES:

HOSPITAL VISITS
HOUSEBOUND VISITS

CITY GATES OFFERS PRAYER SUPPORT VIA:

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM AT SUNDAY SERVICES
CITY WOMEN PRAYER MINISTRY – REQUESTS VIA CORE EVENTS/the office
PASTORS AND ELDERS cover urgent/crisis needs.
INTERCESSORS MINISTRY – REQUESTS VIA CHURCH OFFICE

Intercessors Ministry 2021

This ministry continued throughout the year via WhatsApp overseen by Yvonne Howard, Havil Lee and Cathy Edwards. Prayer was made on behalf of the sick, long-term sick, the Government, the Nations, and the Church. New referrals and updates were regularly shared.

Sincere thanks go to all those involved in Pastoral Care Ministry and Prayer ministry. Your unwavering, faithful ministry is very much valued and appreciated. God bless you all.

Prime Time hosted the following meetings:

JANUARY:	Online Guest event with Bobbie Tinnion
MARCH:	Online Guest event with Valerie Perry
MAY:	Online Guest event with Helen Kunda
JULY:	In house Summer Buffet

SEPTEMBER:	In house afternoon tea event with Pastor Daniel Singleton
OCTOBER:	In house meeting with Guest Ian McDowall
DECEMBER:	Christmas lunch – cancelled

Sincere thanks to all who serve the older people of our Church in many and varied ways; our Guest Speakers, Worship Leaders and all those who serve practically. God bless each and every one - your ministry is so valued and appreciated. Thank you.

CITY WOMEN:

Core Team: Velveta Thompson, Deborah Baidoo, Laura Parker & Jennifer Small.

City Women 2021 Events:

FEBRUARY:	Online Guest event with Pastor Shirene Agbelusi
MAY:	Inhouse/online Well Being Matters event with Dr Sarah Shillingford & Laura Josiah
JUNE:	City Women Royal Dock Riverside Walk – led by Julie Cordice
JULY:	Inhouse Guest Event with Ruth Ann Cannings
AUGUST:	Afternoon teas hosted in support of Elim Missions Be Free
SEPTEMBER:	In house Guest Event with Anoushca McEwen
NOVEMBER:	In house Guest Event with Donna Akodu

Sadly our planned October CW weekend away was cancelled due to ongoing Covid issues.

CW Expressions: Continued online and/or in person where possible

Mentoring Project	Helen Owusu	Single Parenting	Esther Thompson
Ministry Prayer Cover	Patricia Olagunju	Partners Prayer	Julie Cordice
Flourish	Deborah Baidoo	Walk and Talk	Yvonne Lamothe
Alabaster	Anthonia Obi	Girl Talk	Siobhan Cunningham-Rapley

My sincere thanks go to the Core Team and Expression leaders for their faithful ministry throughout the year. Your faithfulness, commitment, and passion to serve never ceases to amaze and humble me.

Philemon 4 - I am always thankful to my God as I remember you in prayer

Julia Derbyshire
City Women / Pastoral Care

CONNECT GROUPS

During 2021 many Connect Groups began to meet in person once lockdown restrictions had been lifted. For some this has been a difficult process as some members prefer to stay away due to health concerns. As a result many of our groups have been innovative in creating ways to connect. Whilst some groups meet in person, others meet online only and others choose a mix, opting to meet online regularly and in person occasionally.

With such a lack of physical contact, the 2022 plan for Connect Groups sees a great opportunity to reconnect as people's confidence returns. We are actively encouraging physical meetings whilst remaining sensitive to the needs of those who prefer not to. The main prerogative is to accommodate the needs of our group members as far as is feasibly possible.

3 key objectives for 2022:

- Create opportunity for a synchronised selection of Bible study material
- Create a deeper sense of fellowship between Connect Groups in the same region
- Create a sense of belonging, where Connect Groups feel they are a key part of City Gates Church and where the leaders feel supported by the Church.

In order to achieve these aims several initiatives are planned:

- Synchronised Bible studies are planned to occur twice in the year, over the period of 2-3 weeks, where all groups study the same material, which ideally will link in to what is preached during Sunday services.
- The regional team is to create an online archive of Bible study material which Connect group leaders can access for use within their groups, if needed.
- Challenge Connect: A fellowship opportunity between Connect Groups.
- The Great Big Small Group: The first annual fellowship for all Connect Group members and leaders.

