



### **Narrative to the 2021 Accounts.**

On behalf of the elders, I am pleased to attach a summary from the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021, and a narrative for some of the CFC ministries and activities undertaken for that period. A copy of the full accounts is available on the website or on request from the church office.

This additional narrative to the accounts is to provide more detail and give a proper emphasis on all the work and investment that took place across our sites at East, Inner East, Holywood, South, and Antrim, as well as our Sign Language congregation.

2021 was the second year of the Covid 19 pandemic and a number of significant changes took place at CFC. Owen Crane stepped down as Senior Pastor and was subsequently replaced by Andrew Gibson in June 2021, after an extensive recruitment process. We also appointed a site Pastor for East, with Charlotte Curran taking over the reins in November 2021. Furlough, 'working from home' rules, and changes in church personnel during the year, provided some interesting challenges for our incredible staff team.

The government restrictions imposed at different times throughout 2021, impacted all the CFC sites and ministries. Our media team played a key role in helping the church family stay connected with the live-streaming of our online services every week. It was difficult time as we navigated the changing guidelines, but the focus of CFC remained the same – to help people find and follow Jesus, and to impact Belfast, Ireland and the nations with the love of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our work with kids, youth, young adults, outreach, mission, and compassion, and Connect groups continued throughout 2021 despite the Covid restrictions, with the different departments finding creative ways to reach out and to care for others. Through the special offering collected for Myanmar, CFC'ers gave an amazing £26,000, and gave a further £74,000 for the Christmas Compassion Appeal, which enabled us to bless over 1,500 local people with vouchers and gifts at Christmas.

At the end of 2021, we were delighted to finalise the purchase of the new building for CFC Antrim. The process to buy the property had been very slow, but in December the contract was finally signed, and refurbishment work started in January 2022. We are excited to see how the building will be used as a blessing for both the people in the local area and for the CFC Antrim family.

The financial information contained in our accounts tells an incredible story of the faithfulness of our God and the amazing, ongoing generosity of the CFC community. In a year where there was continued disruption to normal church life, staff changes, illness, uncertainty and changing government regulations, the CFC family continued to care for and support many who faced difficult circumstances. They donated money, resources, and gifts to help people in need, not only within the church, but also in the local communities and even overseas.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge "Thank You" to everyone who continues to invest their time, energy, and gifts into building His kingdom. We are eternally (in the real sense of that word) thankful to God. As commented in previous years, it is easy to look at the figures without fully appreciating what these numbers represent. The following describes a little of what was happening in the various ministries and departments within CFC during the 2021 financial year. These different ministries and the work carried out, impacted countless lives, the value of which is immeasurable.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF THE 2021 ACCOUNTS

