

Annual Report and Accounts

2021



Christians on Ageing
Registered Charity number 289463

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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

Rt Rev Dr Esme Beswick, MBE – the Joint Council for Churches of All Nations

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 Jonathan 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

Mr Tony Flynn

Rev Dr Graham Hawley

Executive Committee

Chair	Dr David Jolley
Vice-chair	vacancy
Secretary	Mr Jo Kennedy (until June) Ms Barbara Stephens (from October)
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 Ms Barbara Stephens (until October)

In attendance when required

Administrative Officer: Mrs Sue Kennedy

Executive Committee report
David Jolley
Chair

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. We are in the process of updating it.

2021 was a year marked by the sad and sudden loss of Jo Kennedy on June 22. Jo was a life-long Christian and had spent time with several denominations, latterly with the United Reformed Church. He had trained as a librarian, then spent many years with Age Concern (now Age UK). He became active in Christians on Ageing on retirement and brought to us his discipline, devotion, sense of proportion and humour. He was Chair from 2006 and then Honorary Secretary from 2012 until his untimely death. He saw Christians on Ageing review its image and purpose and was to the forefront of a further current review. He was supported in this work by Sue, his wife – their home had become the home of Christians on Ageing. We will hope to continue the work in ways in keeping with his beliefs and vision. We are grateful that Sue remains as an essential part of our team.

John Lansley kindly acted as interim Honorary Secretary. Barbara Stephens has lately become Honorary Secretary.

In the wider world we have lived with Covid-19 pandemic. The coming of effective vaccines has given rise to optimism but there have still been periods of high infection as new variants appeared. All aspects of life in this country have been affected and the impact internationally on life-styles, morbidity and mortality has been great. Older people have been particularly affected, especially those most vulnerable because of frailty and specific illnesses. Services to older people, including those which are church-based, have been restricted and personal contact reduced or disallowed.

Economies world-wide have been adversely affected. The loss of church members and church income threatens the viability of much of the infrastructure of Christianity in the UK.

Concern that human activities are harming the environment has reached new peaks. Tensions between nations have become more marked. The need for mutual respect, tolerance and love by people of all ages and all persuasions is evident.

2021 has been a busy year for Christians on Ageing.

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

Looking to the future: There have been additional meetings by Zoom to progress a revision and update of our aims, vision and values. By the end of 2021 we had arrived at a provisional statement which will be improved during 2022.

We started a review of who we are and what we are for in response to a report to address an improved marketing strategy. In essence this required that we review all aspects of our work and the image projected before taking steps to improve and extend the approaches we make to communicate with older Christians, the churches and others who are interested and involved in this field. There was a range of views amongst the members of the Executive Committee. We consulted with a facilitator from the Kinharvie Institution. This was a useful exercise because although we decided not to accept all their recommendations in detail, the process helped us formulate our own ideas. We have reached some conclusions which will change the focus of our activities to some degree, and we will make a brief report of our proposals at the AGM.

We delivered three series of Conference Calls via Zoom. These were delivered once a month, each lasting 90 minutes and they addressed: Connecting people with dementia with nature and the arts, Are we dispirited?, Valuing the narratives of older people, Hospital, Listening for carers, Faith amongst BAME older Christians, Older people and spiritual strength in the world of nature, Fragile Churches and Grand-parenting. These sessions were presented in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, October and November. Our thanks to Professor Leslie Francis, Dr Sarah Holmes, Barbara Stephens, Maureen O'Neill, Marion Shoard and Rev. Dr Graham Hawley. They each led a session by sharing their knowledge and views – and were supported by lively discussions which have amplified the learning potential. Summaries of the presentations and discussions have been posted to the website as a resource to be shared with others [Conference Call \(christiansonageing.org.uk\)](https://christiansonageing.org.uk)

In September we hosted a Conference by Zoom in the form of a webinar which focussed on older prisoners and also aspects of dying. There was an interactive session involving delegates in musical activity designed to reach out to older people, including those with dementia. There were opportunities for discussion of these main topics and thoughts on the future in breakout rooms. The day depended on the skills of Sister Maureen Murphy and her secretary and the generous and knowledgeable contributions from Lynn and Dave Morris of The Journeymen Company, Kathryn Rowland of All in Sound, Professor James Woodward and Rev. Dr Graham Hawley. Every member of the Executive Committee of Christians on Ageing gave time and expertise to make the day a success.

