



"To know Christ
&
To make Him known"

TOOTHILL CHURCH

Part of the
**West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze
Ecumenical Church Partnership**



2022 Annual Report

Presented at the AGM 2023
(19th February 2023)

Toothill Church Minister's Report

2022 was quite year of change.

There has been some key events both local and national that have impacted us all.

Personally, I have been made to feel very welcome as I began my ministry in West Swindon last Spring. I am sure that Rev Rachael would have felt equally touched as the congregation bid her good bye in the summer. I have felt particularly at home over the past 9 months and get the sense of what Rev Rachael had to say good bye to, as she left her home for pastures new.

Through trials and triumphs there is a real commitment to the Mission of God; working together to bring His light into the world.

I have been bowled over by the 'can do' and 'will do' attitude of the Church; looking at the possibilities beyond all of the challenges.

As we have emerged from the various lockdowns and restrictions to activities- various things have restarted or have been established. It has been pleasing to see how the Church has reached out to the local community in a variety of different ways.

Toothill Tinies and Friday Night Club are great examples of the long term engagement and care for the young children and families in the community. It should be noted how valued these activities are and how much of a blessing they are to the community.

This is helping to develop and maintain important links, and ensuring that the community are able to see Toothill Church as their Church. It was great to see the engagement from the young people and families during the Christmas service.

The return of the Love Toothill event in the summer was also great to see,

TOOTHILL TINNIES ACCOUNTS (2022)

As at 31st December 2022

Income & Expenditure Statement

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Profit / Loss</u>
Admissions	1,401.31		1,401.31
Refreshments		620.81	-620.81
TC Hampers 2021	195.33		195.33
ATM & Refund	100.00	100.00	
Love Toothill	1,000.00	784.29	215.71
Legoland	2,407.00	1,530.00	877.00
Barnes Coaches Legoland		1,095.00	-1,095.00
HighSpeedTraining		24.00	-24.00
T K Maxx		2.50	-2.50
B&Q		54.07	-54.07
Home Bargains		1.99	-1.99
R Dyas		100.00	-100.00
PartyDelights	46.18	46.18	
Argos&NGB + Klarna		92.95	-92.95
TC Hampers 2022 & TT/FC Christmas Party	650.00	472.30	177.70
First Aid Training	300.00	300.00	
Thorpe Park	156.00	156.00	
Misty King		40.00	-40.00
H Woodward		570.00	-570.00
Silvio		96.00	-96.00
Hayley Iles		226.00	-226.00
TC Cleaning Reimbursement	20.00	80.00	-60.00
Misc			
Sub Totals	6,275.82	6,392.09	-116.27

Grants

West Swindon Parish (Friday Club)

0.00

0.00

Incredible Edibles

0.00

723.79

West Swindon Parish (Youth Club)