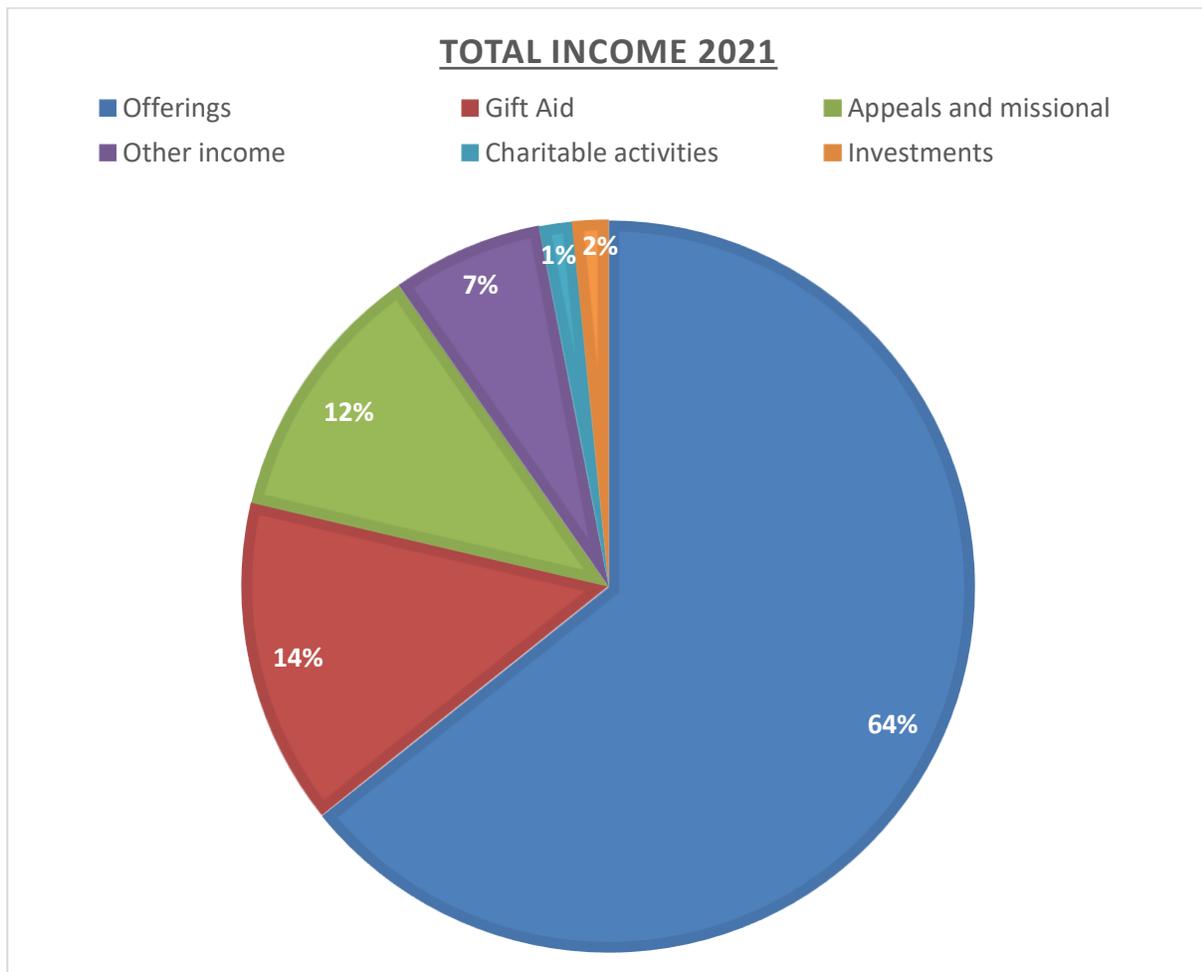
### Income and Expenditure

Details of all income and expenditure can be seen in the 2021 accounts. The highlights are as follows:

#### Income

- Donations for the year fell slightly (by 1%) from the 2020 amount. This was encouraging as 2020 included a number of larger gifts given in response to the outbreak of the pandemic.
- Total income in 2021 also stayed consistent (within 1%) with 2020 total income.
- The cash situation improved in 2021 and allowed us to maintain our 3-month free reserve plus increase cash in hand. This meant that we were able to sow into the Antrim building project in 2022.
- Income received for Appeals and Missions Support rose by £27k during the year
- The Compassion Appeal in November 2021 raised an incredible £74k, the highest total to date.
- Net income for the year was £256K

See chart below for details of income sources:



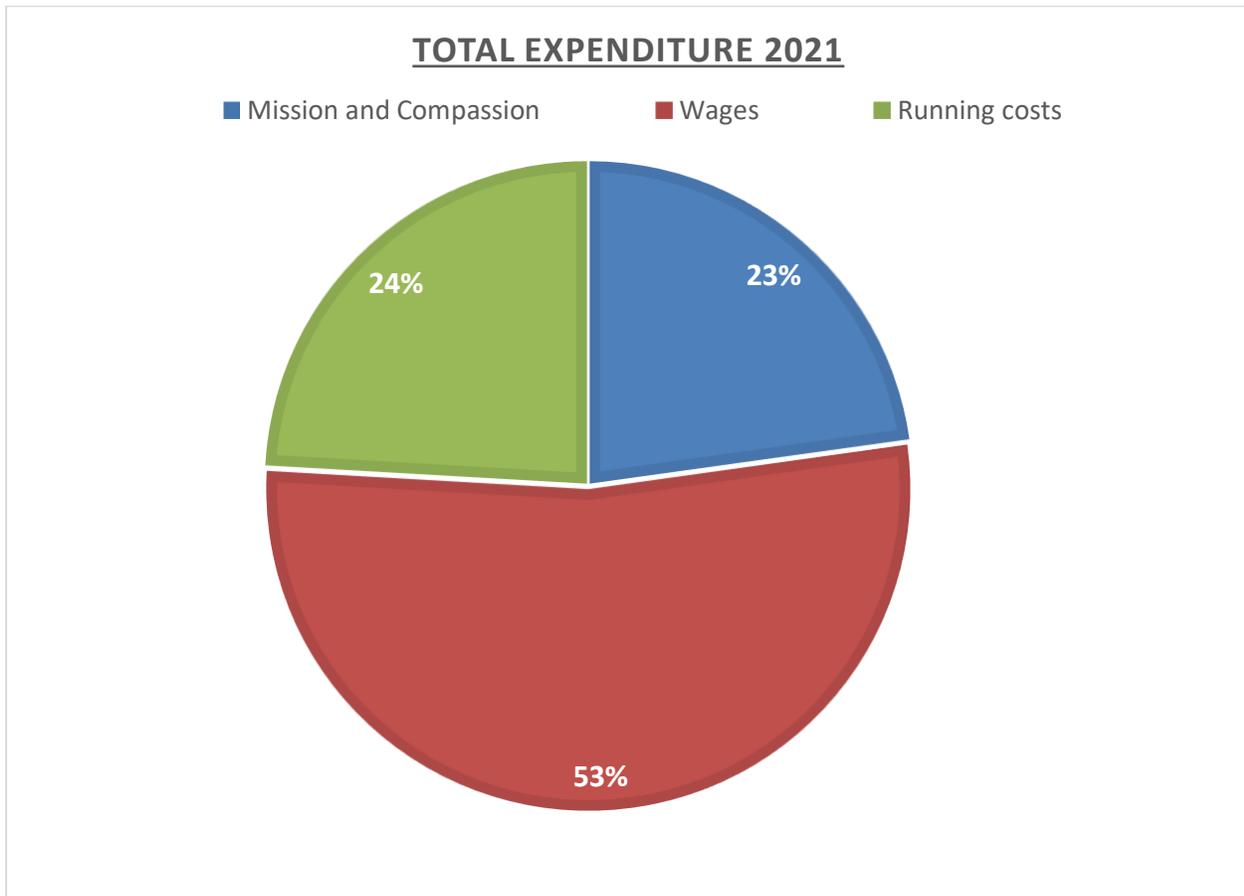
Below is an extract from the accounts detailing income received:

	Unrestricted funds	£	Restricted funds	£	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<b><u>Income and endowments from:</u></b>						
Donations and legacies	986,543		242,326		1,228,89	1,247,441
Charitable activities	19,086		1,001		20,087	16,445
Other trading activities	-		-		-	792
Investments	21,109		-		21,109	14,443
Other income	55,737		335,000		90,737	91,689
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<u>1,082,475</u>		<u>278,327</u>		<u>1,360,802</u>	<u>1,370,810</u>

Unrestricted Funds are monies given where the donor has not specified how they must be used. They include; tithes, offerings and donations (and the related Gift Aid) as well as funds from events, conferences, and rental income. Restricted Funds represent gifts and offerings where either the donor has stipulated how the funds are to be used, (including mission projects) or the funds are given in response to a specific request or appeal.

## Expenditure

See chart below for details of expenditure:





Overall expenditure fell slightly by a total of £1,631 in 2021.

Expenditure to note includes:

• **Salaries**

Following government advice, we made the decision not to make any of the staff redundant because of the Covid 19 restrictions. Instead, we redeployed staff where we could, furloughing those who could not work due to the nature of their roles.

Total salary costs fell during 2021 by 8%, due to the following changes on our staff team: Owen Crane, Judith Camblin, Zara Miskimmin, Alison Burns and Bronwen Kearney left the organisation. Kathryn Purcell took a career break, Emily Hanna went on maternity leave, Sharon Mawhinney went on adoption leave, whilst Niall Lewis and Brian Forsythe joined the team. We want to thank those who moved on during the year for all their hard work at CFC, and we wish them God’s richest blessings for the future.

The average number of staff employed during the year was 24.

The staff salary bands are shown below:

Salary Bands at 31st December 2021	No. of CFC Staff	
	Full Time	Part Time
>£14,999	0	8
£15,000 to £29,999	7	5
£30,000 to £39,000	3	0
£40,000 to £50,000	1	0
Total	11	13

• **Legal and Professional Fees**

Professional costs incurred in 2021 include planning application and architect fees for the Antrim building, and freelance videography and media design fees for recording and editing online services.

• **Rent**

Rental costs decreased substantially during the year. This was due to the reduction in the number of gatherings at our sites because of Covid restrictions and also reflects of the lease on the Eden premises on the Belmont Road coming to an end.

• **Missional Support**

Missional Support relates to monies received for missions from the congregation (and others), that are then paid over to the various missions connected with CFC. The level of support increased during the year as the level of need of our missional partners rose.

• **Repairs and Maintenance**

Repairs and maintenance costs include new church signage for East, new flooring, electrical testing, water damage repairs to 185 Holywood Road, exterior painting of the church houses and refurbishment of 187 Holywood Road.

- **Other**

Many categories of expenditure including food and consumables, training and conference fees, general expenses and hire of equipment costs etc. saw a decrease in spend during the year. These decreases directly related to reduced church activity due to the restrictions imposed during the pandemic.

