



**CHRISTIANS on AGEING**  
a resource to the Churches

**Annual Report**  
and  
**Accounts**  
**2018**

**Christians on Ageing  
(Christian Council 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*

## *Elizabeth Harbottle*

Elizabeth was a graduate of Durham University and her early career was as a teacher. She returned to Durham University to study for an MA in Counselling Training. In the 1980s she worked in Sunderland with 'Action in Retirement', developing self-help groups, retirement courses and the Grief and Loss Counselling service. For a number of years, she was the Chairperson of the North East Association for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy.

She was also a member of the Bishop's Council and Board for Mission and Social Responsibility for the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and was involved in setting up a project within the Diocese arising from the 'Faith in the City' and 'Faith in the Countryside' studies. She served as a member of the General Synod's Board of Social Responsibility which produced the report *Ageing* in 1990.

Elizabeth's association with Christians on Ageing (then known by its formal title of Christian Council on Ageing) goes back to the beginning in 1982 and she joined the organisation on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1984 when it was registered as a charity. She was Chairperson in 1988 and 1989 and again from 1991 to 1995. She was elected a Vice- President in 2006 and President in 2016. As the Chairperson of Christians on Ageing she was very much involved in the pioneering Newcastle Project of the Dementia Working Group which produced a substantial report and the video *Is there anyone there?* in 1998.

In 1999 Elizabeth wrote *Learning through losses: aspects of loss and growth throughout life, parts 1 and 2* for publication by Christians on Ageing. She was also much involved on behalf of Christians on Ageing in organising the multi-agency conference on Ageing, held in Durham in 2002.

In recent years health problems had meant that Elizabeth was rarely able to attend Executive Committee meetings but made every effort to attend the AGM. She was present at the AGM in Sheffield on 25<sup>th</sup> April this year, 10 days before she died. Her experience informed our discussions and her enthusiasm for the work of the organisation was undiminished. With Elizabeth's passing Christians on Ageing has lost a wise counsellor and a dedicated member.

## **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

## **Vice-Presidents**

Mrs Joyce Bullen

Mr Tony Flynn

Rev Graham Hawley

## Executive Committee

Chair (Acting)	Mr Gerry Burke
Vice-chair	Ms Wendy Cocks
Secretary	Mr Jo Kennedy
Treasurer	Sister Maureen Murphy
Members	Rev Dr Margaret Goodall (until November) Rev Gaynor Hammond Rev Dr Albert Jewell Dr David Jolley Rev Dr John Lansley Miss Carrie Twist

In attendance when required

Development Co-ordinator: Mrs Rachel Walker (until August)

Membership and  
Publications Officer: Mrs Sue Kennedy

## **Executive Committee**

*Gerry Burke*

Acting Chair

In last year's report I bade a solemn farewell as Chair, having reached the constitutional maximum of six years in office, and yet here I am again reporting on the activity of the committee over the last year. Observant readers will notice the subtle difference in my description – Acting Chair, a device to enable the work of the committee to continue alongside the search for a successor.

The Report must start with a remembrance of Elizabeth Harbottle, the late President of *Christians on Ageing*. The news of her death on 5 May 2018 was received with great shock and sadness as she had been present at our AGM just ten days before and had contributed to our discussions with her usual enthusiasm and insight. An obituary notice prepared by our Honorary Secretary, Jo Kennedy, is included in this Annual Report. Elizabeth had been part of our organisation since the beginning; with her passing *Christians on Ageing* has lost a wise counsellor and a dedicated member.

The long-awaited new website was launched on 1 December 2018. This was later than predicted in last year's Report but there were technical difficulties to be resolved and lots of decisions to be taken on content and appearance. We hope that the website will enhance our intention to be a resource for the Churches and that it will be accessible and informative to visitors at every level of enquiry. An important aspect of [christiansonageing.org.uk](http://christiansonageing.org.uk) is the inclusion of a News feature, which allows us to draw attention to developments affecting both the life of the Churches and wider society, and a Comment & Opinion section which provides an opportunity for reflection on issues which go beyond the immediate.

I would like to express the thanks of the committee to Rachel Walker, who acted as a consultant to help us develop the website. She had previously comprehensively reviewed our Directory of Contacts in the Churches which allowed us to make preparations for the launch of an e-newsletter once the website was up and running. An initial e-newsletter was prepared for circulation to over three hundred potential subscribers in January 2019.

In October members were asked to take part in a Skills Audit. Over 60 responses were received (i.e. about a third of our membership) and first analysis of the returns indicates that over 40 people are willing to admit to talents which could greatly improve the work of the charity. The responses tell us that our members have a very wide range of skills; of particular interest right now are those covering Events Planning, Governance, IT, Older People's Issue, Public Policy, Research, Spirituality & Chaplaincy. Members who have expressed a willingness to explore how their particular skill could benefit the charity will be contacted as part of the programme of work for 2019.