Stewart Lee

Connect Groups

FACILITIES & SECURITY

Overseeing the safety and maintenance of City Gates Church ensuring that the building is compliance with all applicable regulation. Recommending and coordinating improvements to the building as needed to ensure a safe, functional, and appealing space

In addition, the department is accountable for services supervising maintenance and repairs of facilities and equipment as well as overseeing plant equipment upgrade. This will ensure that the building remains maintained to a high standard for all our visitors to experience (ongoing)

We strive to ensure that there is always one member of the team that holds Security Industry Authority (SIA) accreditation. A team structure has been put in place so that teams position themselves correctly throughout the building, covering the front and back doors, the auditorium and the stairs. Safety team members have access to earpieces allowing them to be able to communicate with other team members swiftly in the event of any emergency. (ongoing)

As part of the planned preventive maintenance is to ensure that the building undergoes the inspection of all electrical system by a licensed electrician every 3 to 5 years and assign corrective actions to resolve any issues, by delegating to the appropriate personnel and setting the severity and due date.

- Regular or periodic inspections of the building i.e preventive measures that require to upkeep the look and condition of the building.
- PAT testing of appliances to safeguard against damage and to make certain that these items perform properly. PAT testing law requires that all landlords, employers and even self-employed individuals make sure that their portable electrical appliances are safe and are suitable and used for the purposes intended.
- Electrical system replacing any damaged wires or burnt-out bulbs
- Inspecting the plumbing system fixing any leaks and blockages, and ensuring that all sinks, toilets and showers are working properly
- HVAC system ensure that the filters are replace when required and to make sure that the heating and cooling works properly and ensuring the normal temperature is comfortable.
- Maintaining a safe environment with proper lighting, signage and disability access
- Overseeing security, fire prevention, and other safety systems

Building Disaster Plans

What are the deferent scenarios that we should be looking at fire, bomb threat, loss of electrical power and server weather. To protect yourself and others, you should familiarize yourself with a safety plan before any danger or issue that might arise. This will need to be discussed with the church leaders.

That includes:

- A thorough knowledge of the proper safety rules to be followed
- Selections and designation of the best shelter we have
- A reliable method of receiving information
- Drills to test and practice the plan
- Emergency backpack
- Lock down what should we do if a major incident happened outside of the church building?

Energy saving

What should we do as a church in reducing our energy cost and usage

- Energy efficient light bulbs LED install where possible
- Make use of natural lighting
- Don't rely on artificial light when it's bright outside
- Turn switches off on all computers and other equipment that isn't being used
- Introduce traffic-light system a red sticker means don't turn off, an amber sticker means only authorised people can switch off, and green means anyone can

In addition, safety is imperative for all those that enter or work within the building and would like to see at least 3 or 5 safety team members become SIA trained this will help in any scenarios or problems within the church.

Derek Wilson

Facilities & Security Manager

FINANCE

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Financial Report has been prepared in line with standard accounting practice using the categories that Elim Headquarters have recommended. The accounts summary is for the period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021, the same financial year used by all local Elim Churches.

There are a number of variations this year as it includes the Lockdown period, where the building was initially closed, and then, once we were permitted opened to members. In order to open there were numerous deep cleans required as well as hand sanitisers provided around the building, screens and various other safety measures.

In producing the accounts and extracting the summary, we have consistently applied the Local Church Accounting Scheme (LCAS), which is the system wherein Elim Headquarters supervise our accounts under the supervision of Andy Sandford (Elim Local Accounts Manager). He oversees all local church accounts. As part of the larger Elim Charity, we also have to provide a full audit trail for all income and expenditure.

The church's accounts, together with all the church's financial practices and procedure, comply with charity law and accounting standards. City Gates Church is part of the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance, a registered charity (registration number 251549). For full details, please visit www.elim.org.uk.

