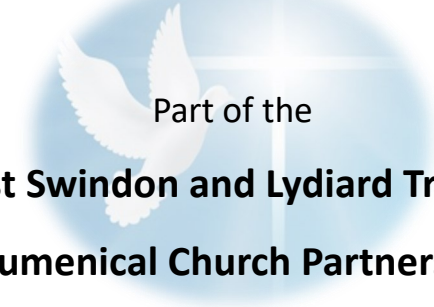


TOOTHILL CHURCH

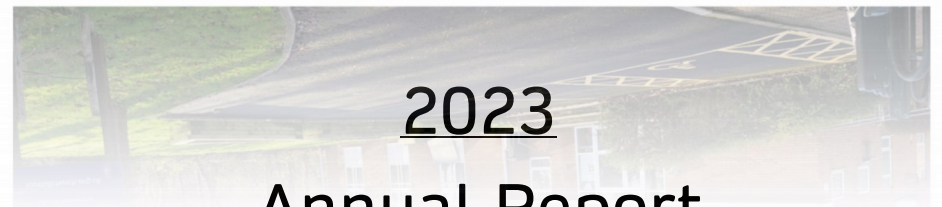


Part of the

West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze

Ecumenical Church Partnership

**"To know Christ
&
To make Him known"**



2023

Annual Report

Presented at the ACM 2024

Report from Rev Mark Tidey

It continues to be a privilege to be part of the community at Toothill Church.

It is a great pleasure to lead worship, with a congregation that is so engaged in wanting to worship God- whether that is on a Sunday or any day of the week.

The diversity and richness of the worship is something to cherish and celebrate.

It is great to see young people lead services with such confidence and ability.

We all know that Friday Night Club is a blessing to the community, and is an important part of the Church. But the way that they have led services through the year- to celebrate Mothering Sunday, an International Service, as well as a Christmas Service has been so uplifting and they been wonderful occasions; especially the meals shared afterwards. It has highlighted the church community far beyond the Sunday morning.

It has been clear through these services that the children and their families very much see Toothill as their church and a place where they feel loved and cherished.

As well as this, we have welcomed children from Hazelwood School to visit the church building as part of their RE curriculum. Eileen, Eddie and Mike from Toothill, in partnership with some from Freshbrook Church have enhanced this relationship by taking Open the Book into school. The children have since visited the church for Harvest and Christmas services which has been terrific to see.

Deb and Tony's, as well as other's work and time to host and run the

TOOTHILL TINIES ACCOUNTS (2023)		As at	31st December 2023	
<u>Income & Expenditure Statement</u>		Income	Expenditure	Profit / Loss
Admissions	1,351.76			1,351.76
Refreshments		523.73		-523.73
TC Laptop	1,007.99	1,007.99		
Water Aid	117.01	117.01		
Mothering Sunday		97.85		-97.85
Project Resources		99.00		-99.00
Tinies Christmas Collection	135.00			135.00
Friday Club Christmas Collection	75.00			75.00
Chessington	1,850.00	1,636.00		214.00
Hamper Donation				
Hamper Cash Gifts From TC	850.00	850.00		
Hampers from TC + Donation	250.00	368.34		-118.34
Christmas Party from TC	350.00	221.59		128.41
Fete Float	60.00	60.00		
Helen Woodward (Tinies/FC)		115.00		-115.00
Helen Woodward (Cleaning)		785.00		-785.00
Silvio		96.00		-96.00
Transferred to NGB		80.00		-80.00
Misc				
Sub Totals	6,046.76	6,057.51		-10.75
Grants				
<u>West Swindon Parish (Friday Club)</u>				0.00
				0.00
<u>Incredible Edibles</u>				0.00
				723.79
				723.79
<u>West Swindon Parish (Youth Club)</u>				0.00
Fete	278.98		278.98	0.00
				278.98
Grants A/C Income & Expenditure	278.98	0.00	278.98	
Gross Income & Expenditure	6,325.74	6,057.51		268.23
Balance Sheet				
Funds In Bank Account B/Fwd	534.56			
Petty Cash B/Fwd	52.54			
Funds Flow for Year	268.23			
Funds In Bank Account C/Fwd		116.85		
Petty Cash C/Fwd		738.48		
Outstanding Cheques to be cleared				
Previous O/S Cheques cleared				
	855.33	855.33		