## **NOTES**

- Quarterly management accounts are uploaded onto the website so that members can see up-to date figures, rather than year-end figures only.
- Budgets for the sites, departments and ministries are set each year in order to encourage accountability and clarity, and to facilitate better planning. These budgets are approved by the Elders. They are monitored throughout the year and regular update meetings are held with the budget holders.

### **Conclusion:**

The slight reduction in expenditure (due to the continued restrictions in church activities) during 2021, and relatively steady income, allowed us to maintain a very healthy set of annual accounts for the year. The faithfulness of God and of God's people has been evidenced clearly throughout the pandemic, as we have sought to continue to help people find and follow Jesus and demonstrate His kingdom.

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES ACROSS CFC MINISTRIES AND SITES IN 2021:**

### **MISSION AT HOME AND OVERSEAS**

Our call to help people find and follow Jesus is out worked in our local neighbourhoods, our towns and cities, our country and in the nations. As well as offering practical assistance, prayer and encouragement, we also financially support our key partners and individuals.

At home this includes:

- **Oasis** - helping transform lives in Inner East Belfast and Antrim. CFC continued to fund a post in Oasis Good Morning project in 2021.
- **Association of Related Churches** (ARC) Ireland – helping plant churches throughout Ireland.
- **Christians Against Poverty** (CAP) – helping people to become debt free and introducing them to Jesus
- **Alpha** – giving people the opportunity to explore Christianity.

Throughout 2021 we continued to develop our relationship with charities and groups outside CFC, these included:

- **The Larder, Antrim Food Bank** and **South Belfast Food Bank**
- **Life House** – supporting and mentoring young mums
- **British Red Cross and Home Plus** – befriending refugee families and providing support and assistance to destitute asylum seekers.

Overseas we support three key partnerships:

- **UCCI (United Christian Church of India)** – delivering education and healthcare to some of the poorest rural communities. Training and developing church pastors, as well as some building projects.
- **Ethnos Asia** – resourcing, training and developing church leaders in Access Restricted Nations.
- **Earth Mission Asia** - developing training programs for local healthcare teams to serve rural areas of Myanmar and building projects.
- **Vida Lisboa** - a fledgling church plant in Lisbon Portugal where we assist with the salary of the pastor

At an individual level, we supported:

- **Jud Sweeney** – with 24/7 Prayer in Ibiza.

### **Special Appeals -**

In April 2021 we launched a special appeal asking you to help provide food and shelter for people in Myanmar as a result of the coup and in India because of the pandemic. You gave £26,000! This was distributed evenly between our partners working on the ground.

In November 2021 you gave an amazing £74,000 to our Compassion Appeal, which was used to bless over 1,500 people with vouchers and gifts at Christmas. The remainder of the money will be used across the 2022 year to assist individuals in hardship and helping groups working across NI.

## **YOUTH**

2021 was a year of endings and begins - with lockdown ending and in-person programmes beginning again, with Judith leaving and Lucy coming onboard full-time, and with CFC Youth beginning the new normal, and leaving the old normal behind. That being said, God was certainly on the move and challenged our young people in incredible ways.

Our programmes consisted of; ongoing pastoral support, zoom meetings in small groups and on a one-to-one basis, in-person Connect groups, After Schools Club, Friday night programmes, Table Talk group, Youth Church on Sunday mornings, and schools' outreach (running the S.U. lessons and an after schools drop in). As a result of lockdown, we saw an increased number of young people wanting to be mentored on a one-to-one basis, as they found it difficult to fit back into social gatherings.

Two of our significant markers that we saw within CFC Youth:

1. The culture. Our young people took ownership of what CFC Youth looks and feels like. They drove the culture within our youth group, from inviting and welcoming new young people, to bringing them along on the journey and welcoming them in, to opening up their own homes for them to be part of their lives. This meant that any youth who started to come to CFC after lockdown or returned to CFC felt part of the furniture.

2. Youth Week. This was significant for a couple of reasons - most of our younger youth had not attended a Youth Week before, and the previous young people who had been to one, were now the older youth. The older youth and the volunteer team got to set the bar high and show the younger youth the reason why we do what we do. They showed that the purpose of Youth Week was not just to go nuts, be with their friends and have fun, but to seek God and also have fun too. The week's focus was



'Survivor'. Each night at Youth Week we had someone share on the theme and look at what that meant in our lives as believers. This was a highlight for many of our young people. Our young people had God in the forefront of everything that we did that week and therefore launched us into an incredible September in our programmes at CFC youth.