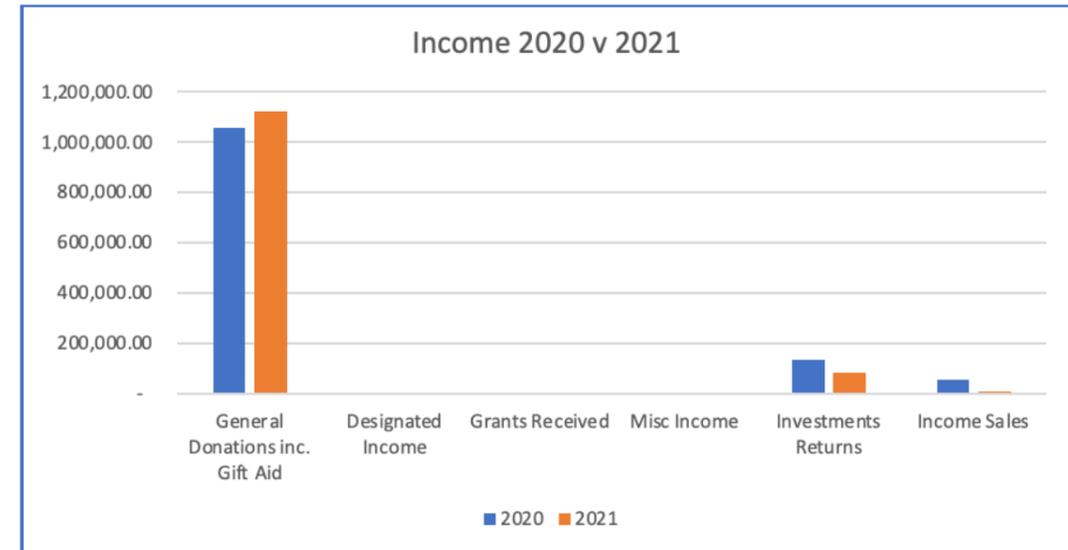
The Consolidated Accounts for Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance for the year ended 30 September 2021, incorporating the City Gates Church accounts, were submitted to the Charity Commission on 31 May 2022.

CITY GATES CHURCH

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 September 2021

	Notes	2019-2020	2020-2021
INCOME			
General Donations incl Gift Aid		1,058,587.95	1,120,662.41
Designated Income		3,897.00	2,995.00
Grants Received		0.00	2,716.00
Investment Returns		136,106.04	82,339.60
Income Sales		53,823.00	9,844.05
TOTAL INCOME		1,252,413.99	1,218,557.06
EXPENDITURE			
Personnel Costs		441,772.96	402,681.51
Travel & Committee Costs		4,242.16	6,824.30
Equipment Costs		85,037.49	49,934.06
Telephone, Post & Stationery etc		27,399.37	29,470.45
Event & Ministry / Worship Costs		93,354.82	50,989.26
Travel & Vehicle Costs		1,452.10	44.40
Promotion and Advertising		13,112.97	7,675.90
Activities Sundry Costs		58.00	0.00
Gifts & Grants Made		90,938.87	158,830.74
Missions		38,500.00	31,710.00
Cost of Sales		27,593.97	1,923.18
Heat & Light		56,549.27	72,795.78
Property Costs		70,276.82	107,401.18
Professional Costs		23,676.38	13,332.92
Payments made to Elim HQ		98,823.50	88,045.32
Bank Charges & Interest		5,625.73	(444.88)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		1,078,414.41	1,021,214.12
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		173,999.58	197,342.94

