

## **Trustees Annual Report and Accounts**

**September 2020 – August 2021**

### **Registered Charity Numbers:**

1130355

1193801 (CIO from 15/3/2021)

### **Registered Address:**

54 Grosvenor Road

Tunbridge Wells

TN1 2AS

### **Trustees:**

Kay Dunlop

Mike Fawcett

Anne Hinds

Pauline Joyce

Tony Joyce (Chairman)

Stuart Lyell (from 5/10/2020)

Susanne Lyell (from 5/10/2020)

Lesley Clarke (from 1/2/2021)

## Chair of Trustees Report

In September 2020 we could not have imagined that Covid would still be with us a year on! We have used the time prayerfully to seek God's will on how we should take our ministry forward. We soon became very aware that we were entering a 'new' season and responded to that calling. Having the new premises, so generously donated by two of our faithful trustees has opened up so much opportunity for us to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to young people in the town. A bus stop outside our front door has meant that we are not only visible to the thousands of young people walking past but also those on the bus...including the bus drivers.

The input of our staff and our Trustees and volunteers has been amazing. Special thanks to Kay who is not only a trustee but continues faithfully to administer our organisation. Also a special mention to People International for allowing us to use a part of their building in Church Road for so many years.

Our volunteers have also been amazing, notably those with a ministry of 'CAKE'! Yes cake!

Each school day young people pop in to the Youth Centre on their way home from school to have a drink and have some cake. Offering refreshments affords our Youth Ministry Team an opportunity to engage with them in an informal and non-threatening way. Depending upon their needs, some choose to play games or do colouring whilst some appreciate having confidential chats in our prayer space.

During the year the Trustees took the decision to convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). We did this as we were taking on a lease and by changing our status the lease, and indeed the employees of Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ, were vested in the charity rather than the individual trustees.

Whilst our finances are OK at the moment, we are very aware that there is no room for complacency. As our ministry evolves our costs also increase and we continually give thanks for the wonderful constancy and generosity of monthly financial donors supporting this very important Christian ministry.

May our Lord Jesus Christ keep you and bless you.

Tony Joyce

## Our Mission

Our mission is to see young people's lives changed by Jesus.

Our work with young people has primarily come under two categories: Community / Evangelism and Discipleship as we follow the Youth for Christ '4D' approach to sharing the Good News:

**Demonstrate** the love of God

**Declare** who Jesus is

Give opportunities for a **Decision** to follow Him

**Disciple** young people to live their lives to the full.

To receive regular updates about our ministry, please sign up to our monthly Prayer Letters <https://tunbridgewells.yfc.co.uk/contact-us/>

### Centre Directors' reports

Team:

|                            |                                                                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Centre Director:           | Pauline Joyce from January 2020 – Maternity cover<br>Karen Cox from April 2021 |
| Volunteer Administrator:   | Kay Dunlop                                                                     |
| Community Youth Worker:    | Berti Frroku                                                                   |
| Discipleship Youth Worker: | David Tyler until October 2020                                                 |
| Placement Student:         | Emma Halls                                                                     |

### September 2020 to April 2021

Briefly reviewing where we began this year, with hindsight we can see how God has used this furlough or fallow period. It has been a blessing that we did not try to employ a Centre Director to cover Lydia's maternity leave. Youth workers Berti and Dave had been furloughed, partly due to the difficulty of seeing young people at this time but also for their benefit as they needed to be available for their young families for home schooling and care. We stayed in touch with weekly prayer meetings attended by any other youth workers in town. This was a valuable means of support and contact.

This time was also a valuable time for training with many zoom and virtual seminars and courses on issues such as digital ministry and mental health of young people. Gap Year student Emma was an invaluable helper with other youth ministry and churches in the town, helping to produce online material.

Our trustees have had a busy time with plans formulating and coming to fruition for our new Youth Centre in Grosvenor Road.

But the beginning of this new year (September) saw Berti and Dave back from furlough, initially part time, reconnecting with young people and reaching out to new, with a mainly detached ministry in the town, aiming to prepare young people for the opening of the new Youth Centre and enquiring of them what they would like to see there. But of course new restrictions came in again.

Despite being furloughed, in his own time, Berti kept in touch with a few vulnerable young people and went for walks with them when this was allowed. He also fund raised by sleeping rough, to provide Christmas gifts to young people in the two town hostels. Having completed a chaplaincy course in lockdown Berti is working on gaining access to more schools in this role.

Emma who first came to us through the National YFC Gap year programme has joined the team for a few hours per week as part of her placement on her Theology and Youth Ministry degree at St Mellitus College.

With the news that Lydia would not be returning after maternity leave, recruitment began for a new Centre Director. It was agreed that a full time Centre Director was really important and so with the departure of two part time staff, we are able now to advertise for a full-time person. Again God is using what seems like a problem to become a better solution. After two recruitment drives we have been blessed by the arrival of Karen Cox who comes with wide ranging experience. She has brought great energy and direction to the ministry and we are very grateful to have her.