Conference Calls and the conference/webinar were provided free of charge – contributions to knowledge and education. We do hope that those who have enjoyed them will remain in touch and consider becoming members of Christians on Ageing.

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. Barbara Stephens joined Rev Dr Albert Jewell in this work and will succeed him as leader.

plus, our members' magazine, appears regularly and carries an interesting mix of high-quality articles and features which are greatly appreciated. **plus** is now available as an e-copy or a printed booklet, whichever the member prefers. Joanna Walker joined us toward the end of 2021, shadowing John Lansley and anticipating taking on the role of Editor of **plus** in 2022.

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

A special publication was produced of prayers for older prisoners: '*Seeking a Peaceful Heart*'. This was funded by Christians on Ageing and has been distributed via the Prison Chaplaincies. It is now available to purchase in the usual way via the website. This is a major undertaking and a contribution to our charitable activities. It is sponsored entirely

from Christians on Ageing funds. The words, layout and pictures of the booklet were gathered and edited by Gerry Burke and Sister Maureen Murphy. We are grateful for and impressed by their work. The booklet confirms a commitment to contribute to the spiritual welfare of older prisoners and we are learning more from this initiative.

Accounts: Financial reports are submitted by the Treasurer at each meeting so that the members of the Executive Committee are kept fully informed. A full report is provided by the Treasurer.

During the year we have contributed to seminars with The Nazarene College and Faith in Older People. We have attended meetings of Churches Together in England, and Churches Together in Great Britain and Ireland by Zoom.

We have particularly important relations with Faith in Older People, Anna Chaplaincy and MHA (Methodist Homes).

Challenges: We are aware of 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 Committee for giving their time and support throughout this year.

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

Publications
Sue Kennedy
Administrative Officer

It has been a strange year in some ways because the general level of sales has been very low being severely affected by the lack of a 'real' conference with a book stall but this was countered by the huge number of booklets sent out as part of the older prisoners project.

The bad news first – overall sales for the year, discounting the prison initiative, was 85 as against 143 for the previous year. Again, the best seller was *Making a start* (32 copies) our most recent publication, followed by one of our oldest *Spirituality of ageing* (10 copies) and *Faith in the third age* (7 copies). An interesting juxtaposition of old and new showing, I suppose, that the age of a publication isn't necessarily relevant. Perhaps too it highlights the need of the moment. However, the numbers are a sad reflection on how low sales have been. Hopefully this year will be an improvement.

To the good news – *Seeking a peaceful heart: prayers and reflections to help you in prison* was produced by our Older Prisoners project. Compiled by Gerry Burke and Maureen Murphy free copies were sent to every prison in England, Scotland and Wales, 4,030 copies in all. The project group are in process of ascertaining how effective this was (and finding out that sending parcels to prisons can result in many getting lost in the system!) Further copies will be sent out where requested and the booklet is also being included in the general publications list.

As far as the finances are concerned the grand total came to -£835.39. But, of course, the prison booklet had no income and expenses of £885.29, leaving a 'profit' from other sales of £49.90.

It is hoped to bring out a new publication *Keeping in touch* outlining how churches manage the process of keeping meaningful contact with those who can no longer attend services or activities. The process of gathering information has begun. We hope it will be supported and lead to a new booklet.

Dementia Network

Albert Jewell

Secretary

Once the meetings of our Dementia Group came to an end after the years of responsibility for our Newcastle-based project a few years ago now, we were renamed the Dementia Network and continued to publish our Dementia Newsletter, which had already been in existence for 15 years, with Albert Jewell as Editor. Latterly Barbara Stephens has worked with Albert and as from the May 2022 issue will assume the role of Editor after his 14 years in that role. Our distribution continues to run to over 300 subscribers. As far as contents are concerned, after a welcoming letter from the Chair of Christians on Ageing, we continue to feature the latest news regarding research and developments in the dementia field, reviews of recently published books and other resources, and updates about organisations we network with. We look forward to keeping up to date in the ever-changing field of dementia with our continued emphasis upon spirituality and Christian concern.

Our magazine: *plus*

John Lansley

Editor

Through this year **plus** has continued to carry a wide range of articles. As in the previous year, we have been conscious of the impact of Covid, and a number of articles have reflected this, but we have also ventured into new fields, such as Don Williams' series of four articles on the contribution of Freudian psychology to our understanding and treatment of dementia. **plus** is still one of the key ways in which we relate to our membership, and it keeps people in touch with the wide range of concerns in which Christians on Ageing is engaged.

