



CHRISTIANS on AGEING
a resource to the Churches

2020

Annual Report

and

Accounts

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

Registered Charity number 289463

Registered address:
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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 – General Secretary, the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Rt Rev Dr Alan Smith – Bishop of St Albans, the Church of England

Rev Dr Jonathon Hustler – Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Methodist Church

H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols – Archbishop of Westminster, the Roman Catholic Church

Archbishop Elisey of Sourozh – the Russian Orthodox Church

Mrs Elaine Cobb – Director of Older People's Services, the Salvation Army

Rev Dr John Bradbury – General Secretary, the United Reformed Church

President

To be appointed

Vice-Presidents

Mrs Joyce Bullen

Mr Tony Flynn

Rev Dr Graham Hawley

Executive Committee

Chair	Dr David Jolley
Vice-chair	vacancy
Secretary	Mr Jo Kennedy
Treasurer	Sister Maureen Murphy
Members	Rev Elizabeth Baughen Mr Gerry Burke Rev Dr Joseph Cortis Ms Tina English Rev Dr Albert Jewell Rev Dr John Lansley Miss Marion Shoard

In attendance when required

Administrative Officer: Mrs Sue Kennedy

A statement of the aims, vision and values of Christians on Ageing is printed in all copies of our magazine plus, and is included elsewhere in this Annual Report

2020 was a year dominated by the Corona Virus Pandemic. Activities of all sorts were curtailed and changed from March onwards. People have experienced hardship, restriction of liberties, and deaths in quantities not seen since 1945 – the end of World War 2. We have seen loneliness for people isolated from family, lack of ability to visit those in care and the impact of closed churches on the sacramental life of many people. It also meant that many volunteers have been prevented from doing what they would normally do and have found themselves at a loss.

The AGM of Christians on Ageing which had been planned for the spring was delayed until October 2020, and then conducted on-line with Zoom. At that meeting the long delayed appointments of Reverend Lizzie Baughen, Tina English and Rev Dr Joseph Cortis to the Executive Committee were confirmed, as was my appointment to the chair. I had acted in that capacity for some months. There were technical difficulties with Zoom, which restricted attendance. The Annual Report for 2019, which included many examples of positive developments and plans, was accepted.

2020 has been a busy year for Christians on Ageing.

Meetings of the Executive Committee were held in January, April, July and October, the last three by Zoom.

A major decision and commitment has been the delivery of two series of

Conference Calls: 90 minute sessions, hosted on Zoom, as an alternative to a conference, which we knew would not be possible because of the pandemic and

lockdowns. These sessions were advertised by newsletters and the website and have attracted increasing numbers of participants, limited in the first instance to twelve per session but recently relaxed to allow up to twenty. Topics covered have included: Older and disabled people in care homes, The needs of older Christians in the BAME communities, The challenge of grief, Self-isolation amongst older people at home, Recruitment and retention of volunteers, An update on care homes during lockdown, and Support of carers of people with dementia. These sessions have been very well led and much appreciated. Reports of each session have been posted to the website. We are grateful to everyone who has led sessions, attended sessions and supported this activity, which is already extended into 2021. This venture has brought us into contact with a wider circle of people and opened our eyes to areas we have not known so much about. Attendees have logged in from Scotland, Wales and England, from north to south and east to west. We organised a follow up meeting with BAME Christians in October. There has been encouraging involvement of people associated with other faith-based charities concerned with the wellbeing of older people.

Communications: have been provided through the website and e-newsletter. The website has reported on our activities and carried a weekly commentary on matters of news which relate to older people, older Christians. Together these initiatives enable our members to get a wider view of relevant issues.

The Dementia Network and its newsletter continue to be highly valued.

plus, our members' magazine, appears regularly and carries an interesting mix of high quality articles and features which are greatly appreciated. These have included commentaries on the impact of the Covid Pandemic. **plus** is now available as an e-copy or a printed booklet, whichever is preferred.

Publications: although COVID restrictions have meant that we have not had bookstalls our publications continue to be purchased and their influence goes far and wide as some are sent overseas.

Charitable activities/public benefit: Work is progressing on a proposed new publication of a Prayer Book for Prisoners. This will strengthen our focus on prisoners and their well-being. It is a specific example of our concern for the spiritual well-being of older people.

Accounts: Financial reports are submitted by the Treasurer at each meeting so that the members of the Executive are kept fully informed. Our finances have not been badly impacted by COVID, but a fuller report can be found in the Treasurer's report.

During the year we have contributed to the Research Symposia organised by Luther King House and MHA.

We have chaired by invitation a session on dementia and faith for Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) and begun preparation for a workshop with The Nazarene College: 'Theology, Ageing and the Life of the Church'

In December we were interviewed by a student of journalism at the City University who had found us via the website, with which he had been impressed

We contributed comments for The House of Lords Report on Ageing and Society which has recently been published

In October 2020 Tina English, a member of the Executive, presented a draft report 'Christians on Ageing Draft Marketing Strategy'. We have gained useful insights from this. Further discussion is proceeding.