INCOME

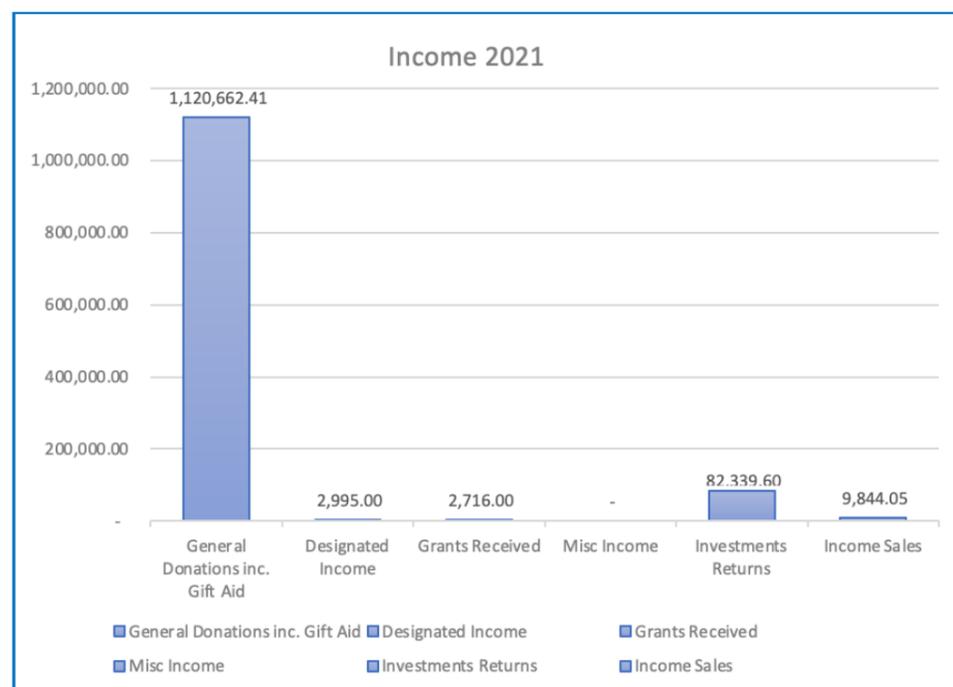


General Donations, including Gift Aid

The General Offerings increased by 6% to £1,120,662 in the year ended 30 September 2021 (£1,058,558 – 30 September 2020). This is a sign of the faithfulness of members, when one considers the difficult situations, many are going through.

The increase in the General offerings was largely as a result of the increase in the Gift Aid tax rebates. These tax rebates are a significant source of income for the Church and help with advancing the Kingdom of God and impacting the lives of those that walk into our building. The amount given under the Gift Aid scheme has been fairly consistent over the years, but last year there was a reduction in the Gift Aid claimed. The amount received this year was £109,338 (£83,808 – 30 September 2020), which is more in line with the pre-pandemic years. We know there were several new members who may not recognise the benefits of Gift Aid to the church and to certain individuals, so we will aim to have presentations on this during the year. Last year, 47% of the donations were paid under the Gift Aid scheme. We are hoping we can reach a target of 60% income under the Gift Aid Scheme in due course.

If you would like to sign up to the Gift Aid scheme, please contact the Church Office for a form.



Designated Income

This represents income that has been donated for a specific purpose, like the Time to Build fund, etc. This reduced significantly this year as a result of the fact that we have not been actively raising funds for the Building Fund. The account is still active, and all funds in this account will be used for the building.

