



Annual Report and Accounts 2017

**Christians on Ageing
(Christian Council on Ageing)**

Registered Charity number 289463

Registered address:
3, Stuart Street,
Derby
DE1 2EQ

www.christiansonageing.org.uk
info@ccoa.org.uk
01609 881408

Christians on Ageing

The story of older people is the story of their unique life journey. They have lived through war and peace, have known hope and failure, and have found, and sometimes lost, friendship and love. For many, their Christian faith has been the context within which they have lived and in which they will die. They have handed on the gospel message to the next generation but are also living it day by day. Their story is not just about the past; they are part, in the here and now, of the Churches' proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are a valued and precious resource. They want to give as well as receive. **Christians on Ageing** is one of their voices.

Christians on Ageing

- *works throughout the United Kingdom*
- *operates as an ecumenical Christian organisation*
- *publishes resources for individuals and local ministries*
- *arranges conferences and events*
- *promotes research and innovation*
- *comments on current issues affecting older people*

A Resource to the Churches

- *improving understanding on issues that matter*
- *providing a link between the denominations*
- *contributing to innovation in work with dementia*
- *responding to enquiries on age and ageing*
- *unlocking the talent and experience of older people*
- *seeking dialogue between people of faith and wider society*

Patrons

Rev Esme Beswick, MBE – the Joint Council for Anglo-Caribbean Churches

Rev Lynn Green – The Baptist Union of Great Britain

Rt Rev Dr Alan Smith – the Church of England

Rev Gareth Powell - the Methodist Church

Cardinal Vincent Nichols – the Roman Catholic Church

Archbishop Elisey of Sourozh – Russian Orthodox Church

Mrs Elaine Cobb – the Salvation Army

Rev John Proctor - the United Reformed Church

President

Mrs Elizabeth Harbottle

Vice-Presidents

Mrs Joyce Bullen

Mr Tony Flynn

Rev Graham Hawley

Executive Committee

Chair	Mr Gerry Burke
Vice-chair	Ms Wendy Cocks
Secretary	Mr Jo Kennedy
Treasurer	Sister Maureen Murphy
Members	Rev Dr Margaret Goodall Rev Gaynor Hammond Rev Dr Albert Jewell Rev Dr John Lansley

In attendance when required

Development Co-ordinator: Mrs Rachel Walker

Membership and
Publications Officer: Mrs Sue Kennedy

Christians on Ageing is trying to catch-up. There might be some who take that to mean we are coming to terms with being in the twenty-first century, and they have a point, but the headline is far more mundane. Our sequence of general meetings over the last few years has meant we are reporting on events and ideas overtaken by a further year's activity. It has seemed, sometimes, that we are outlining ancient rather than near history. The last general meeting was in September 2017. This report will be presented in April 2018 and will bring us up-to-date with information on finance, administration and activity in pursuit of our over-riding objective: to be a resource for the Churches.

The focus of the organisation's development work in 2017 was in three linked areas of interest: the *Christians on Ageing* website; the directory of contacts; and support for older prisoners.

It was decided, following a series of reports from our Development Co-ordinator, Rachel Walker, to completely re-design our website so that it offered a better experience for people wishing to know about us and our work, and to use our resources. The re-design has taken longer than anticipated, partly because we have wanted to get it right, to save another re-design in a few years, but also because by trying to understand more clearly why people might want to use the website we can provide more accessible and useful information. It is hoped that the new website will be up and running by April 2018.

The task of compiling a comprehensive directory of contacts within the Churches (i.e. those who have some responsibility for the support and engagement of older people) is, as we have discovered, akin to the painting of the Forth Bridge in the old days. Inevitably, people change roles and there is no mechanism for keeping small organisations like ours informed. Rachel has been co-ordinating this aspect of our work and improving our storage of data and means of communication. It has been part of our intention to build on the bare bones of contact by circulating regular information and updates, especially through an e-

newsletter. The latter awaits the launch of the new website. One message we have received very clearly is that there is a lot of activity, but most of it is hidden because it is so local. We want to publicise what people are doing and, in this way, encourage others with ideas and challenge.

