

OASIS CHRISTIAN CENTRE

AFM REPORTS 2023



AN ELIM PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
REGISTERED CHARITY NO:
251549 (ENGLAND & WALES)
SCO337754 (SCOTLAND)



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‘we are a church at the heart of the community
with a heart for the community’



WHO'S WHO
DEPARTMENT LEADERS

PASTOR'S REPORT
ADRIAN MANCINI

If you have any questions, interested in finding out more or serving as part of a team please contact our department leaders:

ToddlerTime & Oasis Babies - Tracey Austin

Infusion Coffee House - Penny Day

Sparklers – Leanne Piano/Tracey Austin

Powerhouse Kids - Antony Lee

Reset Youth - Freddie & Georgie Kemish

Life Groups - Andrew Day

Worship/Media Team - Tim Sanders

Finance - Ian Theyers

Time To Talk - Adrian Mancini

Lacemaker Court & Landermeads Outreach - Janet Day

Stepping Stones - Cindy Wooley

Welcome Team - Becca McCarthy

Hospitality - Sharren Roe

Safeguarding & Health & Safety - Perry Wilds



When we come together, and each one serves and plays their part, we flow as a Church.
Thank you to all that serve and make Oasis the place that it is.

My thanks to Helen my wife for her support and encouragement to me and her service to church, my thanks also to my lovely family.

My thanks to Andrew (Associate Pastor) and Carl, Becca and Gbola on the Eldership Team, for their dedication, service and wisdom.

To Ian Theyers our Treasurer, for his extensive work as finance officer.

My thanks to all of our Department leaders, Life Group Leaders and all who give their time each week to serve the gathered body and community.

Flow - Looking Back

Last year I shared some thoughts, impressed on my heart, on moving from a spiritual drift to flow. Throughout the year, we experienced a growing sense of momentum and, I feel, there is yet more to come!

From relatively small numbers at the beginning of the year, our Youth have steadily grown in number and spiritual depth, very exciting!

Our thanks to Helen Mancini, who with dedication, has led Power House (Children) with love, vision and creativity, during the year she released Antony Lee to bring a new leadership. Following a new cohort joining the youth, Power House continues to grow.

We continue to see more people gathering month on month for worship on Sundays and are looking to create more space in our building.

A number of our Life Groups have experienced marked growth while several are looking to reform.

In the area of mission, our Life Groups reaching out to the community and the churches general growth in the support of Compassion has been very encouraging.

We have experienced growth and impact in the community of Toddler Time, Time to Talk and Infusion Coffee House and Community space.

PASTOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

ADRIAN MANCINI

Flow - Looking Forward

Focusing on the future, I feel that the Holy Spirit is encouraging me in a number of areas.

1. Encouraging Discipleship, Personal (being a Jesus follower) & Corporate (being part of a community of Jesus followers)

2. Raising Leaders

3. Moving in Mission

I'll share more on this at the AFM.

New Community Building

Throughout the last year, we have had an ongoing conversation with our Architect regarding the design and cost of a new community building. The plan is to demolish the old Tin Tabernacle and replace it with a modern style clad building connecting it to the principle Grade 2 listed Church building, landscaping the surrounding grounds.

This has been an ongoing project, delayed due to the effect of the Pandemic.

We will have the renewed plans, available to view at the AFM and will look to give you more of an update.

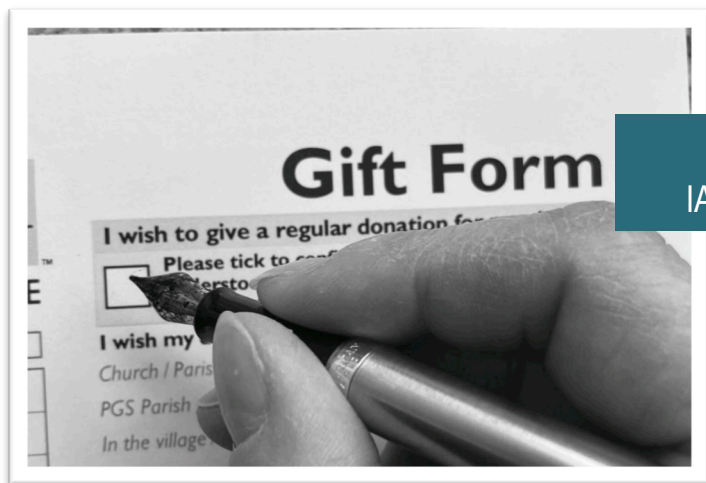
We thank God, for the sense of a growing spiritual momentum in the life of the church, let's move forward in faith, together.