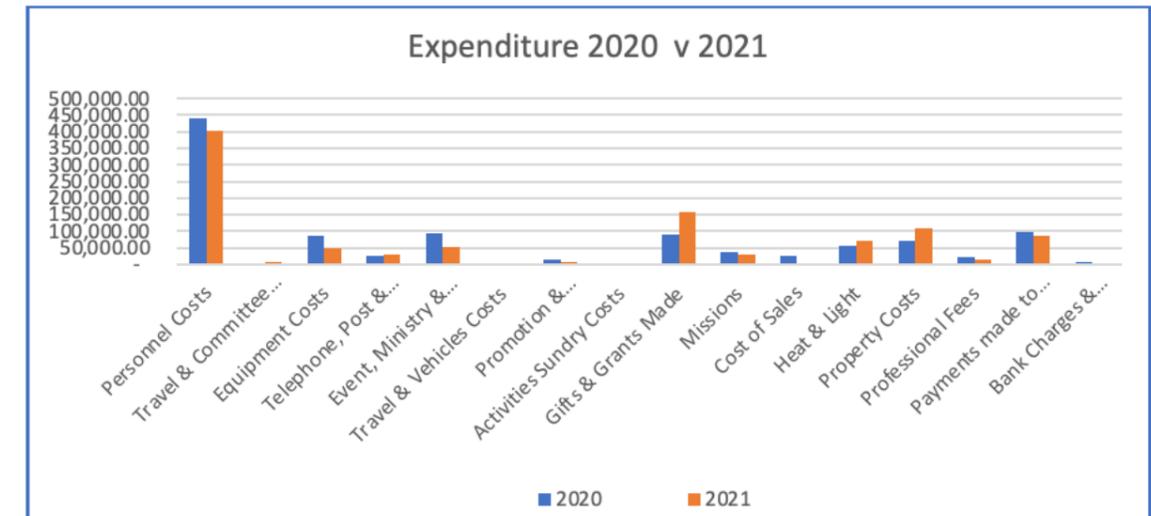
Investment Returns

This represents income from the Hire of the Premises of £6,118 (£52,715 – 2020) and interest received on the funds received from the insurance payout of £76,221 (-£83,391 – 2020). The income from the Conference Centre was only nominal this year because of the Lockdown.

Income from Sales

This represents income from the Café, fees in respect of various events and various other sundry income. This income was also affected by the lockdown, and was only a fraction of the amount received before the lockdown.

The Cafe is an important source of income as well as a good means of reaching out to the community. Things have started picking up again since the Café re-opened.

EXPENDITURE**Personnel Costs**

Staff costs have remained fairly consistent over the years. There was a slight reduction, as there are some volunteers that work for the church on a casual basis when we have external events. As there were only very limited social events, there were no payments to casual staff.

There are currently seven members of staff working for the church on a full time and part-time basis.

Equipment Costs

These costs were lower compared to last year as there were a number of items of equipment purchased in 2019 through to 2020.

Telephone, Post and Stationery

This cost remained fairly consistent with an increase of 7%, as a result of increased costs by suppliers.

Event & Ministry Costs

The cost of events and ministry costs did reduce again this year by 45% to £50,989 (£93,356 – 2020), as most activities were carried out online for a large part of the year.

Gifts and Grants made

This represents amounts paid to other charities and individuals in need. The ministries we support include Teen Challenge, the Salvation Army, Hope for Justice, Tough Talk, Compassion UK, Christian Education Project. This year we also supported a number of people during the lockdown with cooked food shopping parcels and in various other ways. The total amount given has increased by nearly 75% compared to the previous year.

Missions

These represent the funds paid to various Missions through the ELIM International Missions, as well as other missionary activities.

Heat & Light

As the use of the building gradually increased during the period, and the general increase in utility costs, the overall cost increased by nearly 30% (from £56,550 – 2020 to £72,795 – 2021).

Property Costs

The property costs for the year were £107,401 (£70,276 – 2020). The costs increased by just over 50%, largely, as a result of all the infrastructure that had to be put in place to ensure the building was safe during the lockdown.

Professional Costs

The Professional costs represent Audit and Accountancy fees, Legal fees, DBS checks etc. These costs reduced by just over 40% this year to bring them more in line with earlier years. Last year they were quite high as a result of professional costs related to the building.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2021 (fig 2) shows the assets (things that the church owns) and liabilities (things that the church owes) as at that date. There has not been a lot of movement during the year as, since the acquisition of the building we have not acquired any new major assets, nor do we have any liabilities.

Property

The church premises are shown under Fixed Assets as Building Projects. The cost of the building reflected in the accounts has reduced at £8,927,539.

Sundry Deposits

This represents the funds received in respect of the Insurance Claim which is held in a deposit account by Head Office, Funds are transferred to our local church account as and when they are required for various projects. Interest is earned on this account, which is why the interest received this year amounted to £76,221.

Bank Balances

This represents the funds held in our various church accounts to meet the ongoing church running expenses.

Reserves

This represents the cumulative net value of the church's assets.

Moving forward...

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has given to the church over the past year. Your giving has made a considerable difference to the running of the church, and your generosity has enabled various missions and different areas of ministry to grow within the church.

We look forward to another exciting year ahead with new challenges and new opportunities to reach the lost for Christ.

Fumi Popoola & Kanta Wilson

Finance Team

GROUNDED COFFEE

Grounded Coffee shop has been closed since March of 2020. Due to the pandemic and government guidelines, we were unable to trade. We have started the recruitment process by creating a job description.