Budget 2024			
2023			2024
Actual	Budget	Collections	Budget
10,880.00	11500.00	Standing orders (under covenant)	10,000.00
3,104.00	2500.00	Loose giving (under GASDS)	3,000.00
819.00	500.00	Non-categorized giving	500.00
14803.00	14500.00	Giving by members	13,500.00
4,887.00	250.00	Donations, legacies, grants	3,000.00
3,712.00	3300.00	Gift Aid & GASDS	3,500.00
292.00	50.00	Weddings & Funerals	150.00
1,374.00	2500.00	Letting of church building	2,000.00
477.00	100.00	Methodist Saver account interest	400.00
804.00	25.00	Miscellaneous receipts	100.00
26349.00	20725.00	Total Receipts	22,650.00
10,000.00	6000.00	Partnership share	6,000.00
8,023.00	6800.00	Running costs (utilities, insurance)	9,000.00
4,361.00	2500.00	Maintenance & Equipment	2,500.00
1,932.00	0.00	Building work	0.00
1,098.00	1700.00	Media & Printing	1,200.00
488.00	150.00	Worship	500.00
1,459.00	1500.00	Tithed giving (10% of members' giving)	1,500.00
3,671.00	250.00	Other giving	3,000.00
150.00	2050.00	Outreach	0.00
995.00	250.00	Miscellaneous payments	100.00
32,177.00	21,200.00	Total Payments	23,800.00
-5828.00	-475.00	Receipts versus Payments	-1,150.00

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

Welcome Space on a Wednesday afternoon has been brilliant. This has been a great blessing to the community. People have come along to find warmth and company, as well as refreshment. Local Councillors have engaged with this and the Housing Team at SBC have also come along in order to engage with and support local tenants. The Space has been used and celebrated in the local media, as well as SBC newsletters.

All of this highlights the light and warmth that Toothill Church offer the community. The Methodist Circuit and Church in general will be blessed to have Toothill within their family.

Pastoral Report

Toothill Church has 27 members. We did not have a formal opportunity to recognise new members this year. We have been blessed with more people joining us for worship and at our social activities. Our average attendance for Sunday worship in 2023 has been 22 adults and 4 children.

Some of our members are unwell or elderly and unable to attend church. We remember them in our prayers and try to maintain contact with them or their families. This year we held funerals for Seth Nartey and Milton Shim, both faithful members of our church for many years. May they 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, Rev Joseph Riberio, 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.

Welcome Space

The Welcome Space has been active since January 2023 and has grown in numbers over the past year. Our members consist of people from the Toothill Church to people from the community, we also have a mother and baby attending.

We are privileged to have members of the Swindon Borough Council and Councillors attending as well, and who are able to talk to the members about their concerns about the cost of living and about the community. Tony and I would like to thank those for attending and giving their support.

The Welcome Space offers free refreshments and lunch consisting of Soups and bread followed by cake or biscuits. There is a free raffle which consists of gifts and food, also a FREE table of clothes, books and many more items for members to take home.

We supply games, jigsaws, crafts, newspapers and women's magazines, members can also bring their own crafts with them. We have music playing quietly in the background and on occasions Nicola has played music on the organ, Thank you Nicola.

There have been 2 highlights of the year at the Welcome Space, firstly in July we had a Recycle sale. Tony and I were amazed how well we did. The attendance of the community was high, we made £300 for the restricted Welcome Space Fund, again thank you to those who supported the sale.

In December we had an amazing Xmas meal cooked by Debz, Helen and Norma, the food was outstanding. Tony and I would like to thank

TOOTHILL CHURCH ACCOUNTS (2023)		As of 31 Dec 2023	
Receipts & Payments Statement		Receipts	Payments
Collections (covenanted)	10880.00		
Collections (GASDS)	3104.26		
Collections (uncategorised)	818.71		
Donations, legacies & grants	4886.98		
Gift Aid & GASDS	3712.00		
Weddings & Funerals	292.00		
Letting of church building	1373.50		
Methodist Saver account interest	476.71		
Miscellaneous receipts	804.39		
Total Receipts	26,348.55		
Partnership share		10000.00	
Running cost: gas		5418.63	
Running cost: electricity		1155.04	
Running cost: water		253.79	
Running cost: insurance		1195.37	
Maintenance & Equipment		4360.50	
Building work:		1932.00	
Building work:		0.00	
Media: copyrights/licences		312.30	
Media: website		175.00	
Media: broadband		594.40	
Printing/Stationary		15.95	
Worship: wine, flowers, courses		420.02	
Worship: music - hymn books, instruments		67.95	
Tithed giving: Swindon Night Shelter and Glona		1459.20	
Charity giving: Filling Station		502.01	
Other giving		3169.15	
Youth work: Tinies & Friday Club		150.00	
Miscellaneous payments		995.32	
Total Payments		32,176.63	
Gross Receipts & Payments	26,348.55	32,176.63	(5,828.08)
Balance Sheet			
Funds In Bank Account B/F	2,206.35		
Funds in Methodist Saver Account B/F	13,384.82		
Funds in Youth Outreach Fund B/F	1,601.07		
Funds Flow for Year	(5,828.08)		
Funds In Bank Account C/F		1,333.90	
Funds in Methodist Saver Account C/F		10,030.26	
Funds in Youth Outreach Fund C/F		0.00	
Outstanding Cheques to be cleared			
Previous O/S Cheques cleared			
	11,364.16	11,364.16	