The pause that the Covid-19 lockdown caused has given us the opportunity to rethink our ministry. Some decisions that might have been hard to make have been made for us and we have begun afresh with new premises and a new person in charge. The premises are giving us opportunities to connect directly with young people, many of whom have no faith background. The evangelistic opportunities are huge.

**Polly Joyce**

## April 2021 to August 2021.

I joined Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ at the beginning of April 2021 just as our new premises were being finished by the builders and handed over to us. Our 2 other members of staff, Berti Frroku (Community Youth Worker) and Emma Halls (Student Youth Worker) came back from furlough at the beginning of April too.

Due to the ongoing Covid restrictions face to face youth work had to wait until after the May half term but we were able to spend the first few months in The Youth Centre finishing the fixtures and planning how we were going to run the after school drop-in.

We also held a Vision day on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 for the staff and trustees which focussed on our vision for the drop in and ways to meet the young people's needs. We put together a vision statement which bridges the gap between the Youth for Christ vision statement and the '4D's' of how to carry it out. We agreed that: ***The Youth Centre will provide a safe space to empower young people to become all that God intended by accepting, caring and loving them for the individuals they are. Through fun and friendship, we will demonstrate the love of God, declare who Jesus is, encourage a decision to follow Him and disciple the young people to live their lives to the full.***

Most schools were reluctant to have anyone visiting at this point but Temple Grove Academy welcomed Berti back to support some year 6s and be a presence in the playground once a week. West Kent College did reach out to enquire whether Berti would be able to visit in a chaplaincy role but this did not start this term due to HR issues in the college. Skinner's Grammar also reached out at this time to explore possible future support.

Karen met with 3 other Christian youth charities (Life and Soul, Crossways and CrossTeach) who work in the town to put together a brochure for the local schools detailing what each charity can offer. These were sent out in October.

After the May half term we opened the after school drop in on Tuesdays and Thursdays with the staff team ably supported by Lesley (Thank you). The first few weeks were spent out on the street with sweets and leaflets letting the young people know what the centre was all about. Quite quickly though,, the young people started to come in to the centre. By the end of the term we were getting to know a few regulars and had met many more who were just coming for take away cakes! Thank you to our home made cake team for your very tasty contributions!

Sadly restrictions meant we were still not able to meet face to face with adults so our fortnightly prayer meetings for youth workers in the town had to stay online. We did however, have an excellent end of term breakfast together in Kay's garden which was allowed!

The centre was formally opened by Bishop Simon, Bishop of Tonbridge on 26<sup>th</sup> August and representatives from many of the churches in the town along with Thea from British Youth for Christ attended. The Bishop commissioned the staff and blessed the space. This event was held within a week of open sessions for our supporters and any other curious souls to come and find out more which was very well attended.

Karen Cox

## Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ Financial Report for 2020 - 2021

### Summary

In January 21 the then Treasurer announced that he was leaving Tunbridge Wells and decided that he could not continue in his current role and resigned, but would remain as a trustee. Stuart Lyell then offered to be the Treasurer and was appointed in February 21.

The Trustees are very grateful for Mike's many years of service to Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ as Treasurer and pray that he and his family will enjoy pastures new!

### Main Events in 20/21

In April 2021 we took possession of the new premises at 54 Grosvenor Road and began to fit them out with loose furniture and equipment, with funding principally provided from the designated fund set up with the proceeds of the sponsored walk in August 2020.

We also recruited a new full time Centre Director, Karen Cox, who took up her position to coincide with the move to our new premises. Karen has already made a huge impact on the ministry of Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ and we are very blessed that she is working with us.

We were unsure how the pandemic would affect all those people and churches who have faithfully supported Youth for Christ in the past. However, we are very grateful that personal giving has held steady and whilst private donations fell slightly, we received an increase in church donations. Whilst there was reduced expenditure owing to less activity during lockdown plus the benefit of the Covid Job Retention Scheme grant, this was balanced by an increase in expenditure on fitting out The Youth Centre. Overall, this has enabled us to end the financial year with a very encouraging stable position with cash at bank of £32,743, compared to £35,945 for the previous year.