Challenges focus on the relatively small number of people who are members of Christians on Ageing. The numbers have fallen over a decade and more. This is in keeping with the decline in active membership of all main churches in the UK – but is at odds with the risen number of people living in old age. Our challenge is to reach older Christians and other old people who may be looking for spiritual guidance in this phase of life. Christians on Ageing seeks to do this by direct appeal to older Christians, to churches and to local and national leaders, working in

collaboration with other organisations supporting the needs and rights of older people and other faith groups.

I am grateful to members of the Executive for giving their time and support throughout this year.

We pray for blessing, wisdom, guidance and success in this mission.

Dementia Network

Albert Jewell
Secretary

The number of our subscribers has remained at over 300. They comprise a mix of professional workers in the field, representatives of churches and concerned individuals. Our six-monthly Dementia Newsletter seeks to contain information relevant to all interested parties: research findings, media coverage, reviews of books and other resources, and information about related organisations with whom we network.

Since the retirement of Rev Margaret Goodall, David Jolley (the then acting now appointed Chair of Christians on Ageing) has provided a letter for each issue and much other valuable information, and I have been grateful for the help of Gerry Burke and Sue Kennedy in improving the format and distribution of the newsletter. We are aware of the need for further development in line with the organisation's ongoing strategy review and I have been working with Barbara Stephens of Dementia Pathfinders to this end.

Our magazine: *plus*

John Lansley
Editor

We have continued to produce good quality, relevant and varied issues of **plus**: it sometimes feels a near thing as deadlines approach (I suppose it always did) but we are saved by the willingness of contributors and the indefatigability of Sue Kennedy in dealing with all the production side. Inevitably, and appropriately, much of our content has been related to the Coronavirus pandemic, including one whole issue from which we drew a separate publication. We believe that by disseminating the experiences and innovations of agencies and churches we performed an important function for those who were seeking to respond to the needs of older people in a situation which unfolded beyond many people's worst fears, and hope that **plus** will, in the aftermath, be able to contribute to the rebuilding of a community which has been so badly damaged. I offer my warmest thanks to all our contributors, and especially to Sue, for their support and encouragement.

Membership

Sue Kennedy
Administrative Officer

Regretfully again we have to report a drop in membership figures through the year. There is a slight change though in that the bigger fall is in the number of organisations in membership from 33 to 28, whilst individual membership has only gone down by 1 from 137 to 136. It is very difficult to know what can be done to stem the flow. The publicity generated by conferences helps but of course that hasn't been possible in the past year. We hope that this will change for the coming years. It is also probable that the website invites interest and also encourages membership.

Spreading the message

Modern communications are many, varied – and full of promise. At least that is the theory. In practice they can be demanding on patience and challenging on ability. By that I mean, simply, that things go wrong but, because much of the world of technology is so new and capable of fast and seemingly never-ending change, going wrong can sometimes seem disastrous. This does not happen all that often and the balancing factor is that the benefits are enormous. We can get messages out to an audience quickly and efficiently, reaching a wider group of people than we could in the days before universal access to the internet and other media. It is for these reasons that *Christians on Ageing* embraced the idea of having a website over ten years ago and has encouraged members to use e-mail. We are now on our third version of the website and constantly looking for ways of making it more useful, not just to you, the members, but to the wider audiences in the Churches and the general public. If you have not visited www.christiansonageing.org.uk recently, please give it a try; wander round all the different topic areas – and, importantly, let us know what you like, what you do not like, and what you think is missing.

In the last year we have increased the frequency of our second e-mail newsletter. The Dementia Network has produced its own newsletter for quite a number of years; we now aim to circulate an e-mail newsletter of more general interest at least once every quarter. We have used it this year as a means of fast communication of news about initiatives such as the Conference Calls. The general e-newsletter (yet to have its own name) has proved successful in spreading our own messages, but it has also been an opportunity to give the work of partner organisations a platform, increasing the amount of information we are able to offer as a resource to the Churches.

As an organisation committed to principles of inclusion, we recognise that not all our members use the internet and e-mail and we fully intend to continue producing important documents, publications and our magazine **plus** in printed format. We have been able to use one of the great discoveries of 'the time of Covid', Zoom (one of the popular internet conference facilities), to organise meetings and hold discussions. We are looking at ways of using the good old-fashioned telephone as a way of engaging people who have no access to broadband: merging the old with the new, a bit like ourselves I suppose.

Publications	<i>Sue Kennedy</i> Administrative Officer
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2020 was a better year for sales of publications. Our sales amounted to 143 items as against 127 in the previous year. However, neither year reached the 206 items sold in 2018.

