

2021 UPDATE

New Community Network

newcommunity
NETWORK

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NEW COMMUNITY UPDATE 2021

Our mission is to see changed lives
and transformed communities.

Our vision is to see the whole church,
following the way of Jesus, bringing life and
transformation to every area of the city.

Join our community

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INTRODUCTION

Another year of adapting, changing and evolving as we continue to live through a global pandemic. I want to express my huge gratitude to the team of leaders, staff members and volunteers who have worked tirelessly serving and supporting those those in our congregations and projects.



“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it” John 1:5

As a community we have never experienced anything like we have since March 2020 and with the unlocking now taking place we have many great opportunities to let our lights shine and be the bringers of life and hope to our city and beyond.

Thanks for your continued support.

Billy Kennedy



NEW COMMUNITY KIBERA PROJECT



This year over 4500 families have received food parcels from our Umoja (Unity) business team. We have been able to raise funds to acquire some slum land for the construction of public latrines and showers. This is nearly completed. The small business training course is now running online and our Kibera Saints continue to play in Kenya's National League Division Two.



Despite the Covid economic downturn the small start up businesses have continued repayment of Micro Enterprise loans. The drugs restoration group is working into five state secondary schools; mentoring and running encounter classes. The restoration group also employ some of the recovering addicts to clean up some of the Kibera hot spots.

‘Just saying no’ does not cut it

Encouraging secondary schools to start conversations on drug misuse was never going to be easy. Our local drugs rehab group have just done that after building relations with Kibera teachers and are in danger of becoming overwhelmed. The demand is huge. ‘Just saying no’ does not cut it when complex underground economies of drug supply, prostitution and protection rackets largely go unchallenged and can be linked to school fees. Talking and acknowledging the problem is a start. It’s just good to know that you are not on your own...



SCHOOL OF MINISTRIES



This was a year of transition for SOM in many ways. The oversight and administration of our work in Africa was transferred to Graham Blake and Lucie Rush in Diss, which has been a great blessing.

In August Peter Butt stepped down from being the SOM Director, and we celebrated the 25 years that he has led and inspired our ministry and seen it grow and develop in such an amazing way. The pandemic also accelerated our strategy to train many more local leaders to run their own SOM

training centres with none of us being able to travel from the UK. The Lord has continued to lead us into more Muslim areas and our partnership with Pioneer International continued to develop particularly in West Africa.

Despite the challenges we were able to run SOM training in many of our centres across Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Liberia, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, Nepal and India. We started working in the Muslim northeast region of Ghana for the first time, and expanded significantly in Guinea and started three centres in Malawi. In Uganda we appointed a coordinator to spearhead the establishing of several new centres in areas that are desperate for training.

In Nepal, courses were run over Zoom, with over 300 devices logged in. Amazingly many leaders were filled with the Holy Spirit, slain in the Spirit and healed! Our first centre in Nigeria for many years graduated over 20 students who had completed our full syllabus.



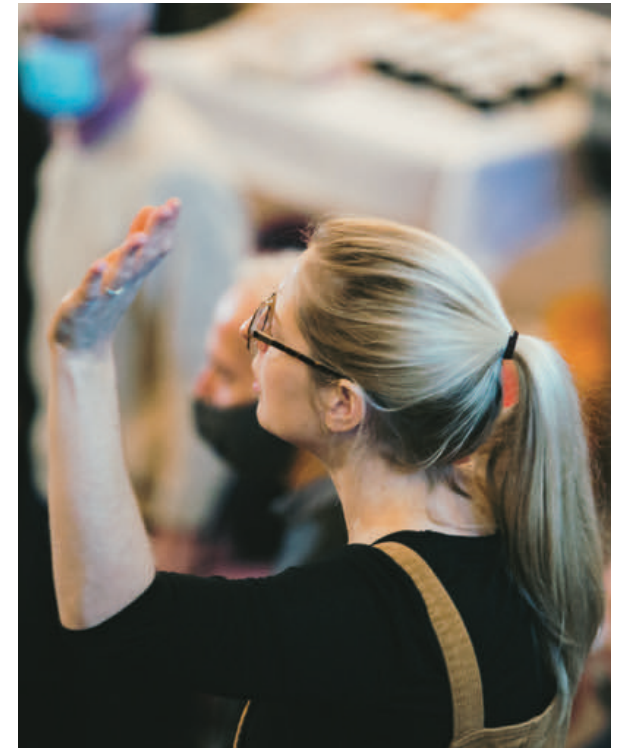
CENTRAL CONGREGATION

For the first half of 2021 we were unable to gather physically, therefore our priority was to keep the church community connected and encouraged through the livestream and other online connecting points such as 'tea & coffee Zoom', the monthly 'Deeper' worship and prayer online, and through connect groups meeting online and in person where possible.