The three big themes in 2021 were:

- Term one, how do we BE with God (spiritual disciplines and it out working of them).
- Term two, knowing God and his character (reading his word - the whole of CFC Youth read the NT ).
- Term three, Being God's hands and feet (social action, activities and tasks)

The Summer of 2021 was a time when we were faced with many hurdles. We were not able to do what we normally did within our programmes, events, camps and mission trips, as we had to navigate the Covid guidelines. Through all of this, our young people were still hungry for God. They wanted to go deeper and learn more about God, to understand Him more, and to develop their relationship with God. This led to them meeting up with each other and seeking Him together, reading His word and praying for each other.

Overall, God was so faithful to us and we saw Him changing lives, even in a pandemic. We saw His provision and compassion, and His love and joy in and through our community of young people. Please pray that this continues as we start back into the new term and that the closeness of His spirit is there.

## **WORSHIP**

2021 was a year of growth for our Worship Community. The team grew in number (over 120 people serving in worship across our six CFC locations) and each person grew in their confidence and gifting. It was clear that God was calling us back to the idea of '**throne room worship**' which we see in the book of Revelation chapters 4-6 and Isaiah chapter 6. We have been truly captivated by this revelation and picture of worship; worship that is God-centred, and a vision of a holy God who is making his people holy for His glory and purposes here on the earth. It seems God is calling the Church back to this revelation.

God has been so kind in birthing new songs in our community and these songs have been used in our worship as we gather across our sites, to help people encounter Him.

We have also hosted training sessions with our worship community focusing on 'the heart of worship', 'prophetic worship' and 'leading on your own'. It was great seeing so many respond and put into practice what has been taught and caught.

## **KIDS**

Last year, our account's report on kid's ministry opened with 'When life gives you lemons... make lemonade.' This year I feel that the line 'As our ministry grows, so does my dependency on coffee' is more than suitable.

As a ministry, we knew that when the online programs ended, we needed to hit the ground running, we did that, and we haven't stopped since. Currently CFC Kids seems to be going through what every church prays for, but few seem to really know how to handle - God's blessing and supernatural growth. We know that God is moving as we see kids' lives changing, so we drink our coffee, ask God for more, and to quote Forest Gump, 'We just keep running.'



As we returned to face-to-face church programs (hurrah for kids!) in 2021, we quickly realised that our group of kids had returned hungry - not for snacks (they were always hungry for snacks), but rather for the really important stuff. The kids were hungry for community, friendship, relationships, and knowledge. Over the last year and a bit, we have seen our kids take strides personally in their own relationships with Jesus, and as a kids' church family, building, bonding and encouraging one another. We have seen the kids lost in worship, pray for one another, ask for specific teaching series and topics, and just generally yell 'More!' at any chance they get.

Summer 21 saw our Kid's Fun Week return, and each day 120 kids joined us from 10am to 3pm to play, sing, dance, create, chat, and eat! We had a day trip to the beach (a first beach trip for some kids), lunch together each day, and saw God teaching the kids that they mattered and had a place in this busy noisy world.

Since September 21, we have been beyond blessed with many new families visiting and most importantly, feeling welcomed and at home here at CFC. During the pandemic we had prayed that when church returned, we wouldn't see 'too many' families fall away from church life... Again, God has humbled us with how He can move and use all things for His plans for good.

Our team celebrated families & kids returning from the world of 'Zoom Church' and 'HEY! Welcome to CFC Kids Online, I'm your host the wacky professor"...' and as more families returned and kids joined us on Sundays, we reopened all our previous 10am kids' facilities including our new 'Little Stars Creche zone (seems a lot of babies were born during Covid lockdown ...) our Playgang Nursery and P1 zone. Our Kids' church has grown now to something we couldn't have imagined pre-covid. God is moving within our Kids and families, and I know that He is only really getting started.

Recently I have felt God not so subtly (As a Kids Pastor, I don't get subtle. I live in a world of highlighter pens and glitter glue), tell me to celebrate the practical problems like 'a lack of volunteers' and 'ever shrinking room space' rather than focus on them. We are so blessed to need big teams and open spaces to accommodate all our amazing kids! I'm sure you don't need me to say, but we always need people to journey with our Kids, they are lovely, loud but lovely. Chat to me if you want more info on walking with them on an occasional Sunday.

So be blessed, celebrate our kids, cheer on our teams, thank God for His Goodness.

## **MEDIA**

2021 was a very rewarding year for our media department. Following on from the growth in our online presence in 2020, we were able to continue to build and establish a solid framework for the continuance of live streaming and reaching people online.

After joining the department in July 2020, James Balmer has continued successfully in his part-time freelance role as Social Media and Content Producer, helping us to continue to meet the increased demand on the media department.