Grounded in Love

Ephesians 3:17 (ESV)

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love.

Everything we do, we want to do in Love, just like Christ. This is more than just a coffee shop, this the Mission Field! Let's show people from all walks of live the love of Christ.

Grounded in Coffee

We have a great passion in serving great quality coffee that makes people smile. Every cup we serve we serve it with LOVE, and with the help of our coffee supplier 'Kingdom Coffee' we can serve coffee with a conscience.

Grounded in Serving

The mission is to serve everyone better than anyone else. We genuinely care about people and the goal is to build a culture of taking care of our community. It's about keeping our eyes, hearts, and time open for divine appointments.

Philippians 2:3-5 (NIV)

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Romord Lindsay

City Gates Conference Manager

MEN'S MINISTRY

The Men's 10 week Conquer Series - 'The battle plan for purity' started in November 2020 with over 80 men in attendance and incorporated smaller groups and ongoing support through WhatsApp groups during the process. Due to further lockdowns, the second stage of the series was held online during Jan 2021 for 5 additional weeks, however numbers dwindled, and it was felt by all involved that not being together in-person limited the openness and desire of men to engage. We plan to run this series again in the future as we believe it had a powerful impact on those who attended.

In May we held a men's worship morning called 'True Worship'. We were blessed with our very own Creative Director Joseph Perry, Steve Thompson and Noel Robinson who led us on a journey of true worship. This event was well attended with over 70 men coming together in openness before God. It was a time of surrender and something that all the men in attendance were keen to repeat in the future. This time of seeking God together really opened us up to how blessed we are as a church and ministry to have such gifts from God accessible to us in this way. We started to understand the role worship plays in the life of a man as the key to unlocking our future.

'IT WAS COMING HOME, WASN'T IT?'.....the men's ministry hosted the Euro Finals for the whole family on a sad, sad Sunday evening in July. Despite all our efforts and prayers, it was not meant to be, but we did have a great time along the journey as England gave their all. We had highs and lows but overall, despite the result it was a great time with men, women and children coming together in a nice atmosphere to hope together. Not to worry England, the world cup is around the corner!

We continued the year in good fashion with our ever popular and most consistently attend event - the Men's breakfast in October. We encouraged the men of City Gates to have a vision for discipleship and the plan was to support males in the church who are serving in specific ministries. The challenge was to shift from mentoring to a new level of relationship amongst the men. This vision is for all men in the church which we will roll out in different stages. This will involve adding new members to the team and attempting to expand the reach of the ministry to touch more lives and influence more males in the life of the church to reach their full potential both young and old. It was an inspiring time with many men coming forward to show an interest about being involved.

Men's intro to discipleship was held in November where those who showed a desire to minister to other men in the life of the church attended and discussions took place about what and how we could implement this strategy. It was a productive time with ideas and thoughts shared by many with a focus on 2022 being a time where we establish this ministry first amongst the men serving in Sunday school, Youth and young adults. Once this phase was completed and matches were in place discipleship would then be available to the wider congregation of males in the church.

We plan to continue with our usual events for 2022 and build an environment and team where the men of City Gates can express their godly gifts and grow to be more like Christ.

Rob Harris

Men's Ministry Leader

RELATIONSHIP & MARRIAGE MINISTRY: BEYOND THE VOWS

We started 2021 in the hope that we would be able to host live events again but we were unable to gather in person so we took our main events online.

The Pre-Marriage Course was hosted via zoom in April/May 2021.

The Marriage Course was also hosted online in Sept/Oct 2021.

Both of these events were well attended but we look forward to being able to hosts these events live again next year.

We hosted a one-off 'Why can't I get Married' event in March 2021. This was focused on those that had planned their weddings and those that were wanting to progress to marriage but were restricted due to the pandemic. This was an opportunity to share and fellowship with other couples who were in a similar dilemma. The event also served to offer suggestions on how to navigate the frustrating season.

The JustBe Singles ministry were unable to host events in 2021 due to the restrictions and also the decision of the team to hold off until we were able to meet in person. Our previous online event was well attended but most of the attendees chose to keep their cameras off and so it was felt that the online option was not preferred.

