

2021/2022

TELFORD CHRISTIANS TOGETHER

Annual Report



*Celebrating the
faithfulness of God*



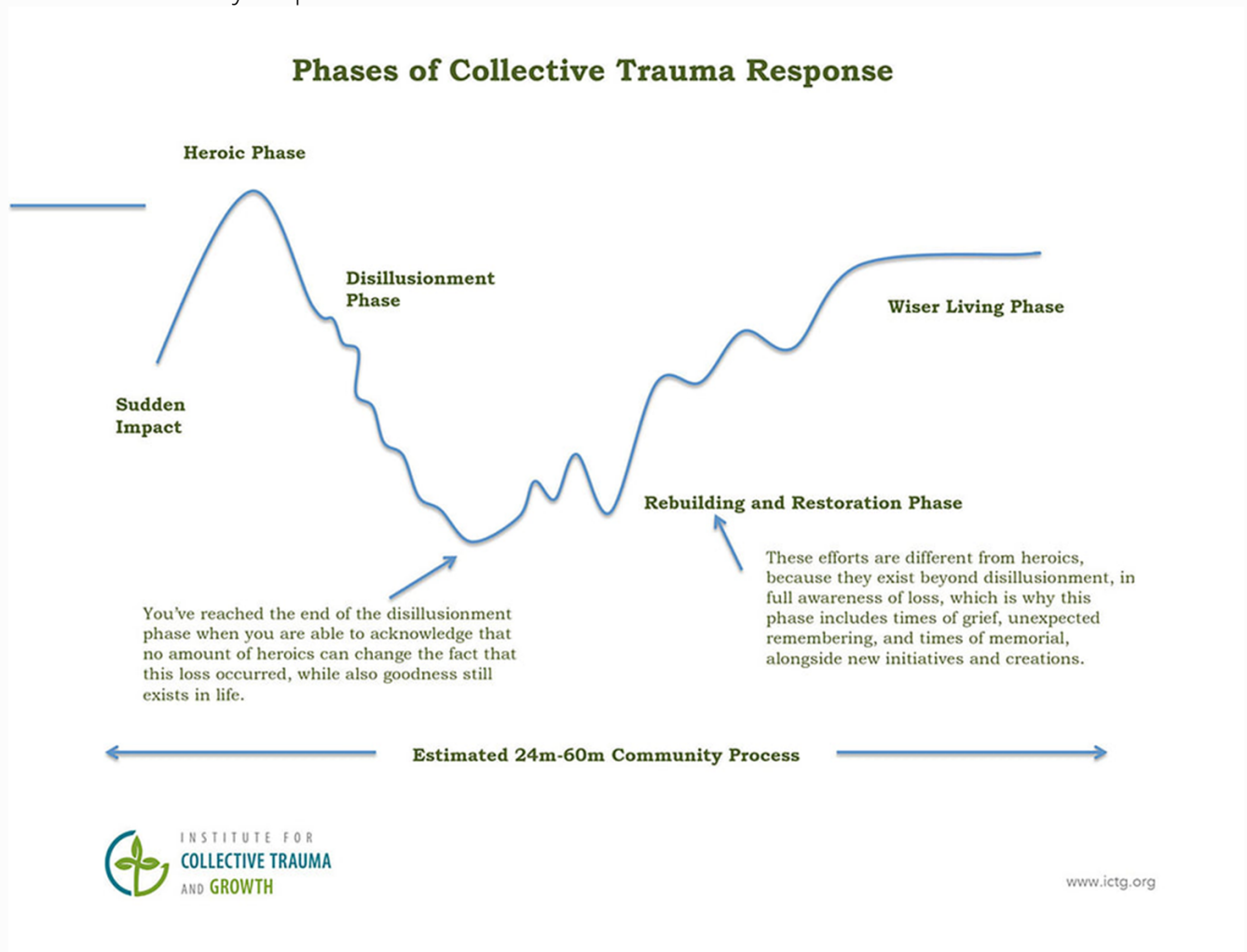
Welcome

WHERE ARE WE?

A number of years ago a friend of mine got lost in a huge shopping centre. Everywhere looked identical and it was spread over several floors; where, oh where, was the car park? At last he came across a notice board which had a large arrow and the wonderful words: "You are here".

Covid 19 has changed so much. So, as the church, where are we?

In thinking about this, I've found the following chart from the Institute for Collective Trauma and Growth really helpful.



The chart is based on the observation and experience of hundreds of traumatic events, be that an international disaster or a local church congregation living through distressing times. This chart isn't the full truth about such experiences, but it is designed to be exploratory and to start a conversation but it's not prescriptive. However, it aims to describe the journey that leads to what is identified as a "wiser living" stage.

I wonder where we are, as the church, in this process, and therefore how we might respond?

One of the unique features of the recent pandemic was the repeated lockdowns, where we cycled around the early stages of this chart.

There's a lot more that could be said, but notice the timescale along the bottom: 2 to 5 years. Because of the complexity of what we faced, many suspect that the path to wiser living will take the full five years; and if that is the case then we're only about half way through.

WHAT NEXT?

The Trustees and employees of Telford Christians Together are very aware that the landscape in which we serve is almost entirely different from the pre-pandemic world. With that in mind, we are focusing this year on seeking God and consulting with our local Churches for the future.

We believe that the best is yet to come for our Borough, and that only by walking together will we see God's Kingdom Come in its' fulness. Whatever emerges from our praying, working and consulting, we believe at it's heart that it will be relational, prayerful and missional.

As the Apostle Paul expresses it in Ephesians Chapter 4

"He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love".