In January 2021 we invested substantially in our live streaming equipment at CFC East. We used this equipment to pre-record our services until September 2021 when we officially started live streaming the 10am service at CFC East with our team of recently trained camera operators.

Some stats from our social media platforms in 2021 include:



## YouTube

- Gained 331 new subscribers taking our total subscribers to over 3,500
- Over 1.3 million minutes of video content watched
- Estimated 3,000 unique viewers every month

## Instagram (central CFC account)

- Gained 132 new Instagram followers, taking our total followers to over 3,300
- Over 150,000 video views

## Facebook (central CFC account)

- Gained 151 new Facebook followers, taking our total followers to over 5,900
- Over 60,000 video views

## Some stats relating specifically to our Church Online Services:

- In 2021 we produced 52 Online Church Services
- We had our highest live Sunday viewership on 18th April 2021 with 346 households watching live
- Towards the end of 2021 as the vast majority of congregants had returned to in-person services we were averaging 130-160 households watching live on a Sunday and a total weekly viewership of 1000-1500.

## EVENTS

With the Covid regulations in place throughout the year, our in-person gatherings were severely restricted in 2021. With social distancing and reduced seating capacity in our buildings, we were forced to move online for events such as the Week of Prayer and Fasting in January, and also for our Easter Tenebrae Service. .

A highlight event during the year was our Exploring Membership course with 87 people signing up, from across all the sites, to find out more about making CFC their home church. Most people attending the course had started connecting with CFC online during lockdown. Another memorable event that stood out was the sea baptism service in June 2022, when more than 20 people declared publicly that they were followers of Jesus by being baptised at Crawfordsburn beach. We were told that the noise of us cheering as each person went into the water, could be heard all the way to the main car park. What a great testimony!

Despite some restrictions, for our Prayer and Fasting week in September we were able to hold a mixture of in-person and online services at our sites, enabling as many people as possible to join in.

At the end of the year, we were held an in-person special Christmas service. Through careful planning, as the numbers allowed into the building were still restricted, we were able to run 5 services (with approximately 150 people per service) on the Sunday before Christmas at the East site. The service was made available online for everyone to join in.



## **OTHER MINISTRIES**

**Bethel Sozo** - Bethel Sozo is an inner healing and freedom ministry. In 2021 we continued to offer online appointments to those who wanted to avail of ministry during lockdown. We ran appointments during the year for guests from CFC and also from other churches. Our team continued to meet regularly online for training and mentoring.

**Prayer Ministry** - During lockdown we changed formats for Prayer Ministry and offered it live after the online Sunday service, either online or by phone, or during the week via Zoom or phone. In person prayer after the service has now resumed.

**Anchor Counselling** - Anchor Counselling saw a number of changes in staff during the year, with Kathryn Purcell taking a career break in March 21, Emily Hanna going on maternity leave, and Sarah Francis taking over the management of Anchor on a temporary basis. Throughout the year, Anchor was able to offer remote therapy, meeting the needs of clients during the pandemic despite the unique challenges faced during this time. Counsellors continued to help clients address issues in particular areas of their life, helping them to move into greater emotional healing.

Our other ministries such as MOPS, Open Door, Solo, Daughters, bible studies etc were severely affected by the Covid 19 restrictions in 2020. Where possible, they moved online and adapted to the regulations as best they could.

## **CFC ANTRIM**

2021 continued to be a year affected by the Covid Pandemic. Our services and meetings remained on-line until May 2021, and when we returned to meeting in-person, this was with social distancing, temperature checking and hand sanitising, as people entered our building. This was a strange time for us as a congregation as many people were still anxious about meeting in person and many continued to watch the on-line service.

Our Youth group thrived in 2021 with Clara McClean leading the volunteer team. They did an on-line Alpha, went to Summer Madness for a day and took part in CFC Youth Week in August. This encouraged a very strong connection among the young people who continued to meet throughout the remainder of the year.

Our Kid's ministry also continued to grow and flourish under the leadership of Raquel McKee. Our church congregation grew in 2021 and so did the numbers of our children in our children's ministry.

We ran an on-line Alpha course from February 2021, which was a great way to engage people in learning about the Christian Faith and encouraging others in their own Christian walk. Our Connect Groups continued to meet either on-line or out walking together to help with social distancing. Our groups resumed meeting in person after the summer period.

We received 7 people into membership following a new members course in June.



Over 2021 we continued to strengthen our links with Oasis Antrim Community Support Hub by joining their advisory committee.