Transferred to NGB

278.06

-278.06

0.00

Grants A/C Income & Expenditure

0.00

278.06

-278.06

Gross Income & Expenditure

6,275.82

6,670.15

-394.33

Balance Sheet

Funds In Bank Account B/Fwd

928.89

Petty Cash B/Fwd

52.54

Funds Flow for Year

-394.33

Funds In Bank Account C/Fwd

534.56

Petty Cash C/Fwd

52.54

Outstanding Cheques to be cleared

Previous O/S Cheques cleared

587.10

587.10

Budgets for 2022 and 2023				Actual spending	
2022			2023	2021	2020
Actual	Budget	Collections	Budget		
11,330.00	12,800.00	Standing orders (under covenant)	11,500.00	11,804.05	11869.66
3,012.00	1,200.00	Loose giving (under GASDS)	2,500	2,050.28	1214.00
860.00	0.00	Non-categorized giving	500.00	0.00	0.00
15,202.00	14,000.00	Giving by members	14,500.00	13,854.33	16301.80
1,642.00	250.00	Donations, legacies, grants	250.00	28,158.07	1230.00
3,384.00	3,200.00	Gift Aid & GASDS	3,300.00	3,088.92	3218.14
0.00	100.00	Weddings & Funerals	50.00	0.00	0.00
3,116.00	3,350.00	Letting of church building	2,500.00	1,515.50	896.00
274.00	5.00	Methodist Saver account interest	100.00	13.91	61.12
46.00	25.00	Miscellaneous receipts	25.00	0.00	18.70
23,664.00	20,930.00	Total Receipts	20,725.00	46,630.73	18507.62
6,000.00	6,000.00	Partnership share	6,000.00	14,500.00	14500.00
3,968.00	4,000.00	Running costs (utilities, insurance)	6,800.00	2,454.28	1923.59
1,142.00	1,500.00	Maintenance & Equipment	2,500.00	1,097.22	1022.37
24,394.00	0.00	Building work	0.00	0.00	5000.00
504.00	650.00	Media & Printing	1,700.00	458.66	581.92
1,349.00	150.00	Worship	150.00	0.00	0.00
1,423.00	1,310.00	Tithed giving (10% of members' giving)	1,500.00	2,055.00	655.00
898.00	250.00	Other giving	250.00	335.95	0.00
3,165.00	1,000.00	Youth work	2,050.00	1,662.83	498.51
61.00	250.00	Miscellaneous payments	250.00	0.00	0.00
42,904.00	15,110.00	Total Payments	21,200.00	22,563.94	24181.39
-19,240.00	5,820.00	Receipts versus Payments	-475.00	24,066.79	-5673.77

Note: in accordance with Charity Commission rules all figures are rounded to the nearest £

with so much community engagement as well as commitment from volunteers- those from the congregation as well those connected with wider events in the Church. It seemed to be greatly appreciated with the community and a key event in the area.

It has been encouraging to see a real commitment to the local community through the vision of the congregation and committee as they look to support people during the challenges that people face with the rising cost of living- whether this is through personal donations to support people as they face the decision to 'heat or eat'; the vision and commitment from the committee to create a special fund to offer grants; the regular contributions and support for local charities such as 'The Filling Station' or the commitment to open the church building as a Warm and Welcome Space.

The passing of the Late Queen in September also gave the chance for the Church to open its doors and engage with the people of Toothill, offering pastoral and spiritual support. Through services and opening the doors- including the day of the funeral- it highlighted the importance of the Church and its building as a centre-point of Toothill.

All of these activities and outreach to the community is a thanks to the vision, commitment and hard work of the members of Toothill Church. The level of engagement and drive in the Church is something to behold. The Church, its members, seek to be a blessing to the community- and show, practically, the love and light of God in this, sometimes, dark world.

There have been some wonderful moments to celebrate this year- leading to the chance to welcome new members to Toothill's congregation at the beginning of 2023.

A great start to the New Year!

Rev Mark Tidey

Pastoral Report

Toothill Church has 33 members following the formal welcoming of Debz Clark, Debbie Fairfoull, Ruth and Norris Kiddle and Norma Miller in early January 2023. We were pleased that Norma was able to have a full immersion baptism earlier in the year at Holy Trinity Shaw.

Some of our members are elderly and unable to attend church. We remember them in our prayers and try to maintain contact with them or their families. We held Bill Bolton's funeral at Toothill Church in December, which several church members attended. When active Bill cared for the church property and counted the offering each week. When less able, he got his grandsons to cut the church lawn. May Bill rest in peace and rise in glory.

Our pastoral group meets regularly during the year to reflect on our contact with church members and the wider church family. Members are Rev Mark Tidey, David and Nicola Hoar, Becky Bondah, Rachel Dowling and Tony Fairfoull.

Safeguarding Report

We are committed to ensuring that Toothill Church is a safe space for everyone, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.

All church office holders and committee members are DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) registered and have undertaken training at either foundation or leadership level.

Rachel Dowling, as Church Safeguarding Officer, attended a training evening for Toothill Tinies and Friday Club helpers in October, to explain Safeguarding principles and the processes in place.