From the end of June the priority was to transition to meeting together in person, whilst also keeping those who weren't ready to come

back yet connected online. From September the priority was to create space for us to recover together from the fatigue and trauma of the previous 18 months.

We saw great engagement with the church community, and others beyond, through the weekly livestream service. We had lots of fun, as well as creating the opportunity to worship together and encourage one another. It was so good to see so many from the community making contributions. Once we were back in person we created a safe environment for people to build together again, whilst also creating space online for those who weren't ready to come back. Together we explored how we could create space for ourselves and each other to process the challenges of lockdown and healthily recover.



NEXT GENERATION

Our Next Gen team continued to adapt to the changing Covid restrictions throughout the year. We started the year on Zoom, progressed onto garden groups, Muddy and Forest Church, Trailblazers in the Park, God's House and many outdoor socials! We loved bringing church outdoors.



The youth team have faithfully led groups for the young people twice a week, despite Zoom, mask wearing and many Risk Assessments! The team have mentored the young people and even launched 'Club Night' which is a place for the younger youth to bring friends and connect in a fun and loving environment. The young people have shown such resilience in this season, and we are immensely proud of them! Throughout the Autumn we have seen a new student and young adult group grow into a thriving community called The Extension.

In September, Rachel Barnes started in the role as Student Worker. We had no students, and term was just

about to start! Amazingly, Rachel has a passionate heart for pioneering, building community and seeing people made whole. A core of four people formed around this time, and in October we prayed that five students or young adults would be added to their number. God answered our prayers! The community is now between 10 to 14 people and growing weekly it seems. In the gospels we hear about a young boy that came with his simple lunch and it was multiplied to feed 5000 people. God has been making something out of nothing since the very beginning. We have seen that happen once again in this situation.



SHOLING CONGREGATION



Our aim for 2021 was to continue to pursue our three goals from last year despite the constraints of lockdown:

PEOPLE

to develop a greater sense of belonging and growth in the church family

PRAYER

to enhance the prayer life of the church

PRESENCE

to experience more of the presence of God



Our weekly Sunday service was streamed online until Easter when we resumed in-person gatherings.

We continued to serve the local community throughout lockdown by distributing free food and baby clothes every week to those in need. Daily Zoom prayer meetings continued to provide a place of support, encouragement, and connection. As restrictions eased, we held an outdoor baptismal service in the summer and re-started our monthly

community Quiz Night in the autumn. As friendships were renewed through meeting in person again, there continued to be a greater sense of belonging and growth as more people joined the church.

We have successfully maintained a new rhythm of prayer by continuing to meet every weekday morning on Zoom. This has been key to developing spiritual discipline whilst enhancing the prayer life of the church. We have seen many answers to prayer and grown deeper in our relationship with God and each other as a result.



NEW COMMUNITY VENTURES

We wanted to build up our commercial business and conference bookings while the hospitality sector was recovering. We aimed to do this by reaching out to our previous clients, searching for additional, suitable clients and exploring different ways to engage with new audiences.



We have succeeded in building strong relationships with groups that we feel can complement our work and our mission at Central Hall. This includes education, and we hosted thousands of students taking their accountancy examinations. We have also continued to deliver at least two sessions each week for the probation service, and we have worked with the DfE and Hope Community School to deliver their new temporary accommodation on our site.

One major success of 2021 was the Luther Vandross tribute concert. Due to the pandemic, this concert had been postponed a number of times but was finally fixed for December. However, this was in the middle of the Omicron surge and there were a great many last minute changes to government advice and guidelines. Despite this, we were able to deliver a fun, safe event for the attendees, many of which had never been to Central Hall before. They all promised to return!