2021 was a difficult time in the purchase of the RBL building with various hold-up's, with planning, legal issues, and the need for an asbestos report on the building. We also had to go through the process of agreeing on the tender document and process for the refurbishment works that were due to start in January 2022. This was very time pressured as the contract to purchase the building was only signed in December 2021.

Overall, it was an encouraging year as we continued to grow as a congregation and finally agreed that the RBL building would be our new church home.

### **CFC SOUTH**

Despite being a year of two halves (the first half spent in relative lockdown, before a return to in-person ministry in May) 2021 has been a fruitful season of steady and consistent growth and of deepening connection and relationships, both within our church family and our surrounding community. The South leadership team continued to serve, care for, and lead the congregation, as well as build on the sense of 'family' that existed within the church. The YMCA asked our Site Pastor Laura to join their board, which consolidated a sense of partnership and permanency on site.

A few highlights would be...

**ALPHA:** We facilitated an online Alpha course in the New Year and an in-person one in the autumn. The incredible encouragement was that we partnered with two other churches to do this and saw many continue into our Alpha discipleship groups when the course was finished.

**KIDS FUN NIGHT:** We re-launched KFN on Friday evenings in September and we gathered 127 kids on our first 9 sessions. What caught our attention was that only 5 of these kids were from our church, and the vast majority were not connected to any church.

**YOUTH CHURCH:** With a growing congregation, we saw the need to launch a Youth Church on Sundays for our 10-15s. This is a brand-new ministry to us, and we have an incredible team of 4 volunteers who have journeyed through youth Alpha with our young people, and who continue to invest and input into the lives of our pre-teens.

**CONNECT GROUPS:** Our Connects have flourished in this season with fruitful discipleship. Many have commented that they wouldn't have made it through 2021 without their "Connect family." These groups have proven invaluable as a means of building Christ-centred, supportive, and meaningful relationships during a challenging year.

**KEYS TO FREEDOM:** We facilitated 2 Keys to Freedom discipleship groups in autumn - 1 for men and 1 for women. These groups produced much fruit in the lives of the participants. The study educated, equipped, and empowered those who took part to recognise God's voice, commit and connect to Christ, renewing their mind, and walk in the freedom Christ won for us.

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP:** We were very intentional in strengthening relationships and partnerships with our surrounding community. We continued as one of the partner churches with the South Belfast Foodbank - Bruce (the leader of the Foodbank) also came and spoke at one of our services in October. Laura was asked to join the board of the YMCA (the venue of our church) and partnership continues to grow on-site.



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: Our 'Carols By Candlelight' event was our only double service Sunday. It was very well attended by people from the neighbourhood, and friends and family who were not church goers, as well as others who had heard of the event by other means.

During the year, we continued to have new people from the community attend our services, become members, join our Connects, get baptised, get married, and we have had many babies born and 5 dedications. Life in community continues to flourish in Christ.

### **CFC SIGN LANGUAGE COMMUNITY**

The SLC has been part of the main body of CFC for more than 30 years. It is a community based on a shared use of sign language, and a passion to see each member grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. The desire is to create a dynamic environment for authentic worship, and to share the passion the community has for Jesus with our friends in Belfast, Ireland, and the Nations.

Since returning to post lockdown normality, SLC went back to having two services per month. We gathered on Sunday nights at the CFC cafe space and also held a monthly gathering there too. Slowly Connect groups are building up momentum again after being put on hold due to restrictions.

We continued to have BSL interpreters at CFC East and Antrim as well as on the YouTube livestream to give immediate access to the many deaf people who watch remotely. SLC services are all recorded and posted on our own YouTube channel.

### **CFC INNER EAST**

We started off the year still dealing with the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, and in January 2021 it was back to Zoom meetings again, rather than our in-person services. One of the things that God reaffirmed to us, was that the church was never designed to have walls. God did not stop moving just because we were not meeting in the building. He continued to remind us to always look outwards, to look beyond ourselves and towards the community, and to look out for opportunities to serve others beyond the walls of the church, in order to reach out to the people around us with the transforming love of Jesus.

Throughout 2021, we continued to partner with local community groups, delivering meals, picking up prescriptions, making up food parcels, and delivering them to people who were most vulnerable and in need. We also saw the return of Homework Club and the Ballymac Community Programs.

We saw our church family grow, as well as our Connect groups. Connect groups were the heartbeat of our church during 2021. It was beautiful and encouraging to watch how Christ-centred they were. They provided a place where people could connect with each other more deeply - especially during a time when isolation was such an issue for many. This is where we saw church family at its best, and of course, it was only possible due to the commitment of our amazing Connect Leaders.