Events planned by The Good Wives ministry were postponed as it was agreed that in-person events worked best.

Our plans for the future of the Relationship and Marriage Ministry is to continue to provide regular teaching and fellowship opportunities for those who are single, dating, engaged and married throughout the year. A number of events are booked into the 2022 diary which can now be held in person.

Rob & Sonia Harris

Relationship & Marriage Ministry

WORSHIP

2021 was the year in which we began to find a sense of normality again. At the beginning of the year we were still limited in what we could do in terms of worship: masks needed to be worn in the congregation, singing was limited, the worship singers sang behind plastic screens and we were sure to stand 2 meters apart. Our determination was that in the midst of such restrictions, we would continue to praise God and so made an extra emphasis upon bodily worship! We were intentional in singing songs that glorified God and weren't entirely focused on what we couldn't do, but the freedom and liberty that Jesus brings.

We continued to meet regularly as a team on Zoom and for rehearsals in person and these sessions continued to be precious times as we valued gathering and being together. As restrictions continued to lift, the masks came off, we said goodbye to the plastic screens and more singers were able to join on stage.

We ended the year with a special Christmas event called the Big Sing - where the worship team, various soloists, the SEND ministry and the Church lifted our voices in celebration of the coming of Jesus. It was a great way to end a year that started off with no public singing!

I want to honour and thank the incredibly faithful members of the worship team who continue to diligently serve week in, week out and always give 100% in whatever they're doing for the Lord. It is a joy to serve alongside you!

PRODUCTION

In April, Matt Burrows came on board to oversee the Production Team and in the months he's been here has done an incredible job at bringing order and structure to the team, training and developing the team. The team has grown in number and the general production value of what is experienced on a Sunday in person and online has improved greatly. I want to show my thanks and appreciation to Matt and all the Production Team volunteers.

Joseph Perry

Creative Director

YOUNG ADULTS

We re-launched in 2021, having met weekly on Zoom during 2020. Our theme for the year was Jesus First, and a big change was that we would be meeting once a month at the Church building. As a team we felt this was a good time to make the change, and as a result we saw good momentum around the monthly bigger events and steady growth within the group.

In August we held an event called The Podcast Edition, where we invited some guest podcast hosts to come and talk on topical Christian issues. This event proved to be so popular and well attended that we held a part 2 the following month. It was great to see so many young adults hungry for what the word of God has to say into the culture today!

In October around 30 young adults went to the beautiful surroundings of The Hayes conference centre in Swanwick for the retreat. A weekend where we got away to spend time with one another and meet with God. It was a really significant weekend and created the opportunity and space for stronger relationships to be built.

Pastor Ore took over the leadership of CGYA at the end of the year. It was a great joy to serve this age group, and I'll continue to, in a different capacity.

Joseph Perry

Creative Director

YOUTH MINISTRY

City Gates Youth is a place where young people can find a place to belong and grow in their faith. Anyone from year 7 to year 13 is welcome to join us on a Friday evening, or during our Sunday morning services. Our sessions are run by a dedicated team of Christian volunteers who are all DBS checked.

At the beginning of the year, a third lockdown put our initial plans on hold. Whilst the church was able to open, the guidance for youth work meant our youth gatherings had to go back online from January until March. During this time we were still able to join events like Limitless One Online. As the lockdown eased up, we went back to hybrid youth ministry, and by the summer, we were fully in person with some restrictions.

This year, we were unable to take our young people to camp because of the restrictions, but in the summer, we gathered at the church building to join Limitless Festival Online together! We had 36 young people join us to worship, hear from God's word, pray, and reach out to the community with street evangelism and making care packages for homeless people.

We saw 7 young people get baptised, and 35 young people sign up to join one of our CREWS (CREWS are small groups of leaders and a handful of leaders committed to community).

PLANS FOR 2022

Baptism – We hope to see more young people take the next step in their faith and be baptised!

Camp – We plan to take our Young People to Limitless Festival in August 2022.

Equipping Young Leaders – We plan to develop a pathway for young people to grow in leadership, taking ownership of parts of the youth ministry and helping to shape City Gates Youth. Young people are the best people to reach other young people.

Ore Adeyemo

Youth Director



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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