

Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

September 2021 – August 2022

Registered Charity Numbers:

1193801

Registered Address:

54 Grosvenor Road

Tunbridge Wells

TN1 2AS

Trustees:

Lesley Clarke

Kay Dunlop

Mike Fawcett (until 28/3/2022)

Anne Hinds

Pauline Joyce

Tony Joyce (Chairman)

Stuart Lyell

Susanne Lyell

Chair of Trustees' Report

Tunbridge Wells YFC gives thanks to the Lord for continuing to bless our Christian ministry and especially for the provision of the Youth Centre in Grosvenor Road. As a result, we are in a 'new season' of ministry and have enthusiastically responded to this calling. Our ministry now has much more opportunity to bless so many young people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our location has meant that we are visible to thousands of young people who walk past our front door and having a drop-in on their route to the centre of town has meant that we have had an encounter with more than one thousand young people.

We thank the Lord for the continued support of our very generous donors without whom our ministry could not continue and also to our volunteers who help at the Youth Centre and those who give generously in others ways, for example, a ministry of 'CAKE'. When young people visit the Youth Centre, they can just chill, or spend time in the prayer space or do craft or play games. There is something for everyone. A number of young people have valued our 'safe' space where they can confidentially unload their concerns on our experienced empathetic youth workers. This building of relationships is opening up opportunities for sharing faith.

The continued input of our staff and our trustees has been amazing. Special thanks to Kay who is not only a trustee but continues faithfully to administer our organisation.

Whilst our finances have so far held up, we are very aware that there is no room for complacency. Our annual 26-mile sponsored walk so far has filled the gap between our income and our expenditure, praise the Lord. As our ministry evolves our costs also increase and we continually give thanks for the wonderful constancy and generosity of financial donors some of whom in these difficult times have sacrificially increased their giving.

May our Lord Jesus Christ keep you and bless you.

Tony Joyce

Chairman

January 2023

Centre Director's report

Our Vision: Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ will take the Good News to young people across the town by going out to make connections and build relationships in places where the young people are, and by inviting them into The Youth Centre to find out more.

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.

Staff, volunteers and trustees will develop, and grow deeper in, their love for Jesus which will enable them to speak confidently about Jesus, draw the young people into a relationship with Him and effectively disciple them as they grow.

The Youth Centre.

The after-school drop-in opened 5 afternoons a week from September 2021 as covid restrictions lifted. A small team of volunteers supported the staff in welcoming the young people in and a few people provided cakes and biscuits for them! Initially we saw 8 -10 regulars but that soon increased and by July we were regularly seeing around 15-20 young people per session and knew around 40 young people by name.

One group we were not expecting was those in year 6 from The Wells Free School. They soon started coming in large numbers on a Monday. It was wonderful to see them all grow in confidence over the year and many still attend even though they have all moved to secondary school.

Most of the time in the drop-in is spent chatting to the young people about life and school, friendships and bullying, home and homework. We have been pleased to see that over the year the young people have started to build strong friendships with each other, crossing boundaries of school and year group.

Over the year we decorated The Youth Centre windows for Streets of Light (a non-Halloween event) Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. We chatted about and explored the possibility of there being a spiritual side to life, God knowing us and loving us, Jesus' miracles and parables as well as the Christmas and Easter message. These conversations came through associated craft activities or the interactive displays Berti set up. We were able to give all the regulars a beautifully illustrated copy of Luke's

Gospel at Christmas, and a 'real' Easter egg at Easter. We also celebrated their birthdays through the year, thanks to Emma's birthday board idea.

The volunteer team fluctuated over the year but we were generally well staffed with trustees helping out as needed. Karen ran a training course (from Youthscape) for the volunteers which looks at current teenage life, ways to share the gospel and support for our own discipleship.

Most of the young people attending the drop-in do so because it is on the way home from school and so they are not in the town during the school holidays. This meant that we just opened for 'special' events in the holidays and prepared for lower numbers. Over the summer we left The Youth Centre completely to do detached work in the town: Sport in the Park and Games at the Clock.

Churches

We continued to host fortnightly prayer meetings for the church youth workers in the town and ran some youth worker socials which were well attended.

Three large scale events for the church youth groups were run over the year, all under the title of 'Unite'. Unite in the Wild in October saw 60 young people (from 7 different churches) take part in outdoor activities, worship, teaching and a BBQ at Adamswell camp site in Langton.

Unite Live with Chip Kendall was a loud and energetic evening of dance and worship with an opportunity to commit to Jesus. 43 attended (covid was high again!) and it was a great time. 11 young people committed or recommitted their lives to Jesus. Following this event Berti led Youth Alpha at The Youth Centre and 2 young people attended the whole course and were strengthened in their faith through it.