I am retiring from the editorship of **plus** after the March 2022 edition, and I want to express my gratitude to all our contributors not only for this year, but over the last nine years. Above all I am grateful to Sue Kennedy, who not only deals with all the technical side, but contributes the Centre Pages and feeds in new writers. Thank you all very much.

Membership
Sue Kennedy
 Administrative Officer

Number of members:

	Jan 22	Oct 21	Apr 21	Jan 21
Organisations	28	29	27	26
Individuals	<u>131</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>138</u>
	159	162	165	164

Sadly, membership slowly continues its downward trend. There are new members joining but they are matched by those leaving through old age and its associated problems or a loss of interest. Essentially members are being asked for a charitable donation for which they receive our magazine and news of our work. If this isn't enough to interest them, they will leave. Hopefully with projects continuing or new ones starting their will be more to keep them involved.

Finance

Sister Maureen Murphy, FMSJ

Treasurer

Like most other Charities, the financial health of Christians on Ageing was considerably impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic in 2021. We were unable to travel for meetings and annual conference had to be a virtual one which meant that we could not have bookstalls and were therefore unable to find outlets, apart from the website, for the sale of our publications. However, at the same time through technology we continued to meet regularly and saved on travel expenses and the cost of hiring rooms for meetings and the conference.

As can be seen from the accompanying accounts for 2021 we ended the year with a deficit of £2,940, due in the main part to producing our new prayer book for prisoners and posting copies to every prison in the country. We cannot have an exact measure of the true impact of the publication, but we hope that by using it a number of prisoners, and indeed others, will have found a measure of inner peace. Copies in both digital and print format are now available for sale on our website.

Despite our deficit our balance sheet remains healthy, and we hope to continue our charitable work for many years to come.

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 2021

Registered Charity no. 289463

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, 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

21st February 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
for the year ended 31 December 2021

	£	2021 Total	£	2020 Total	£
<u>Incoming resources</u>					
Voluntary income					
Subscription income	2,260			2,924	
Donations	1,336			1,102	
Tax credits	467			408	
		4,063			4,434
Income from charitable activities					
Sales	8			355	
Conference income	-			-	
		8			355
Investment income		3			62
Total incoming resources		4,074			4,851

	£	2021 total	£	2020 T	£
<u>Resources expended</u>					
Charitable activities					
plus	1,462			1,137	
DN Newsletter	-			37	
Website	-			87	
Trustees travel expenses	-			-	
Printing, stationery & advertising	181			134	
Post and telephone	379			196	
Subscriptions and insurance	100			150	
Publications purchased	-			-	
Publications support	1,976			1,976	
Prayer book for prisoners	2,578			-	
Promotional expenses	-			-	
Research	-			-	
Donations	20			-	
Bank charges	-			-	
			6,696		3,717
Governance					
Trustees travel expenses	-			102	
Meeting rooms	-			-	
Conference	125			-	
Examiner's fee	192			186	
Secretarial support	-			-	
Other expenses	-			-	
			317		288
Total resources expended			7,013		4,005
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			-2,939		846
Funds brought forward			25,691		24,845
Funds carried forward			22,752		25,691

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON AGEING
Registered charity no 289463

BALANCE SHEET
as at 31st December 2021

2020			2021	
£	£		£	£
		Current assets		
2,579		cash at Bank	2,646	
<u>23,298</u>		COIF	<u>20,298</u>	
	25,877			22,944
		Current Liabilities		
<u>186</u>		Sundry Creditors	<u>192</u>	
	<u>186</u>			<u>192</u>
	<u><u>25,691</u></u>	Net current assets		<u><u>22,752</u></u>
		Represented by:		
	25,691	General funds		22,752
	<u><u>25,691</u></u>	Capital employed		<u><u>22,752</u></u>

Signed on behalf on the Trustees:

D.J. Jolley (Chair)
B. Stephens (Hon. Secretary)

Dated: 24th February 2022 and
17th March 2022

Contact us

For any enquiry
contact can be made through the
Secretary: Ms Barbara Stephens

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By telephone: 07774 935905

By email: secretary@christiansonageing.org.uk

Through the website: www.christiansonageing.org.uk



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