Improving our understanding of the needs of older prisoners and those who work with them was a target for development in 2018. We were able to take a number of steps forward: members of the committee visited two prisons (HMP Wymott and HMP Stafford) to learn about their specialist work with older prisoners, and we were able to provide a speaker for the annual conference of RC Prison Chaplains. A report about these initiatives was included in **plus** magazine during the year and further work is to be undertaken.

Two important decisions were taken towards the end of the year which will have significance for the work of the organisation during 2019. First, we have commissioned the production of short audio/visual presentations which will be used on the website and available on social media, to complement all the other elements of how we present ourselves and our activities; it will also be available for use at talks or similar events. It is a further attempt to use new opportunities to make our organisation better known within the Churches.

A second decision was to start preparations for a Conference to highlight aspects of our work and some of the major issues facing older Christians and the responses of their Churches. The Conference is scheduled to take place in Sheffield on 25 September 2019. The activities of *Christians on Ageing* which are there, as a constant in the background, have been maintained at their usual high level and, we know from correspondence, are appreciated by members and interested supporters alike. These include the Dementia Network Newsletter, our membership magazine **plus**, and our publications; we were delighted to publish a new booklet by Sr Joan Kerley, '*I Call You Friends*', alternative reflections on gospel personalities. More details about these activities are included later in the Annual Report.

Even a small organisation needs people with experience and commitment to make the whole thing run smoothly. Sr Maureen Murphy provides careful management of our finances as our Honorary Treasurer; Jo Kennedy, our Honorary Secretary, ensures the efficient administration of committee decisions (as well as giving occasional talks); and Sue Kennedy, as Membership Secretary and Publications Officer, is not only a record-keeper and printer but the crucial gate-keeper to all aspects of our work. Albert Jewell bravely agreed to continue as a member of the committee for at least another year so that he could oversee developments for the Dementia Network Newsletter, and John Lansley, as Editor of *plus*, has succeeded in providing not only consistent quality of spiritual and practical support, but also material which challenges as well as comforts the reader. On behalf of you, the members of *Christians on Ageing*, I thank all the committee members for their committed involvement. I thank you, as well, for your support over the last year and hope that you will be able to continue that support for many more years.

**Dementia Network**

*Albert Jewell*

Secretary

The Network has continued to thrive, with more than 300 members comprising both professionals and interested individuals, the great majority of whom receive their six-monthly newsletter by email attachment. We have been able to streamline its distribution and monitor the high level of access on the part of our subscribers.

The format has come to take the form of:

- A thought-provoking letter from our chair, Rev Dr Margaret Goodall.
- Up to date news concerning scientific research and multiple items from the media.
- Reviews of books and other published resources, with an emphasis on person-centred care.
- Space to feature kindred organisations to extend our networking.

2018 was another poor year for sales of publications only 199 booklets being supplied. After a low of 10 copies last year *Growing dementia-friendly churches* had a spurt in sales to become the best-seller for the year at 51 copies. Nothing else came close to that, *People with dementia* and *Thoughts for meditation and worship* – one coming next at 12 and 10 copies respectively.

There were 2 bookstalls in the year and 8 sales through post or email while the website led the field at 20 orders.

There was just one new publication, *I call you friends: receiving God's affirmation*, brought out in response to a request from a customer who stated that she 'couldn't find anything to match it' for her bible study group. We are filling a need somewhere.

We have also sent out three complimentary full sets of leaflets. Two of these went to the prisons that were visited in the year and one to a church in Eastville, Bristol who were holding a special service on older people. These cost around £90 although the Eastville congregation sent a large donation to Christians on Ageing which more than covered their costs.

The income for the last year was £191 for General sales and £224 for those attributed to the Dementia Network. Costs amounted to £131 giving a 'profit' of £284.

## **Membership**

*Sue Kennedy*

Membership Secretary

Membership has as usual dropped through the year but not by very much. At the beginning of the year there were 36 organisations and 163 individuals and by the end of the year the figures had dropped to 35 organisations and 159 individuals. While this is not too devastating there is no room for complacency and more publicity could be beneficial.

## **Our magazine: *plus***

*John Lansley*

Editor

Despite occasional scrambles for copy at the last minute, **plus** continues to appear regularly. It continues to be appreciated by the membership and is one of the main things in our 'shop window'. We are grateful, as always, to our contributors, and we continue to be greatly in debt to Sue Kennedy for all the production and distribution side of the work, often under great time pressures. **plus** will continue as a print publication for the foreseeable future although members will be able to request their copy by e-mail attachment. It is also hoped to make selected articles, mainly from past editions, available on our website.