SO14 COMMUNITY HUB

Although 2021 brought more challenges and changes to navigate, our purpose remained the same: to serve the local SO14 community, bringing relief through practical help and support, nurturing hope through belonging and connection, and carrying the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord to those in need.

We ran Creative English – including an online version for new asylum seekers in lockdown, improving English, building confidence, finding friendships and cultivating community. We continued to run Bake Club for local women, not only learning to bake, but improving wellbeing through connecting for fun and friendship, picking up new recipes, and giving to others through our new 'Bakeaways'!

We trained as Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing group leaders and ran our first course, equipping and empowering course participants to nurture their own wellbeing and whole selves. We improved our database and recording systems; this year 102 people regularly came to at least one Community Hub activity. We hosted an English Cream Tea for our Creative English Class, and ran a pop-up choir just before Christmas. We have supported Bev and Nigel running Special Guardians, and had the pleasure of delivering beautiful Hope Blooms bouquets from Charlotte McArthur.

One of our English Learners returned to the first in-person class with a beautifully painted and framed Chinese character. The character was 'home'. He said I drew this for you because with this class I have found home – he put his hand on his heart and said you are my home, I have missed you so much. What a privilege to welcome and love people and help them to find home.



**Discovering
treasure
in life's scars**

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Due to the pandemic, the Community Café operated as a take-away service from the car park at Central Hall for the majority of 2021.

However, with the easing of lockdown restrictions, we were able to open up inside the Small Hall once again from mid-October, much to the relief of both guests and volunteers. We were also able to run a Christmas Café inside on Christmas and Boxing Day.

In our 15 years of operation, the café has continued to provide a lifeline for many of our guests and volunteers, not only for the food but also for the sense of community and relationships that have formed. Being back inside again makes a huge difference, allowing more time to sit, chat and

connect with the guests, as well as providing a more pleasant environment to eat a cooked meal. Numbers are down about 30% since pre-Covid times with us now receiving 50-60 guests each week but we expect them to grow back in the year ahead.

We continue to feel humbled to be part of the café. We are incredibly grateful for the support from all at New Community Church who have journeyed with us throughout and for the amazing team of volunteers who kept the café going through the Covid pandemic. In September, as part of one of the Sunday cafes, we were able to celebrate PJ's 80th birthday in style with both volunteers and guests. He is known to many at Central Hall and continues to be one of our most committed and loyal volunteers, who has helped almost every week since the very start.



HOPE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

In 2021 we continued to look for creative ways to support and partner with Hope Community School through offering Chaplaincy, powerful prayer, giving practical help, facilitating volunteers, and supporting families through our Community Hub activities.

Hope Community School welcomed another 30 families, and now has 160 pupils and 29 staff. At the beginning of the year with social restrictions in place, NCC volunteers delivered learning packs and carried out doorstep visits to families, as well as writing a 'thought for the week' to bring hope and encourage staff and families. We made and delivered wellbeing boxes for all the Hope

Community School staff, as well as educational keyworkers from our NCC Family.

At Easter we received chocolate donations from the rotary club and The Big Difference that we included with Easter activity packs for all the children.

More NCC volunteers delivered food parcels for the school holidays, helped on school trips, ran after school clubs, and baked cakes to keep the staff going!

We helped secure funding for a new sensory room for children with special educational needs and supported families experiencing bereavement and mental health challenges. Billy has continued to chair the school council (the governing body), and our wonderful group of Hopers led by the Charts continues to provide practical help and prayer support. We have seen many answers to prayer this year – both for individuals who have specifically



asked for prayer, and in wider breakthrough for the school. Members of NCC staff and community have contributed to a prayer book for the children and staff to use as part of their devotion and dependence.

In September, Southampton City Council gave approval for a new school building to be built on the East Street Site opposite Central Hall, and the Department of Education purchased the land with this agreement in place. After a few different plans, and many ups and downs, this is an amazing answer to prayer!

CCTS

The impact of Covid-19 has been well-documented on society at large and counselling services will be picking up the pieces of that impact for many years to come.

The CCTS counselling team has gone from a purely face-to-face operation to a hybrid one including

online telephone and walk and talk counselling. The team has to be applauded for having the ability to adapt very quickly to changing circumstances.