Rachel

TOOTHILL CHURCH ACCOUNTS (2022)

As at 31 Dec 2022

<u>Receipts & Payments Statement</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>
Collections (covenanted)	11330.00	
Collections (GASDS)	3011.96	
Collections (uncategorised)	860.00	
Methodist Saver account interest	274.37	
Gift Aid & GASDS	3383.85	
Letting of church building	3116.00	
Weddings & Funerals	0.00	
Donations, legacies & grants	1642.12	
Miscellaneous receipts	46.38	
Total Receipts	23,664.68	
Partnership share		6000.00
Running cost: gas		2316.82
Running cost: electricity		368.08
Running cost: water		120.07
Running cost: insurance		1163.02
Maintenance & Equipment		1141.63
Building work: Sound system		11326.16
Building work: Kitchen		13068.33
Tithed giving		1385.44
Charity giving: Filling Station		285.00
Other giving		650.62
Printing/Stationary		15.95
Media: copyrights/licences		294.89
Media: website		193.00
Media: broadband		0.00
Worship: materials		57.87
Worship: music		124.43
Worship: music equipment		663.98
Worship: music materials		502.99
Youth work: Tinies & Friday Club		3165.33
Miscellaneous payments		61.15
Total Payments		42,904.76
Gross Receipts & Payments	23,664.68	42,904.76
		(19,240.08)
Balance Sheet		
Funds In Bank Account B/F	2,460.80	
Funds in Methodist Saver Account B/F	30,610.45	
Funds in Youth Outreach Fund B/F	3,361.07	
Funds Flow for Year	(19,240.08)	
Funds In Bank Account C/F		2,206.35
Funds in Methodist Saver Account C/F		13,384.82
Funds in Youth Outreach Fund C/F		1,601.07
Outstanding Cheques to be cleared		
Previous O/S Cheques cleared		
	17,192.24	17,192.24

scripture it is a multi-faceted approach aiming to raise £31,600 through grants from church and local government, as well as home-grown initiatives for imaginative fund-raising. Your co-operation through prayer and ideas would be most welcome!

At a more practical level we have budgeted to replace the lawn mower and church laptop, and to install broadband in the church. These and other items are summarised in the 'Budgets for 2022 and 2023'.

Finally...

My thanks go to all who have laboured to make Toothill Church such a success. However, I must single out Eddie Koppoe for his production of the enclosed 'Toothill Tinies' accounts', and Rachel Dowling who has used her financial expertise to provide sound advice and guidance to me over the year.

Any errors in the finances are, of course, mine, and it goes without saying that I am more than happy to answer your questions on any aspect of our financial situation.

**"Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided"**

**Mike Black
Treasurer
January 2023**

Music Group Report

Despite a tricky year for the Music group as we emerged from the Covid restrictions we are happy to have welcomed Debbie back to our group, Debs joined us and Norma joins us as she is able.

The music group supported the singing in the Autumn for the URC 50th Anniversary Service and led the singing of the 'Lord's Prayer which is always well received with Kirsty and Benita also opening the service with the history of the URC and prayers.

Thank you to Debs and Tony for lighting the candles to open the service and Tony Hendry who opened the Carols by Candlelight in traditional manner by singing the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. And the support of the group with the readings and singing.

A thank you also to Ed Poole who has continued to play from time to time when I am away. There is also more good news as David Passemore, organist at Highworth URC, has also started to play the organ or piano for services.

Nicola Hoar

Property Report 2020 - 2022

During two years of Covid restrictions when the church was closed from March 2020 to June 2021 Ed Koppoe regularly checked the water and ran it for a few minutes to prevent any problems. The heating was kept at 12 degrees through the winter to prevent burst pipes and mould damage. The church was checked regularly by David and all the batteries were taken out of the microphones etc and the laptop was taken home and regularly turned on for updates and to keep the battery from dying. Prior to the reopening of the church it was thoroughly cleaned as during closure there was a build up of dust.