Finally, Unite Prayer and Pizza ran in the summer term and gave the young people an opportunity to explore lots of different ways to pray. Sadly, only a couple of churches attended this with their young people but those who came found it a useful event and the prayers the young people wrote were amazing and heartfelt.

We were able to run The Noise again this year, based at Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship, as Christmas covid restrictions had eased by Easter. The worship and teaching were based on the theme of, 'Open the eyes of our hearts'. There were 7 different projects to take part in, outdoors and inside. We were well supported by 9 different churches with 34 young people taking part on at least one day and some coming for all 3! We also played some silly games, took part in a photo scavenger hunt and raised money to twin the toilet at The Youth Centre.

In September, Berti was asked to support the weekday youth group, Ignite, at St Matthew's Church while they were without a youth worker. Berti led the 'God slot' and supported the volunteers. Over the year numbers have increased steadily with church and non-churched young people attending.

Schools' work

Schools work started very slowly this year due to them having to adapt to being open post covid, then implementing restrictions again and then being 'properly' open again.

Temple Grove Academy were quick to invite Berti back. He mentored the whole year 6 class over the course of the year, a few at a time and then went on their residential trip. The whole team supported Lisa (St Philip's Church) to lead an assembly and lots of craft activities about Easter.

North Kent College (previously West Kent) invited Berti and Karen to their freshers fair and Berti was involved in their Remembrance service. However, he was not back in a chaplaincy role until nearer Christmas due to many staffing changes. He was able to support some of the college students but was frustrated by the lack of support from the student welfare team (due to major senior management changes). By the end of the year, we were seeking God's will as to whether this ministry should continue. In July Berti received an email from the college letting him know that they would not be needing him to attend in September 2022.

A new venture for the team was running prayer spaces in schools. St Gregory's School Chaplain invited us to run a prayer space for Advent 2021 and Lent 2022. We also led some year 7 lessons looking at the Easter story through practical prayer space activities.

We were also invited to run a prayer space at the end of the year at Bethany School, Goudhurst. Karen led 3 assemblies on prayer before the team supported years 7, 8 and 9 during lessons in the prayer space.

Staffing

The team have continued to learn and grow together as Karen has settled into the CD role over the year. Emma has completed her second year of her Theology degree. We have all been amazed and excited by what God has led us into this year and the young people we have met and shared with.

Karen Cox

Centre Director

January 2023

Treasurer's report

The Youth Centre has now been running for a full financial year, which has resulted in our annual costs increasing to nearly £72,000, but these have been more than matched by an increase in giving from individuals and churches to nearly £79,000.

This enabled us to increase our total reserves of unrestricted funds to just over £36,000, which equates to approximately 6 months running costs as required by our charity reserves policy in line with guidance from the Charity Commission.

We also have just under £3,000 in restricted funds, which are slowly being expended on qualifying events and costs.

It is worth noting that the annual sponsored walk in September 21 – this year covering 26 miles on the Tunbridge Wells Circular Path – raised over £13,000.

As always, we are very grateful for the amazing financial support from our individual donors, church partners, and those who award us grants, without whom this ministry would not be able to function.

Annual Accounts

A copy of the annual accounts to 31 August 22 is included below, as independently examined by Stephen East. This includes a comparison of the income and expenditure for the current year and previous financial year.

Income and expenditure for the year to 31 August 2022

	Year to August 2022		Year to August 2021	
Income				
Regular givers	£	24,446.12	£	25,542.48
Donations - private	£	15,843.55	£	5,536.57
Donations - churches	£	10,098.52	£	6,706.20
Fundraising	£	15,898.87	£	1,265.67
Gift Aid	£	6,676.10	£	5,586.92
CJRS grant	£	-	£	8,970.25
Other grants and Trusts	£	2,750.00	£	2,500.00
Sundry	£	3,174.90	£	1,624.16
Total income before designated gifts	£	78,888.06	£	57,732.25

Expenditure

Youth activities	£	2,523.14	£	2,110.68
Staff salaries	£	55,873.43	£	42,291.31
Office costs	£	3,766.17	£	8,975.18
National YFC	£	1,465.00	£	1,500.00
Training	£	3,591.81	£	159.73
Youth centre improvement costs	£	4,645.90	£	-
Sundry	£	49.00	£	466.79
Total expenditure before utilisation of designated gifts	£	71,914.45	£	55,503.69

Net income	£	6,973.61	£	2,228.56
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Unrestricted funds b/f	£	29,183.68	£	26,955.12
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Unrestricted funds c/f	£	36,157.29	£	29,183.68
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Restricted funds