Every blessing
Pastor Adrian



IN ADDITION TO THE REPORTS, THERE'S BEEN AMAZING TEAMS OF PEOPLE IN OTHER MIINISTRIES & OUTREACHES HERE AT OASIS THAT WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS TO, INCLUDING LACEMAKER COURT & LANDERMEADS OUTREACH, STEPPING STONES, WELCOME TEAM, HOSPITALITY TEAM...





FINANCE
IAN THEYERS

TIME TO TALK
ADRIAN MANCINI



I would like to thank everyone for their generous giving and support this year.

I would also thank the Finance team, Joyce and Jonathon, for their help each week.

Income for the Year 2022-23 was £177,948 and total expenditure was £160,749.

I am thankful that at the end of the last financial year there was a small surplus of £17,199, but as a church we have needs to fulfill, currently covered by existing staff doing over and above their own job requirements, if this is addressed at this time (*extra staff*) would quickly use up all the surplus.

Designated giving, i.e. building fund, Youth, Etc. has fallen from approximately £28,000 to £6,000. If designated giving remains at this level For Oasis to move on with new building plans, our designated giving will need to increase - I commit this to your prayerful consideration.

There's a number of ways you can give here at Oasis Christian Centre:

- *During the Sunday Service collection*
- *Bank Transfer or Standing Order*
- *Using the Givt App on your smartphone*

Also, the **Gift Aid Scheme** is a great opportunity to increase giving at no extra cost to yourself...Gift Aid is an arrangement that allows us as a registered charity to reclaim tax on a donation made by a UK taxpayer. This means every donation will be worth 25% more, at no extra cost to the giver. For example, with Gift Aid we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated, which makes a huge difference.

If you would like to support us with Gift Aid, you simply need to complete a Gift Aid Declaration. A Gift Aid Declaration is the giver's declaration that they wish for the church to reclaim tax on their gift. Please talk to Joyce Sims or myself if you want a form or require any further information about the Gift Aid Scheme.



*A full breakdown of finances is available for **members** - if you haven't received a copy please collect one!

Listening to someone is so very powerful, it can affirm and validate them, and says, "I see you." It can bring a real sense of relief and healing.

Time to talk is a listening service, meeting every Tuesday, 10.30 -12.00pm at the Infusion Coffee House and Community space, offering a safe place and friendly affirming atmosphere.

We offer free refreshments, with an opportunity to meet others or talk personally. People are sometimes referred to us by their GP, some have been recommended via social media or word of mouth, some by their support worker. Some have come from our church, many from the community.

Demand has really grown in recent months!

I'm so very thankful to a group of wonderful volunteers, without whom we could not function. We have offered listening training and support for one another across the year.

If you have a heart for people and are a listener, please come and speak with me. We are looking for another man and woman to join the team



LIFE GROUPS
ANDREW DAY

INFUSION COFFEE HOUSE & COMMUNITY SPACE
PENNY DAY



'Why would people want to spend their time meeting together again during the week?'

- a question I recently read regarding small groups...I find the answer to that in the model the early church had of meeting in homes sharing in breaking bread and meals with joy and gratitude...I also find the answer as I speak to those part of a Life Group and also the Leaders... *'a place to share joy and hopes, to laugh and cry together, to challenge and be accountable, to grow in faith and understanding of God's Word and how to apply it to life, to pray and worship together and find friendship and support in a smaller setting whilst figuring out how we can reach and influence the world around us!'*

Considering that, maybe the question should be *'why would we **not** want to spend our time together during the week?'*

It's been exciting to hear about the various outreach projects and missions our groups have ran throughout the year, impacting our community in creative and caring ways as well as the growth some of the groups have experienced. We have covered a number of reading plans in the past year including *'New Beginnings'*, *'Unanswered Prayer (The Prayer Course II)'*, *'Jonah:A Cry From The Deep'*, *'James:Faith That Works'* and we are currently sharing *'Parables:The Stories Jesus Told'*.

As we look to the year ahead, we continue to focus on our vision for Life Groups to be a key area, of Oasis, and to see them grow, releasing more groups and leaders to help facilitate. We seek to expand opportunities to engage in a group by creating a diverse range of meeting times, days, locations and ages.