success of Toothill Church. Thank you to Eddie Koppoe for the enclosed 'Toothill Tinies' accounts', and to Rachel Dowling for providing oversight and guidance on financial issues during 2023. However, any errors in the finances are my responsibility. Should you have any questions or queries then please ask me.

'...for God loves a cheerful giver'.

Mike Black

Treasurer

January 2024

those people. We had quizzes and a Lucky dip, making sure everyone had a gift to go home with.

Music Group Report 2023

We number up to eight persons and have met to prepare hymns for worship twice a month over the last year. We enjoyed a coffee and cake social in July before we took a break, resuming in October when we started to prepare two new carols: a Graham Kendrick one and a trickier Cornish Carol for 'Carols by Candlelight' which we also hope to bring back again next Christmas. Also in October we changed our meeting day to second and fourth Friday morning of the month, 10.30 till Noon.

We have also gained a very able drummer this year who is adding a welcome depth and variety to our worship.

I would like to thank Paul, our drummer and all our Music Group, who despite illness and other obstacles, for their hard work and dedication and support over the last year.

Nicola Hoar (Organist)

Tinies & Friday Club Report

In 2023 the number of children attending the Tinies and the Friday Club were maintained through the year. We lost a few volunteers, but they were replaced by new volunteers.

The number of children attending Tinies have increased slightly and is about 20 to 30 toddlers at each session. The toddlers are given a snack at the end of the session with a sing-a-long organised by the parents before the end.

The number of children attending Friday Club remains very high but with the introduction of the booking system we have been able to manage the number of children attending each session. The numbers range from 25 to 40 children per session. The children continue to enjoy the singing, 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. The menu is different each week and includes Pasta and Sauce, Pizza, Sausages, Chicken Nuggets, Chips and Sandwiches.

We had a trip organised to Chessington Park for all the groups. There were 33 children and 10 adults that went on the trip. There were three main occasions in church that the children took part in, these were the International Day Service, Mothering Sunday Celebration and the Children's Christmas Service with readings and singing. The three occasions were very well attended by the children and their families. The groups had their Christmas Parties with Father Christmas in attendance.

The following are the Volunteers for the groups: Bethan Trueman (TT) Holli Wright (TT) Helen Woodward (TT/FC) Debz Clark (TT/FC) Grace Clark (TT/FC) Nicola Cole (FC) Paige Fox (FC) Kirsty Bondah (FC) Benita Bondah (FC) Destiny Turner (FC) Jenny Corkett (FC) Eileen Koppoe (FC) Som Okonkwo (FC) Paul Danso (FC). Becky and I 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 have about 20 children attending on the weekly sessions.

for them. However, in 2023 we paid £5,419 for *gas alone!*

One of the duties (and privileges) of a church is to dispense charity. In 2023 we gave £5,130 (just under 20% of our total receipts) to charity – notably to *Glona Bring Hope* in Ghana and *Swindon Night Shelter* (£750 to each), and £530 to our local charity *The Filling Station*. We have also dispensed £1,000 (the first *Heat and Eat* donation) and £850 of the second. Finally, Cynthia Dowdeswell's legacy was finished by purchasing six armchairs and updating the central heating control system.

Receipts against Payments

The '*Receipts and Payments Statement*' (below) shows that we overspent our budget by £5,828. Our analysis points to several causes but the most obvious are soaring energy costs, increasing the payments to the Partnership, and justifiable payments made under 'Maintenance and Equipment'. However, we look on the bright side. Our assets are adequate in that we carry forward £11,364 into 2024, these being held in our Bank and Methodist Saver accounts.