The late Canon Michael Butler, editor of **plus** magazine for many years, engaged with older prisoners lodged in Norwich prison and urged the Executive Committee to think about what else could be done. In the years since his death we have explored how the charity might have a role to play in supporting older prisoners, and more precisely responding to the needs of those already working in chaplaincies to prisoners. The number of older prisoners is increasing and there is evidence that many would value more support from a faith-based organisation in coming to terms with their long-term imprisonment or re-entry into a much-changed world. Contact has been established with the formal agencies working within the prison system and older prisoner engagement will certainly be part of *Christians on Ageing's* future.

And, so to the future. The Committee has reached one of those points at which change must happen – because our constitution says it must, for very good reasons. The last decade has been a time of reflection and reform; our organisation has not only adopted a new constitution but looked at ways of defining our *raison d'être* more clearly. We have refreshed our name, more in keeping with the spirit of the age; reviewed our publications list, removing those which have served us well but are now out-of-date, and added some popular new titles, including co-operation with other publishers. We have established the principle of having Networks, the first of which is the original Dementia Group though, sadly, it has still not been possible to take forward the Ageing Issues Study Network. We have failed in our attempts to attract grant-aid but turned this into a positive: the recruitment of a consultant to assist us with our development work, using our own funds. We have maintained the high-quality of **plus** magazine, so much appreciated by our members; and, as reported earlier, five years ago we established a new website and, as a result of testing its usefulness, are in process of a radical re-design. Four years ago, goodwill was generated by a series of meetings for members, many of whom had earlier responded willingly to a questionnaire about the role of the organisation and their own experience of being older people in the Churches; and in the same year we were able to meet with supporters and friends at a House of Lords Reception, which was a great opportunity to raise our profile.

This is the story not just of the last year but of a programme of review and renewal over a number of years. None of this would have been possible without the constant effort of all members of the Committee, but especially Sr Maureen Murphy, our Honorary Treasurer, Jo Kennedy, our Honorary Secretary, and John Lansley, editor of **plus**. On behalf of all members of *Christians on Ageing* I thank Sue Kennedy, our indefatigable Membership Secretary and Publications Officer, especially at a time when the website proved itself less than helpful; and also, to Rachel Walker, our consultant on developing resources, who has enabled us to tackle our communication and information needs with great professional skill.

It was with sadness that we learned during the year that Joyce Bullen's husband, Don, a great friend of the charity, had died but it is a delight to report that Joyce has accepted an invitation to be a Vice-President in recognition of her many years involvement with the Committee. She joins our ever-supportive President, Elizabeth Harbottle, and Vice-Presidents Tony Flynn and Graham Hawley.

It is with regret, but understanding, that we have received notice from Albert Jewell that he wishes to retire from the Committee after a long period of service and support; fortunately, he will continue to act as secretary to the Dementia Network so that his wise counsel and practical contribution will not be entirely missing.

It is time for new leadership. I have, to my great surprise, enjoyed (most of) my time as Chair and hope that I have made a useful contribution to the work of the Committee and the life of the organisation.

Membership

Sue Kennedy
Membership Secretary

While an organisation aimed at older people must expect some natural losses this should be compensated for by the rest of the population gradually moving into this age bracket. To a certain extent this is happening for Christians on Ageing but not enough to stop membership figures dropping again from 209 at the beginning of the year to 199 at the end. Organisations in membership have remained steady only going from 37 to 36. Personal membership has dropped from 172 to 163.