A high point of the year for us, was when 9 people from our church family were baptised on one of the most beautiful days of the year at Crawsfordburn Beach.

We also had two weddings within our CFC East congregation in 2021. One of the weddings was held on a Sunday morning at the Ballymac Centre instead of our normal Sunday service. It was a wonderful surprise for all who came to church that day as the whole thing had been kept a secret. Naomi Shannon, who is part of our leadership team, had wanted to share her wedding day with our congregation, and wanted all her church family to see her and Ally take their vows. The hall was beautifully adorned with drapes and flowers. It was unrecognisable! It was such a delight to watch everyone arrive and see their faces when they realised that they were attending the wedding.

Pitt Park, which is right in the heart of where God has us based, went through a particularly intense time of community unrest in 2021. Paramilitarism was rampant in the area, and we were reminded that peace is a process that we are still going through. So, like the early founders of CFC who spent many hours praying for God to heal this land, we started to meet weekly for early morning prayers. We believe that God used these times of intercession to sustain peace and kept the unrest from spiralling out of control.

## **CFC HOLYWOOD**

It was a big year in the life of CFC Hollywood, as the most recent church plant of CFC continued to grow and develop. Andrew Gibson, the site pastor, was appointed as Senior Pastor at CFC in June 2021 and the journey then began to find someone to move into the role of site pastor at Hollywood. Through an interview process that concluded in May 2022, Carl McManus was appointed into the role, moving on from his leadership position in Young Life.

The year saw the development of a strong teaching team within the church, with Linda Maguire, Helen Stewart, Paul Betts, Ryan Karayiannis, Catalin Dieaconu and Carl McManus all stepping up. It was great to have a diverse team who brought so much wisdom, love and humility to our church community through their ministry.

Our men's ministry got back up and running with some Pizza and Pool nights, a Men's Breakfast, and some more informal meet ups too.

One of our welcome team and youth leaders, Pete, started a running group on a Tuesday night which catered for runners/walkers of all levels to improve their spiritual and physical health.

Good relationships within the churches in Hollywood continued and we were very grateful to High Street Presbyterian for the use of their building for our Prayer and Fasting meetings.

CFC Hollywood saw a real 'baby boom' and all of our children's ministries experienced significant growth. Beth led this area superbly well and our volunteer teams were able to offer three different spaces for our children on Sundays, depending on their age and stage, on a Sunday morning.

We were so blessed to have a vibrant, growing, talented and humble worship community. Marty and Bethany led this beautifully and encouraged, developed and invested time and effort into what now is a really large but connected team of worship leaders.

The links with HFT have continued to work well, and it has been great to see the cooperation and unity that both organisations display in their varying Kingdom works. May His Kingdom come and His will be done.



## **CFC EAST**

Of all our CFC sites, East is the largest, with 4 out of the 10 normal Sunday services being held there.

2021 was a challenging year for our East site, particularly as we saw the departure of our Senior Pastor, Owen Crane in early January. Alongside Andrew Gibson, a team comprised of Charlotte Curran, Garath Baxter and Arlene McDowell worked to pastorally support the East site congregation.

Restrictions on public gatherings were still in operation for part of the year, so in addition to live streaming the Sunday service each week from East, we also ran online Connect groups, bible studies, prayer ministry appointments, and zoom gatherings after each online Sunday service. We even held an Easter Tenebrae service via zoom. While not quite the same as being physically together, all of these opportunities to gather digitally helped to keep our church family connected.

When the Covid restrictions reduced, our focus was on rebuilding community again at East. Connect groups played a key role in this and we were delighted to see so many people get involved. A Connect lounge was also set up to help facilitate a growing list of people who wanted to become part of our Connect groups. It has been an incredible success ensuring that no-one has to wait to be placed.

There were multiple highlights throughout the year:

- In September we welcomed in the new members who wanted to call CFC their spiritual home. Many had joined us online during the pandemic and subsequently started coming to the services when restrictions lifted.
- Our sea baptism service was held at Crawfordsburn. A huge crowd from CFC showed up to cheer on those who were being baptised. It was an incredibly moving celebration for everyone involved.
- We gathered for our church picnic at Rockport School in the summer of 2021. What was meant to be a two-hour event turned into a full afternoon spent in glorious sunshine, with people keen to spend time chatting together and getting to know one other.
- Our Christmas services at East were such a celebration of the goodness of God after a difficult year, and we were able to have about 750 of our congregation come along on the day, across our five services.

Charlotte Curran was appointed as site pastor for East in November 2021. Her heart and care for the congregation was evident as she stepped into the role. As we closed out the 2021 year, we were expectant of God doing new and good things in our midst.