The best sellers this year were our new publications *Making a start* (36) and *Reflections on a pandemic* (12). Our thanks must go to all those who contributed. Unfortunately, the other titles we had hoped to produce are still in the pipeline but we hope to see at least one of them in 2021.

The majority of sales were through the website which was not surprising given that the situation with the pandemic meant that no conference, and thus no bookstall, could be held.

£30 was generated through non-web sales, all for general funds, while £268 came through the web - £241 for general funds and £27 for the Dementia Network. After deductions for fees, printing and postage this resulted in a total of £135.37.

Merseyside Branch

John Lansley
Secretary

We had hoped to share with other Merseyside organisations in planning a conference on the support which different faith groups could offer to those affected by dementia, but the pandemic rendered the possibility of such a gathering impossible. One side effect of the lock down was that we have been unable to recruit new members to the local group, and eventually we decided to close the branch. We have achieved a lot over the years, and are grateful to those who supported us, and will continue, in less formal ways to facilitate links between local organisations and Christians on Ageing nationally.

Finance

Sister Maureen Murphy, FMSJ
Treasurer

COVID restrictions have affected all charities and Christians on Ageing is no exception but there has not been any detrimental impact on our financial standing.

Donations during the year were slightly down and we were unable to hold a conference with resulting loss of income from conference fees and from book sales. Our expenditure was considerably lower because the previous year we had the one-off cost of the promotional video but the advantage of using technology for our meetings meant that we spent very little on travel expenses and we did not have to pay for the use of meeting rooms.

At the year end we had a surplus of £846 and our total funds had therefore increased to £25,691.

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 2020

Registered Charity no. 289463

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 14 - 16

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 applicable 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 you as 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
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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

16 February 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
for the year ended 31 December 2020

	General fund		Dementia fund (restricted)		2020 total		2019 total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Incoming resources</u>								
Voluntary income								
Subscription income	2,924				2,924		2,841	
Donations	942		160		1,102		1,191	
Donations to newsletter							10	
Credits from branches								
Tax credits	408				408		452	
		4,274		160		4,434		4,494
Income from charitable activities								
Sales	301		54		355		298	
Conference income							925	
		301		54		355		1,123
Investment income		51		11		62		179
Total incoming resources		4,626		225		4851		5,896

	General fund		Dementia fund (restricted)		2020 total		2019 total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Resources expended</u>								
Charitable activities								
plus	1,137				1,137		2,318	
DN Newsletter			37		37		63	
Website	87				87		87	
Trustees travel expenses								
Printing, stationery, advertising	134				134		215	
Post, telephone	196				196		154	
Subscriptions, insurance	150				150			
Publications purchased								
Publications support	1,976				1,976		2,141	
Promotional expenses							2,530	
Research								
Donations								
Bank charges								
		3,680		37		3,717		7,508
Governance								
Trustees travel expenses	102				102		1,090	
Meeting rooms							180	
Conference							768	
Examiner's fee	186				186		180	
Secretarial support							312	
Other expenses								
		288				288		2,530
<u>Total resources expended</u>		3,968		37		4,005		10,039
Surplus/(Deficit)for year		658		188		846		-4,142
Funds brought forward		19,497		5,348		24,845		28,987
Funds carried forward		<u>20,155</u>		<u>5,536</u>		<u>25,691</u>		<u>24,845</u>

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON AGEING
Registered charity no 289463

BALANCE SHEET
as at 31st December 2020

2019			2020	
£	£		£	£
		Current assets		
-500		cash at Bank - General Fund	1,164	
20,177		COIF - General Fund	19,177	
1,227		Cash at Bank - Dementia Account	1,415	
<u>4,121</u>		COIF - Dementia Account	<u>4,121</u>	
	25,025			25,877
		Current Liabilities		
		Sundry Creditors	<u>186</u>	
<u>180</u>				<u>186</u>
	<u>180</u>	Net current assets		<u>25,691</u>
	<u><u>24,845</u></u>			
		Represented by:		
	19,497	General funds		20,155
		Restricted funds		
	5,348	Dementia fund		5,536
	<u>24,845</u>	Capital employed		<u>25,691</u>

Signed on behalf on the Trustees:

D.J. Jolley (Chair)
J.C. Kennedy (Hon. Secretary)

Dated: 23rd February 2021

Contact us

For any enquiry 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:-

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Ageing Issues Study Network

The Secretary (See above)

A stylized graphic of a leaf or branch, rendered in a light blue color. The main body of the leaf is a curved shape that tapers to a point on the right. A single stem extends from the right side of the leaf, crossing over the top edge of the leaf's main body. The text is integrated into this graphic: 'CHRISTIANS on AGEING' is written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font, following the upper curve of the leaf. Below it, 'a resource to the Churches' is written in a smaller, dark blue, sans-serif font, following the lower curve of the leaf.

CHRISTIANS on AGEING
a resource to the Churches