Once the church was opened for services and activities full maintenance resumed and things like the step edges were painted yellow, gutters cleaned out, new gas meter fitted and carpet thoroughly cleaned.

The loft space posed a problem as the weight in the loft was cracking the ceiling of the store room so within a week of this being identified the Scouts were contacted and by the end of the following week the scouts had cleared the loft of all their equipment and we threw out everything which was not needed for the church. As fast as we filled the skip so people asked it they could take certain items, which proved a blessing, as our rubbish was being recycled by people who would make good use of it so the skip kept on being refilled until the loft was empty.

In the first two months of 2022, the sound system broke completely and it was decided it would be best to renew it. After contacting three companies and speaking to them on site it was decided to go with Keystone Sound and Simon came and in one week fitted the church with its new system including the new lockable sound desk and we were able to use the existing microphones. Before this sound system could be fitted Emmanuel and Ed took out all the old wiring and equipment as well as making a new platform for the new system. The new system can be used automatically without anyone sitting at the sound controller, but it is good to have someone there to mute the worship leader when singing hymns. Simon came to do the final inspection during the service in October and after a few tweaks of the system we were all satisfied and the final bill was paid.

Also a new electric piano was bought and a standard lamp so that whoever is playing can see the music properly on dull days or evening services. Along with the new piano Rev Rachel purchased new Singing the Faith hymn books to replace the mixture of books we had before.

The Property Committee agreed we needed a new fitted kitchen as the old one was looking very tired, and the laminate covering was coming away

Anglican Church (a nationwide initiative) to help churches with the rise in energy costs.

Payments

If we set aside building works (which came from Cynthia Dowdeswell's legacy), our payments in 2022 averaged £1,543 a month. Perhaps the biggest single factor in our financial situation has been the reduction in our Partnership share from £14,500 to £6,000 a year. This was a temporary measure for 2022 taken to forestall a likely default in the third quarter of the year; this will continue until Easter when further decisions will be taken. Our donations to various charities continued with £2,071 being given – notably to *Glonia Bring Hope* in Ghana and *Threshold* (£700 to each), and £310 to *The Filling Station*.

Thanks to Cynthia's generous legacy we were able to replace the church sound apparatus with a state-of-the art system which cost £11,326; in addition the kitchen underwent a complete refurbishment which cost £13,068.

Receipts against Payments

Quite clearly if we spend more than we received we will make a loss. This was indeed the case because we deliberately did not budget for the building works. The enclosed 'Receipts and Payments' table shows the loss was £19,240 but this was more than adequately covered by the funds in our Methodist Saver account. We carry forward into 2023 the sum of £17,192 which is held across our Bank, Methodist Saver, and Youth Outreach accounts.

For 2023

As in 2022 we have not budgeted for any building works; however, as Cynthia's legacy dwindles, we will need to secure funding for capital items. It is here that '*Project 3:16*' comes into view. Based on the well-known

or baking competitions and play games on the church grass during the summer months. The children are also offered something to eat before the end of each session.

A trip to Thorpe Park was put on for the children and that was well supported by the children.

In 2023 we will be looking for grants and doing fund raising events to raise funds to help with the running costs of the club.

Becky & Eddie

Toothill Church Treasurer's Report for 2022

"Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father..."

Introduction

During 2022 our regular giving (not our total receipts) averaged £1,267 per month which, considering the size of our membership, is a remarkable achievement. For this alone I would like to thank – on behalf of the Church Committee - everyone who has given so generously to The Lord's work in Toothill Church. Last year was tumultuous in many ways – not the least for the beginning of soaring increases in the cost of energy. Compared with our gas and electricity costs a year ago we are now paying over seven times more for our gas per unit, and just over six times more for electricity.

Receipts

Our total receipts for the year were £23,664, which included two notable donations. The first was an anonymous gift of £1,000 to help the disadvantaged of the area; we have earmarked this as 'Heat and Eat' and began using it during the first of our 'Warm and Welcome Space' sessions which commenced in January. The second was a grant of £452 from the

from the cupboards. Ed Koppoe and Emmanuel Bondah took the lead and after gathering all the information the new kitchen was purchased. Before the kitchen could be fitted the old one had to be taken out and the kitchen decorated. This was done by the excellent team of Ed, Emmanuel, Mike, and Tony.