Merseyside Branch

John Lansley
Secretary

The Group continues to hold an annual half-day conference: this year on relationships between older people and the arts. This included an account of the activities of the Reader Organisation, which sets up small groups in a variety of places, including residential homes, where a short poem is used as the basis for a discussion which can range very widely beyond the initial piece of writing – poems seem to work particularly well for this because of the variety of meanings which participants find in them. In the second half we had an account of how Godly Play is being developed among older people by Hannah Brown, a Salvation Army worker in this field. There was a lot of interesting discussion around both these fields, but sadly attendance was quite low, and we need to think hard about our future work.

At the end of the year Lynette Skutt, our chair, reluctantly resigned because of the pressures of her other work as a Salvation Army community chaplain with older people. Lynette has put an enormous amount of work into the group for the last eleven years, and we are very grateful to her.

Dementia Network

Albert Jewell
Secretary

Membership of the network continues to increase steadily from the total of 300 reported last year, the great majority of whom receive our six-monthly Dementia Newsletter by email attachment, thus saving Christians on Ageing considerable expense. It is now ten years since it became my privilege to edit this publication and throughout that time Rev Margaret Goodall has been the chair of the network. We have been working together on revising the content of the newsletter, particularly in informing our readers of other organisations which share our concerns.

Margaret, Rev Gaynor Hammond and I have been involved in a number of church-sponsored events to raise awareness of dementia, and Gaynor's booklet *Growing Dementia-friendly Churches*, published jointly with Methodist Homes and Faith in Elderly People (Leeds), has continued to sell well. The final outcome of the Christians on Ageing inspired study of the experience of Christian carers of loved ones with dementia, dealing with their loneliness, has been published in the journal *Rural Theology*.

Our magazine: *plus*

John Lansley
Editor

We have continued to produce four issues of the magazine this year – the result of willingness of people to write for us, and to keep us in touch with developments in many places, and of the hard work and skill with which Sue Kennedy deals with all the production side – and often writes contributions too! Many thanks to all who have contributed in many ways.

Up to now ***plus*** has been one of the most visible elements in Christians on Ageing's shop window, providing regular contact with our members, and is widely appreciated, and there is scope for it to work alongside other communication channels, such as the revived website.

Publications

Sue Kennedy
Publications Officer

In general sales in 2017 were poor. The best-selling publication was the set of leaflets *People with dementia*, our joint publication with MHA. 46 sets of leaflets were sold, 40 of which went to USA. Some considerable way behind were *I'd like you to know*, which sold 14 copies, and *Growing dementia-friendly churches*, 10 copies.

Sadly, most sales do seem to be generated from bookstalls probably because booklets can be seen by prospective purchasers who also have time to browse. There was only one bookstall in 2017. There were 12 purchasers through the internet and 6 by other means.

Perhaps surprisingly, whilst the numbers buying through the website were higher the income generated (£67) was much the same as that obtained in the other methods of purchase (£68). General sales made £96 while those for the Dementia Network amounted to £39. (Please note that these figures do not match the accounts as they are based on income in the year and some expenditure on purchases in previous years.)

Just two regrets – the bookstore on the website, while workable, was not up to our required standards and, secondly, it had been hoped to publish new titles especially around ministering to those unable to get to church, but as yet that has not been possible. Hopefully 2018 will see both remedied.

Finance

Sister Maureen Murphy, FMSJ
Treasurer

2017 proved to be a better year for our finances than might have been expected with new expenditure taking place on development. Thanks to the generosity of our donors the main account ended the year with just a small deficit of £83.

Sales of publications boosted the dementia account, and this resulted in a surplus of £180. This means that, overall, we had a small surplus for the year of £97.

The balance sheet shows little change with our net current assets increasing by the same amount as our surplus.