**Merseyside Branch***John Lansley*

Secretary

The branch has not held any meetings this year but is planning a major conference on how different faith communities can offer support to people affected by dementia, which is involving them with a number of faith groups and Dementia Action on Merseyside.

**Finance***Sister Maureen Murphy, FMSJ*

Treasurer

Our financial situation remained positive at the end of 2018. Although we ended the year with a deficit, this was not a reflection of a general decline in our financial well-being. The money expended on the engagement of a development co-ordinator and additional spending on upgrading the website account for the overspend and these are one off items. Our balance sheet shows a slight increase over the previous year and in addition we now have an excellent website which we hope will help us to achieve our aim to become a resource for the churches. We also still have some funds designated for development which means that we can continue to grow and expand our vision.

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 2018

Registered Charity no. 289463

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2018, which are set out on pages 13 to 15.

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

28 February 2019

**CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON AGEING**  
Registered charity no 289463

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY**  
For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

	General fund		Dementia fund (restricted)		<b>2018</b> <b>total</b>		2017 total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Incoming resources</u></b>								
Voluntary income								
Subscription income	3,371				<b>3,371</b>		3,454	
Donations	1,021				<b>1,021</b>		2,803	
Donations to newsletter			0		<b>0</b>		15	
Credits from branches								
Tax credits	<u>976</u>				<u>976</u>		<u>645</u>	
		5,368		0		<b>5,368</b>		6,917
Income from charitable activities								
Sales	234		200		<b>434</b>		400	
Conference income	<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
		234		200		<b>434</b>		400
Other income								
Investment income		85		18		<b>103</b>		75
<b><u>Total incoming resources</u></b>		<u>5,687</u>		<u>218</u>		<u><b>5,905</b></u>		<u>7,392</u>

	General fund		Dementia fund (restricted)		2018 total		2017 total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Resources expended</u></b>								
Charitable activities								
<b>plus</b>	1,826				<b>1,826</b>		1,344	
DN Newsletter			27		<b>27</b>		14	
Website	1,167				<b>1,167</b>		111	
Trustees travel expenses (25%)							142	
Printing, stationery, advertising	192		1		<b>193</b>		164	
Post, telephone	355		24		<b>379</b>		346	
Subscriptions, insurance	100				<b>100</b>		100	
Publications purchased	10		27		<b>37</b>		90	
Publications support	1,811				<b>1,811</b>		1,976	
Development Co-ordinator	1,218				<b>1,218</b>		2,233	
Research								
Donations								
Bank charges								
		<u>6,679</u>		<u>79</u>		<u>6,758</u>		<u>6,520</u>
Governance								
Trustees travel expenses (75%)	275				<b>275</b>		427	
Meeting rooms	135				<b>135</b>		180	
Conference								
Examiner's fee	174				<b>174</b>		168	
Secretarial support								
Other expenses								
		<u>584</u>		<u>79</u>		<u>584</u>		<u>775</u>
<b><u>Total resources expended</u></b>		<u>7,263</u>		<u>79</u>		<u>7,342</u>		<u>7,295</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)for year		(1,576)		139		<b>(1,437)</b>		97
Funds brought forward		<u>25,250</u>		<u>5,174</u>		<u>30,424</u>		<u>30,327</u>
Funds carried forward		<u>23,674</u>		<u>5,313</u>		<u>29,987</u>		<u>30,424</u>

**CHRISTIAN COUNCIL ON AGEING**  
**Registered charity no 289463**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**as at 31st December 2018**

2017			2018	
£	£		£	£
		Current assets		
1,963		cash at Bank - General Fund	<b>1,171</b>	
23,677		COIF - General Fund	<b>22,677</b>	
831		Cash at Bank - Dementia Account	<b>1,192</b>	
<u>4,121</u>		COIF - Dementia Account	<u><b>4,121</b></u>	
	30,592			<b>29,161</b>
		Current Liabilities		
	<u>168</u>	Sundry Creditors	<u><b>174</b></u>	
	168			<b>174</b>
	<u><u>30,424</u></u>	Net current assets		<u><u><b>28,987</b></u></u>
		Represented by:		
	25,250	General funds		<b>23,674</b>
		Restricted funds		
	5,174	Dementia fund		<b>5,313</b>
	<u><u>30,424</u></u>	Capital employed		<u><u><b>28,987</b></u></u>

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

Dated: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## 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](mailto:info@ccoa.org.uk)

Through the website: [www.christiansonageing.org.uk](http://www.christiansonageing.org.uk)

Other specific contact points:-

### Treasurer

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### 'plus' Editorial and Merseyside branch

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