Once again, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those who help us carry this vision by leading groups - I value your time, support and heart to serve, I look forward to our times together too!

If you aren't currently part of a Life Group, can I encourage you to consider joining one - I love being part of our group of men that meet from a wide variety of experiences and ages but who share the heart to *'build each other up in the faith'*.

Please feel free to speak to me or Adrian about getting involved.

Infusion continues to be an integral aspect of the ministry at Oasis, offering a safe and welcoming space as well as a great cup of coffee! Throughout this last year it's been encouraging to see an expanding regular customer-base from the wider community as well as from our own church family. In addition, we are registered as a 'Warm Space' once again and more recently as a 'Safe Space' by the local council.

We continue to offer our *'Pay It Forward'* and *'Suspended Coffee'* schemes, that are used on a daily basis, and also the distribution of any left over food to those in need – which means we are now zero food-waste! We've opened outside of regular hours for events such as Carnival Day, Christmas Lights Switch On and Sunday Lunch, and also serve as a space for other organisations like Ereshash Voluntary Services.

We're still offering work placements to young people across the locality and looking forward to some students being with us later in the year.

A highlight for us this last year was receiving a surprise visit from the Environmental Health Officer who awarded us with the highest 5 star rating with no areas for concern!

Having received a couple of grants from the Council, we've sought to make some improvements with new signage, window frosting and new toilet, and planning on new heating in the back corridor.

Looking ahead, Tuesdays will be our **community focus day** continuing to incorporate *'Time To Talk'* and now launching *'Baby Café'* in conjunction with Oasis Babies and Tracey.

Wednesday - Friday will be our regular coffee house days plus special events at other times. In order for us to continue this great ministry we need the support of volunteers – do you have a desire to learn to make a barista drink, serve the community, passion for food and availability? *Please do come and speak to me for more details.*

I appreciate all those who have helped serve across the year and the opportunity to continue in this ministry.



TODDLERTIME
TRACEY AUSTIN



MUSICIANS/MEDIA
TIM SANDERS

The ongoing vision of Oasis Toddler time is:

- to create a safe, happy & healthy environment for children, their parents & carers to flourish
- to provide a high standard of Early Years Toddler provision in the local community
- to become a centre of excellence where the love of God is shown in a practical way

The number of people attending Toddler Time has remained good over the last year. Monday is the busiest day at the moment; we are still providing two sessions a day Monday to Thursday and one on a Friday morning.

Oasis babies is an extra session on a Thursday morning which includes sensory play and we have recently started a baby session in the coffee shop on a Tuesday afternoon.

We still have an online booking system but most people pay on the door now.

During 2023, we held several family services including Easter, and a harvest supper. We collected donations for the Food bank and had a Light party. At Christmas we held a Christingle and nativity service. These were all well attended by members of the community and encouraged people to attend church. The Christmas parties were well attended as usual.

Toddler Time was also open during the summer holidays to help families over the summer break. We started back earlier as well.

After working together for seven years Louise left Toddler Time in October to take another employment opportunity. I would like to thank Louise for all time that we worked together. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who have helped me over the year especially since Louise has stepped down. I would also like to thank all the families who attend Toddler Time from our church each week because they do make a difference in the atmosphere. Without all of their continued support Toddlers could not run smoothly and minister to many families. It also helps us to continually to build on and maintain meaningful relationships with the families who visit each week. I am looking forward to the year ahead and all the new babies, which are due in the spring.

I think Toddler Time must have been running in our church for about thirty years. So many of the parents are coming back to Toddler Time with their grandchildren or they came themselves as children, which is so lovely to witness. They all have such nice memories of their time at Oasis.

In 2023, we set our sights on 'REAP' - a vision of Recruitment, Equipping, Assembling, and Progressing.

Over the past year, we've seen our Music Team grow in number. We've welcomed Freddie, Sam, Stefan, Georgie, and Caleb onto team, each bringing their own unique talent and heart to our ministry. A special mention also to Nathaniel, who has skilfully managed media for several Sunday services.

In October, we took a break from rehearsals for a team social at Erewash Bowls. Here, we enjoyed a lawn bowls masterclass courtesy of Steve Mather!