For 2024

The year ahead will be testing, but we have confidence in The One who is looking after us! The rectification of the floor cracking in the main hall will possibly/probably be very expensive. In national life we face the prospect of still higher energy costs (scheduled to increase by 5% in January); if the enclosed '*Budget 2024*' goes as planned we could spend up to 38% of our total receipts on utilities! Both issues will certainly impact our mission here in Toothill. Furthermore, as the Partnership dissolves and we transition to being a Methodist Church there will undoubtedly be further changes. Change, whether we like it or not, is an inevitable part of life: let us go forward with faith, confidence and, above all, prayer!

Finally...

My gratitude to everyone who has contributed – in any manner - to the

Toothill Church Treasurer's Report for 2023

'Each...should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly...'

Introduction

The financial dealings of many churches are a balance of depending upon Our Lord (living by faith) and being good stewards of the money He has given us. Sometimes we must step out in faith trusting Him; at other times we must pause and discern what He is trying to tell us. 2023 typified, for us, both cases.

But before I go any further, I would like to say thank you – on behalf of the Church Committee – to everyone who has given so generously to The Lord's work here in Toothill Church. Our regular collections (not including donations) averaged £1,234 per month, a wonderful achievement considering the numbers in our congregation!

Receipts

One of the most remarkable features has been our receipt of donations: just under 20 times what we budgeted! We received another large anonymous gift to help those struggling with high food and energy costs in our area. We also received two substantial rebates from our former gas supplier which – together with the 2022 heating grant from the Anglican Church – helped to reduce our soaring gas bills.

Payments

We began 2023 paying a reduced share to the West Swindon Partnership; however, in response to an appeal from them for help we raised this, after prayer and consideration, from £6,000 to £10,000 for the year. On top of this our energy costs have been truly prodigious. Our running costs comprise utilities and insurance; in 2022 we paid a total of £3,968

It operates on a grant from the West Swindon Parish Council to the New Generation Bond CIC. The group was very grateful to Toothill Church for allowing the group to use the church rent free whilst we were applying for more grants. We were successful in September in getting a grant from the West Swindon Parish Council.

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

The Chessington trip was an initiative from the children from the Youth Club. Some of them did sponsored activities to raise funds towards the cost of the trip.

Becky & Eddie

Open the Book

We are delighted to be going into Hazelwood Academy with Open the Book. As the name suggests we dramatise Bible stories for the school children. We approached the school in September and have had a terrific response. Several members of staff, including the Head teacher, have been very supportive. Previously the school teacher had been unable to make contact with church or OtB. We believe God has opened the doors for us to take His word into our local school.

We go in once a month to take the assembly slot of about half an hour. Our team is drawn from 2 members of Toothill church, plus 3 who go to other churches but live in Toothill.

Alongside our visits to the school, the children have been into Toothill

church twice. For a harvest and Christmas service where the OtB team served by doing relevant dramas. Response from staff and parents was that they felt welcome, loved the acoustics and that the church was warm! We are offering the school The Easter Experience this year.

Going forward please pray for God's continued favour on this work, strength for the team and the children to be impacted by what they hear. Every blessings

Audrey and Ian Donaldson

Lettings

We had a less productive year in 2023 than previous years with Birthday bookings down. The U3A History and Travel Groups are still going from September 2022 to September 2023. Both groups are carrying on until September 2024 to the end of the educational year. The Family Hub and Youth Club have been using the church hall with the generous support of Toothill Church for much of the year. This has been much appreciated by all concerned who support and run these worthy causes. We have a new church group hiring the hall called Jehovah Jireh which started in October 2023. They do like the facilities, and we hope they stay with us.

Tony

Property Update

We spent the last of Cynthia's legacy buying new armchairs to replace ones that Cynthia bought about 30 years ago. Bookshelves and a chest have been donated for the Welcome Space books etc.

We have engaged professionals to support us with maintaining our church property, both inside and out.

Outside

Windows, fascias and gutters cleaned.

Extensive pruning of the woodland area and hedges.

External light replaced.

Inside

LED lights installed in serving area.

NEST smart thermostat installed to support energy efficiency.

We are thankful for those who have cared for our church premises over the year. Helen Woodward is our regular cleaner and many others are willing to get the vacuum cleaner out every week. Mike Black and Tony Fairfoull have faithfully cut the grass. Others have undertaken small projects such as cleaning the church carpet, installing door protectors, fixing the heater in the lounge.

We have some movement in the floor of the worship area and have engaged a structural engineer to undertake some investigative work.