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts
Report to the Trustees of the Christian Council on Ageing

On Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Registered Charity no. 289463

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out on pages 12 to 13.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present 'a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Daniel Smith
John A. Porter & Co
74 Dickenson Road
Manchester M14 5HF

13 February 2018

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON AGEING
Registered charity no 289463

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
For the year ended 31st December 2017

	General fund		Dementia fund (restricted)		2017 total		2016 total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Incoming resources</u>								
Voluntary income								
Subscription income	3,454				3,454		3,445	
Donations	2,803				2,803		2,425	
Donations to newsletter			15		15		10	
Credits from branches								
Tax credits	<u>645</u>				<u>645</u>		<u>538</u>	
		6,902		15		6,917		6,418
Income from charitable activities								
Sales	157		243		400		431	
Conference income	<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
		157		243		400		431
Other income								
Investment income		62		13		75		124
<u>Total incoming resources</u>		<u>7,121</u>		<u>271</u>		<u>7,392</u>		<u>6,973</u>

	General fund		Dementia fund (restricted)			2017 total		2016 total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Resources expended</u>								
Charitable activities								
plus	1,344				1,344		2,287	
DN Newsletter			14		14		35	
Website	111				111		313	
Trustees travel expenses 25%	142				142		143	
Printing, stationery, advertising	164		0		164		371	
Post, telephone	339		7		346		421	
Subscriptions, insurance	100				100		213	
Publications purchased	20		70		90		84	
Publications support	1,976				1,976		1,976	
Development Co-ordinator	2,233				2,233			
Research								
Donations								
Bank charges								
		<u>6,429</u>		<u>91</u>		<u>6,520</u>		<u>5,843</u>
Governance								
Trustees travel expenses 75%	427				427		428	
Meeting rooms	180				180		202	
Conference								
Examiner's fee	168				168		162	
Secretarial support								
Other expenses								
		<u>775</u>		<u>91</u>		<u>775</u>		<u>792</u>
<u>Total resources expended</u>		<u>7,204</u>		<u>91</u>		<u>7,295</u>		<u>6,635</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		(83)		180		97		338
Funds brought forward		<u>25,333</u>		<u>4,994</u>		<u>30,327</u>		<u>29,989</u>
Funds carried forward		<u>25,250</u>		<u>5,174</u>		<u>30,424</u>		<u>30,327</u>

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON AGEING
Registered charity no 289463

BALANCE SHEET
as at 31st December 2016

2016			2016
£	£		£ £
		Current assets	
1,818		cash at Bank - General Fund	
23,677		COIF - General Fund	
873		Cash at Bank - Dementia Account	
<u>4,121</u>		COIF - Dementia Account	<u> </u>
	30,489		
		Current Liabilities	
		Sundry Creditors	<u> </u>
<u>162</u>			
	<u>162</u>		<u> </u>
	<u><u>30,327</u></u>	Net current assets	<u><u> </u></u>
		Represented by:	
	25,333	General funds	
		Restricted funds	
	4,994	Dementia fund	
	<u>30,327</u>	Capital employed	<u><u> </u></u>

Signed on behalf on the Trustees:
G. Burke (Chair)
J.C. Kennedy (Hon. Secretary)

Dated:

Contact us

For any enquiries contact can be made through the Secretary, Mr Jo Kennedy:-

By post to: Christians on Ageing
'Stoneway', Hornby Road
Appleton Wiske
Northallerton
DL6 2AF

By telephone: 01609 881408

By email: info@ccoa.org.uk

Through the website: www.christiansonageing.org.uk

Other specific contact points:-

Treasurer

Sister Maureen Murphy,
St Joseph's Convent,
150, Greenleach Lane,
Worsley,
Manchester
M28 2TS
Email: fmsj@aol.com

Dementia Network

Rev Dr Albert Jewell
63, Moor Grange View,
West Park
Leeds
LS16 5BH
Email: ajj633@btinternet.com

'plus' Editorial and Merseyside branch

Rev Dr John Lansley
25, Buckingham Avenue
Liverpool
L17 3BA
Email: johnwlansley@gmail.com

Ageing Issues Study Network

Mr Jo Kennedy,
'Stoneway', Hornby Road,
Appleton Wiske,
Northallerton
DL6 2AF
Email: joseph.kennedy123@btinternet.com