December was a month of joy and celebration. Electric Carols returned after a four-year break, and our Christmas Eve service took on a new life with a revamped format. It was hugely encouraging to see the church buzzing, filled with friends and visitors, all eager to be a part of our Christmas celebration.

In January, our multi-talented Mr Mather switched his lawn bowls for a quiz master's hat at our Music Team Christmas Party. It was an evening filled with food, fellowship, and of course, fun. We've also been making practical upgrades. New drum heads, bass strings, and tablet stands for the stage have been a welcome addition and this year we're planning to acquire a new stage piano.

As I reflect on the growth of our team, I can't help but emphasise its importance. It is vital that we continue to do this in order to reflect the growth and diversity of the wider church. Bringing on young musicians and singers is a challenge, but something I'm determined to see established.

Recently, our worship times have been imbued with a newfound sense of freedom, encouraging us to explore hosting a series of worship nights throughout the year.

Finally, I'd like to place on record my deep gratitude to all musicians, singers, media folk and the two very 'sound men', who have served this past year. Serving alongside such a dedicated group of friends has been an absolute joy and privilege and I'm excited for what lies ahead for us in the coming year.



CHILDREN
ANTHONY LEE

YOUTH
FREDDIE & GEORGIE KEMISH



Firstly we'd like to thank our Powerhouse team for all their hard work last year in teaching our kids. This goes out to Laura, Sarah, Elise, Hannah, Deborah. A massive thank you as well for Helen leading our team over the years and making it such an enlightening time for our young people. We also would like to thank Gayle for joining our team last year and becoming a vital part of us bringing a new buzz to our kids. In terms of our Sparklers Volunteers I'd like to say a huge thank you to Tracey, Leanne, Jess and Esther for all their hard work with our youngest ones: making it fun and engaging for our toddlers every weekend.

Powerhouse, this year, have been looking at the Fruits of the Spirit and our Traits given from God with our kids. Using characteristics they chose about themselves and how they can use this in a positive way going forward in their life and in their walk with Christ. We've also been looking at planting seeds (*through good deeds*) and being patient in seeing them result in a positive way. Also, we have had the pleasure to involve some of our older Year 6s to get involved with our team, create their own games/activities and then lead the other kids in doing them. We've seen some amazing outcomes in this and watching how they inspire the younger ones has been a pleasure to see.

This year we have had Liv join our team whilst she does her Duke of Edinburgh award. Already she has brought a new energy to Powerhouse and has been given a special project to do with our kids which you'll all see soon in service! Over the rest of the lent period we will be looking at the Easter story, Baptisms and also learning about the Power of Prayer with Powerhouse until the end of April.

Once again a massive thank you to all the support we've been given from you all. We thank God that we've seen a surge in children in both Sparklers and Powerhouse this year. I would like to put it out to you all that anyone can get involved; whether it's a one off weekend where you can lead a story in Powerhouse or spend a morning with our Toddlers. Or if you want to help out more often and join our more structured rota we'd love to have you share what you can with us. *Thank you!*

The past year in Reset Youth has seen exciting changes, development and growth.

We have seen an increase in the number of young people attending on a Sunday morning and engaging in worship and serving the Church through refreshments, welcome and supporting Powerhouse.

We have worked through studies on Mark, Genesis and Underdog characters in the Bible. Our focus for this year was to enable young people to build relationships with each other, as well as build their relationship with Jesus. I think I speak on behalf of the whole congregation that seeing the increasing number of young people in Church on a Sunday morning is extremely encouraging!

We have expanded our team to include Sam, Alison and Esther. This is really exciting and it enables the young people to hear different perspectives, different testimonies and bring fresh energy to sessions!

Having volunteered as a Youth Worker for the last 8 years there are certain moments that live long in the memory (*and certain moments that don't!*). This year myself and Georgie prayed for and baptised 3 young people. These are the moments that make everything else worthwhile; to see Jesus touching young people's lives and changing hearts is incredible. To see God at work in all of these young people's lives and the way the Holy Spirit is anointing them and equipping them is encouraging and we cannot wait to see what God's plans are for each of them!

Our hope for this year is to see more young people devoting their lives to Jesus with public declarations of their faith through baptism and testimony. We are praying that more opportunities will become available for them to serve in different areas within the Church and in the local community.

Research shows that 1 in 4 Gen Zers want to become a Social Media Influencer. ***Our prayers are that our young people will become influencers within their friendship groups and their lives and words will point people to the Gospel.***