Designated income	£	6,464.69	£	3,520.50
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Designated expenditure	£	7,101.00	£	12,767.90
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Net designated income/(expenditure)	-£	636.31	-£	9,247.40
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Restricted funds b/f	£	3,560.03	£	12,807.43
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Restricted funds c/f	£	2,923.72	£	3,560.03
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Balance sheet

Cash at bank	£	35,181.76	£	32,257.81
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Gift Aid debtor	£	3,899.25	£	485.90
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Net assets	£	39,081.01	£	32,743.71
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Represented by Unrestricted funds	£	36,157.29	£	29,183.68
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Restricted funds	£	2,923.72	£	3,560.03
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Total reserves	£	39,081.01	£	32,743.71
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Notes

On 23 March 2021 all of the activities, assets and liabilities of Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ (charity number 1130355) were transferred to a newly formed Charitable Incorporated Organisation (charity number 1193801). The accounts to 31 August 2021 incorporate the activities of both organisations.

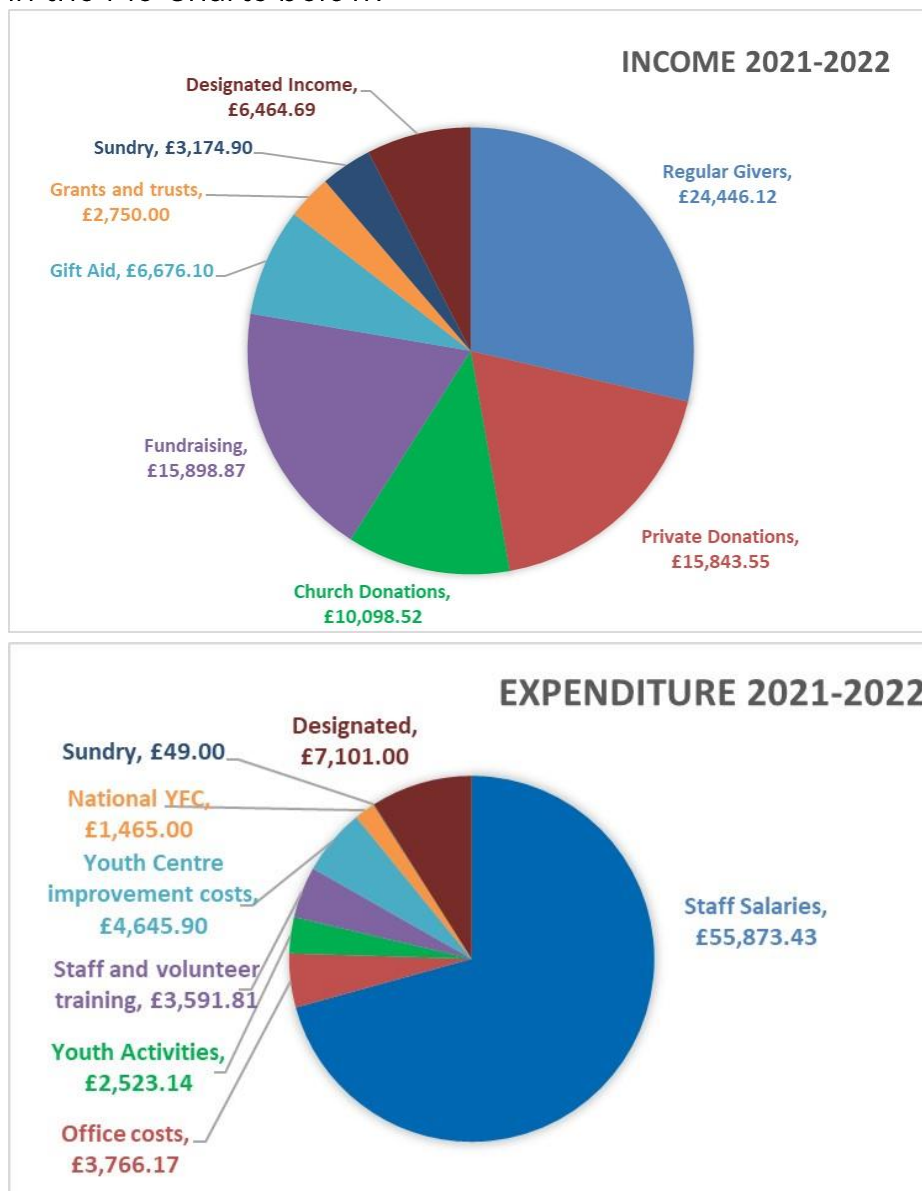
These accounts for the period ended 31 August 2022 have been examined by Stephen East

Stephen East, Heasmans Lodge Farm, Black Hill, Crowborough

16 January 2023

Income & Expenditure

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

January 2023