The biggest achievement in

2021 was being able to open up CCTS to face-to-face counselling again. CCTS, together with Central Hall, wrote a highly effective Risk Assessment and ensured that we had everything needed to welcome clients safely. Two rooms were set up to see clients and an online booking app was developed, enabling counsellors and clients to enter and leave the building without concern. During 2021 CCTS engaged with 46 new referrals, 16 of which qualified for a bursary.

CCTS's training courses also continued to run over lockdown. The students have had to deal with home schooling, being furloughed from work, like the rest of the UK, as well as complete assignments and supervised counselling hours. They have shown, that with the appropriate support, the impossible can happen! We continue to support the diploma students, five of which have counselling placements with us, and we are confident that all students will earn their Level 4 Diploma during 2022.



ccts

Here is some feedback provided by a CCTS client:

“Improved tranquillity in my relationships, which has been achieved by improving my sense of self-worth, supported with enhancing self-pleasing activities without guilt. Also, by appropriately aligning responsibility for aspects of self and of others and through developing effective management strategies for situational friction points in myself and specific to my spouse and others within my sphere.

The combination of intelligent listening, questioning and useful explaining and suggesting which have enabled me to clarify where and how to affect changes which duly elicit improved outcomes – and then to review and reflect on these in a positive iterative way.

I found working with the counsellor was something I looked forward to and which, over a very short span of time very quickly identified practical, simple and achievable strategies to affect positive life change. Brilliant!”

PARTNERSHIPS

LOVE
Southampton

HOPE
into
ACTION

Enabling churches to house the homeless

Part of our commitment as New Community Church is to work in partnership where we can and it makes sense.

Hope into Action - Mike Martin co-ordinates this partnership and has gathered a team of investors and volunteers. Our first house purchase completed in December 2021 and we are looking forward to receiving our first tenants early in 2022.

Annabel Wright continues to build relationships with **Love Southampton** and **Southampton City Mission**. We are excited that Catherine Sheen is now a key volunteer at the marketplace based at Saint Mary's and we are developing more ways of partnering together to love and serve both the SO14 community and our city of Southampton.





PIONEER

We have the privilege, through Billy's leadership of Pioneer International, to be connected with many churches and networks across the globe.

Despite not being able to travel in 2021 we have been able to support the developments of networks in Cuba, USA, Cyprus, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Ghana, Uganda, Zambia, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Australia and new Zealand.



2020/21 FINANCIAL REPORT

Our buildings may have been closed for part of 2021, but the church is alive and has continued outworking God's vision for our city and beyond!

Your financial giving has made a difference. We have continued using the online platform for Sunday Services which has given us a much wider reach, we have been able to seamlessly restart meeting in-person services at both St Andrews and Central Hall, we have invested in our children's and youth activities, supported those vulnerably housed through Community Cafe, supported the work of our counselling service, partnered with Hope Community School, increased our engagement with

community activities, helped those in need within our family network through the Hardship Fund and the list goes on....!

None of this would be possible without those who pray, serve and financially give to the work of New Community.

Thank you!

Tithing Income

The Bible teaches that tithing is the foundation for giving, the starting point. Tithing is an act of worship that expresses our gratitude to God and love for others.

In this financial report we refer to your tithes income as General Donations which is shown in the breakdown below. Our total income this year £596k (2020: £650k, this includes restricted donations & legacies received or government grants).

Gift Day

Our Gift Day offering in 2021 raised £11k (2020: £42k).

Your generosity has enabled us to give to organisations and ministries beyond New Community Church. In total, we gave away nearly £96k this year (2020: £ 97k;) to individuals and other organisations both in the UK and overseas.

We were able to continue financially supporting the following UK based organisations:

Amber Charity
 Barnabas Ministries
 Hope Community School
 Firgrove Family Trust
 Flowers of Justice
 Pioneer Trust
 Southampton Christian Network
 Southampton Family Trust
 Southampton Street Pastors
 Steve Lee Ministries.

We have also given one-off donations to:

Alpha UK
 Energise Me
 MacMillan Cancer Association
 Oasis Academy Mayfield
 New Life Homes in Kenya and the Weston Youth Project.

Your donations have gone as far as helping people in Guinea, India, France, Kenya, Liberia, Philippines, South African, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Uganda and the USA.

What better legacy to give!