All the above would not have been possible without the legacy left to the church by Cynthia Dowdeswell. Thank you, Cynthia.

I would like to thank all the Property and Finance Committee for all the hard work they have done before and since we reopened after covid. Emmanuel, Mark, Ed, Tony, and Mike.

David Hoar

Church Hire Report

This year with the opening up of the church to more normal times the activities of the church have increased dramatically. Looking at my records we have had some but not all activities coming back from the U3A with the History Group and the Travel Group. The Craft Group did not come back in September for the Autumn term.

New Generation Bond CIC runs a Family Hub which helps new Mums with maternal aspects. Also New Generation Bond CIC run a Youth Club and dance club on Monday evenings and on Tuesday evenings a Dance Club for 4 - 10yr olds.

Church supports activities such as Toothill Tinies and Friday Club which are well attended and are thriving.

The church was hired by a local shopkeeper for a Charity event in December and throughout the year the Toothill Big Local committee have held meetings.

On the Theological side there has been Marriage Preparation in March and the Methodist Circuit meetings during the year.

Private Parties were stopped during Covid but have recently been given the

go ahead by the church committee. We had one children's party in June. So far we have two parties booked for 2023.

Tony

Tinies & Friday Club Report

The two groups in 2022 were very well attended and our prayers were answered midway through the year with a few people coming forward to volunteer for both groups. Our request for more volunteers to lighten the load was very successful and we did organise a training session for the new volunteers.

Tinies continue to be very well attended with an average of 15 to 25 toddlers. With the number of volunteers that we have, there is less pressure on Becky and myself. After snack there is a sing-a-long organised by the parents.

The number of children attending Friday Club remain very high at an average of 40 children per session. Even though we now have enough volunteers, we had to introduce a booking system to help us manage the number of children attending each session to a maximum of 40 children. This has worked very well and has helped us to control the numbers attending each session.

The children continue to enjoy the activities organised for the group, these include crafts, colouring, games and the outdoor activities during the summer. Each session ends with a sit down 'mini supper' after a prayer by one of the children. This is different each week and includes Pasta and Sauce, Pizza, Sausage, Chicken Nuggets, Chips and Sandwiches. On special days it ends with a dessert (Ice Cream, Lollies etc). This always brings a smile to their faces.

There was a trip to Legoland partly funded by the church which was very well attended by the children and their families. The children took part in the Children's Christmas Service with readings, dancing and singing. It was very well attended by the children and their families. Both groups had their Christmas parties with Father Christmas in attendance.

One of our objectives for 2023 is to look for a small grant to help with some of our operational costs going forward.

The following are the Volunteers:

Silvio Dzapasi (FC)	Catrina Fletcher (TT/FC)	Megan Garrett (TT)
Krissy Ockwell (TT/FC)	Bethan Trueman (TT)	Helen Woodward (TT)
Nicola Cole (FC)	Christelle Nguenkeng (FC)	Grace Clark (FC)
Paige Fox (FC)	Kirsty Bondah (FC)	Benita Bondah (FC)
Mike Black (FC)	Debs Clark (FC)	Jenny Corkett (FC)
Tony Fairfoull (FC)	Eileen Koppoe (FC)	Som Okonkwo (FC)

On behalf of Becky and I, we would like to take the opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Eddie & Becky

West Swindon Youth Club

The club is for secondary aged children in the West Swindon and surrounding areas. On average we had about 24 children attending on the weekly session. The last three months of the year saw a decline in the numbers to about 12 children. We are planning to advertise it at the beginning of the year. It operates on a grant from the West Swindon Parish Council to the New Generation Bond CIC.

They have board games, pool table, basketball/netball post and other activities that the children can take part in. They sometimes have a cooking