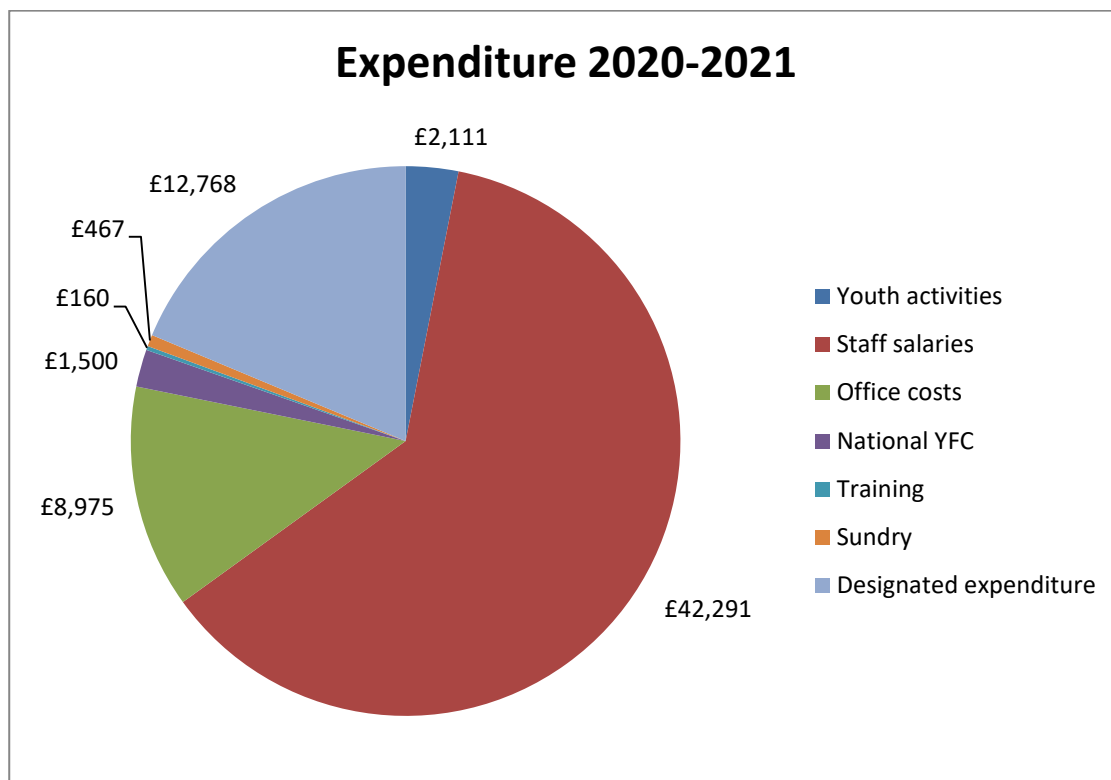
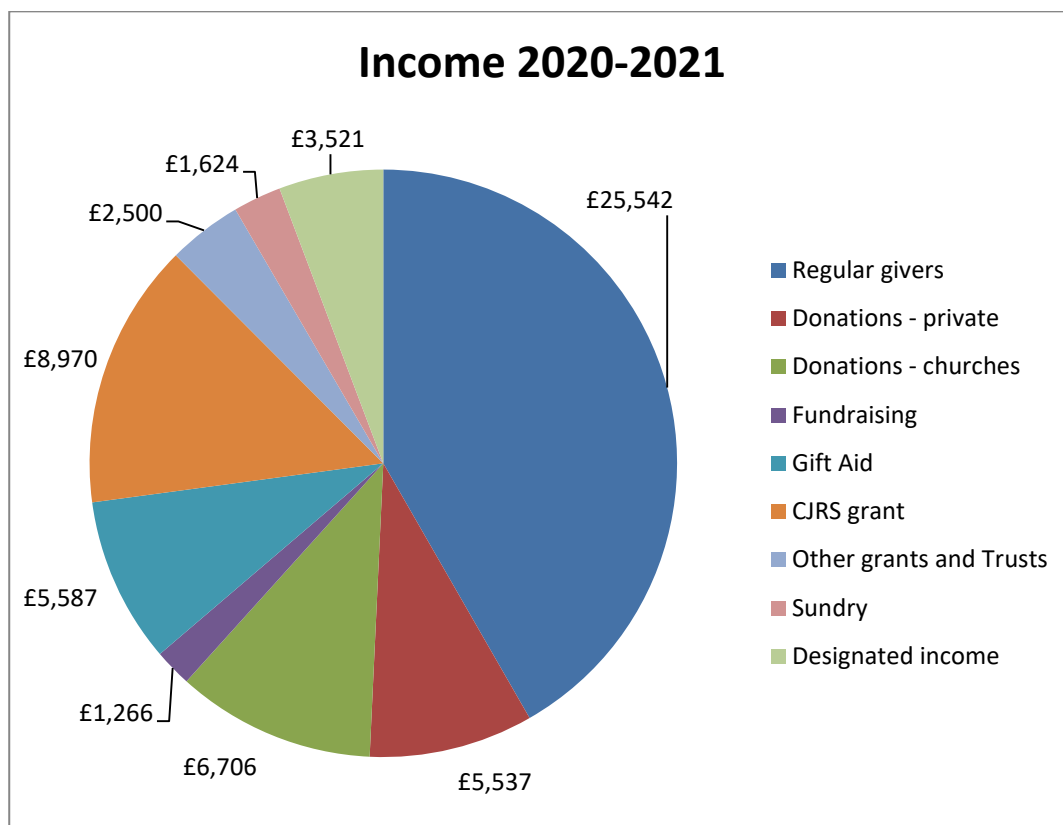
### Annual Accounts

After many years of independently examining our annual accounts, Linda Wanniaratchy retired in 2021 and Stephen East has taken up the role.

The Trustees extend their many thanks to Linda for all her work in the past and to Stephen for agreeing to be our new independent examiner.

A copy of the annual accounts is attached, as independently examined by Stephen East.

The principal categories of our income and expenditure for the current financial year is shown in the Pie Charts below:



Stuart Lyell Treasurer and Trustee May 2022