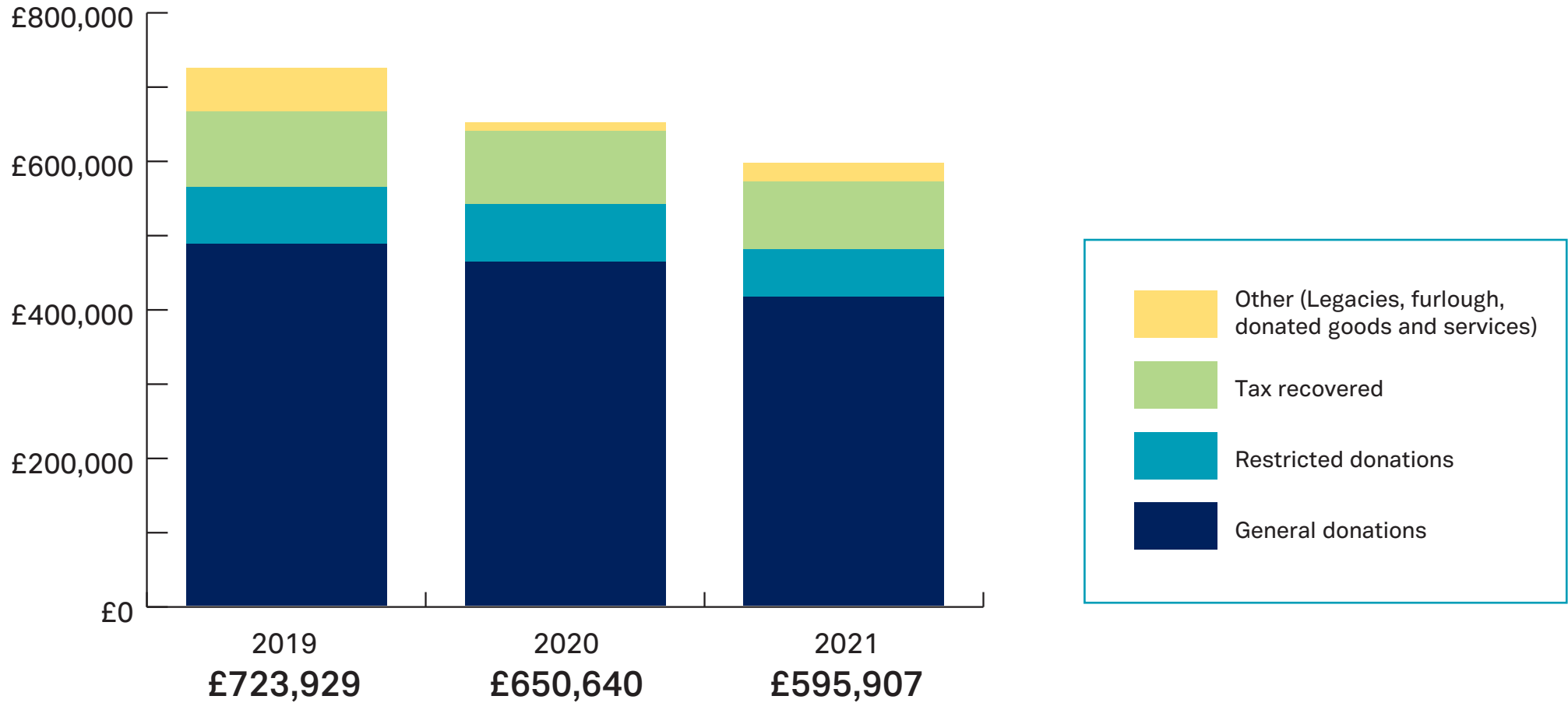
You can make a huge impact on the work of the church for generations to come by leaving a legacy. A gift in your Will would continue to provide for all that we do locally and internationally. No matter how big or small, your legacy gift will give hope and the chance to make a difference now and into the future. Have a look at our website to see how you can leave a legacy.

If you regularly attend New Community Church and are considering tithing, please pray about how much you can start giving to support the work of the church.

If you already give, a huge thank you and please consider reviewing your giving. An extra £5000 each month will go a long way – that's 100 people giving an extra £50!

For more information on different ways to give, please visit our giving page at www.newcommunity.org.uk or email our finance team at finance@newcommunity.org.uk.

Donation income



newcommunity

NETWORK

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