Rev Chris Densham

Mission Enabler Telford Christians Together

Telford Street Pastors



As soon as the 2021 'road map out of lockdown' allowed licensed premises to reopen, Telford Street Pastors recommenced regular Saturday night patrols. After nightclubs reopened on 19th July 2021, the Street Pastors went back to full night patrols again.

There was a longer than usual break after Christmas 2021 because of concerns about the high levels of the Omicron variant, but the Street Pastors returned to normal patrols at the end of January 2022.



In 2021 Street Pastors had 702 meaningful conversations and 1217 lollies were given out.

On Saturday 13th August 2022 Selina Graham, High Sheriff of Shropshire, spent a night out with a team of Telford Street Pastors. The following day she posted on the High Sheriff's Facebook page:

"One of the many amazing things about the street pastors is that they see the good in everyone - even at 4.00am!"

"One of the many amazing things about the street pastors is that they see the good in everyone - even at 4.00am! But one of the greatest pleasures of going out with the Telford Street Pastors, in the town centre and Wellington, last night, was the recognition shown by everyone - no matter how drunk or high or out of it - of the good in the Street Pastors, thanking them and showing respect.

And they deserve it - sweeping up broken glass, picking up bottles and other potential weapons, charging peoples phones, listening (with superhuman patience!) to people who might otherwise have been off picking fights, being there for the sick, alone, and in need and bundling people into taxis to go home when that is the best place for them".

Caring Listening Helping and looking for more volunteers - just one night every three weeks.

Engage Schools



In so many ways, this feels like year one for Engage Schools. We launched this ministry with a year of research in 2018 - 2019, ready to kick things off for the new Academic year 2019 - 2020. As it happened, we managed a massive school tour before the lockdown, but for the rest of the academic year, things looked very different, and we shifted our focus online to support workers and their youth groups.

2020 - 2021 wasn't altogether much different. Still, our online ministry became well practised, and the online school's ministry was complimented by a ten-week strategy for youth groups in the #doyouknowhim mission.

2021 - 2022 has been quite a bit different. This year, Engage Schools has facilitated two major secondary school projects. Firstly, at Easter in Madeley Academy and then with GSUS LIVE in Idsall School, Holy Trinity Academy, Telford Park, Charlton & Thomas Telford. In addition, we hosted two united youth 'Stir Gatherings' in Dawley Baptist and Telford Minister.

300 students attended three consecutive workshops in Madeley Academy at Easter as part of their diversity programme. In the summer term, we taught 1981 young people in five weeks of GSUS LIVE lessons across five schools. In addition, 79 young people attended our two Stir Gatherings from 9 local youth groups.

Finally, this is the end of the final year of TYF in its current form. TYF became a part of Engage Schools during the 2020 lockdown, and we're so grateful for the vision and wisdom of Cathy & H, who have faithfully served the young people for years and decided that this is the right moment to draw the ministry to a close.

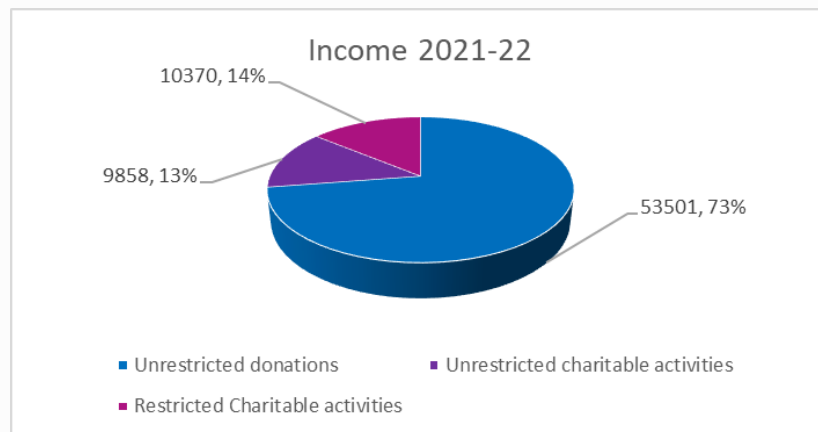
John Prockter
Youth & Schools Work Enabler



"I want to say and huge thank you for coming to share your knowledge and experiences with our year 7 students. It was a great opportunity for them to meet a person of faith and also have their questions answered"

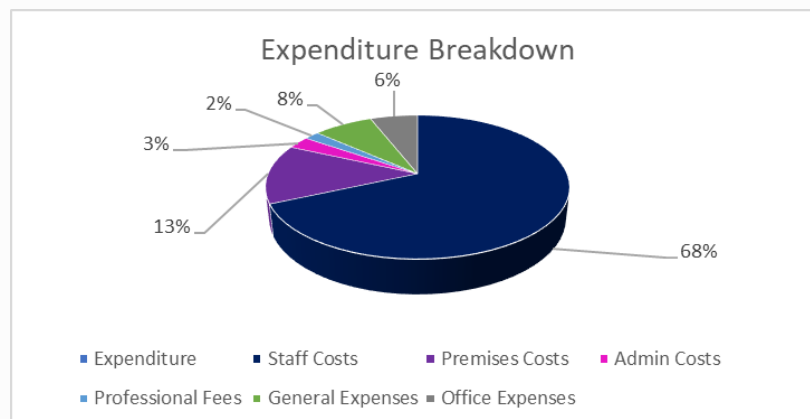
Financial Summary

During the financial year ended 31st March 2022, Telford Christians Together received income of £73,729 – this is very slightly down on the previous year by about 1%. This income was made up as shown in the chart below:



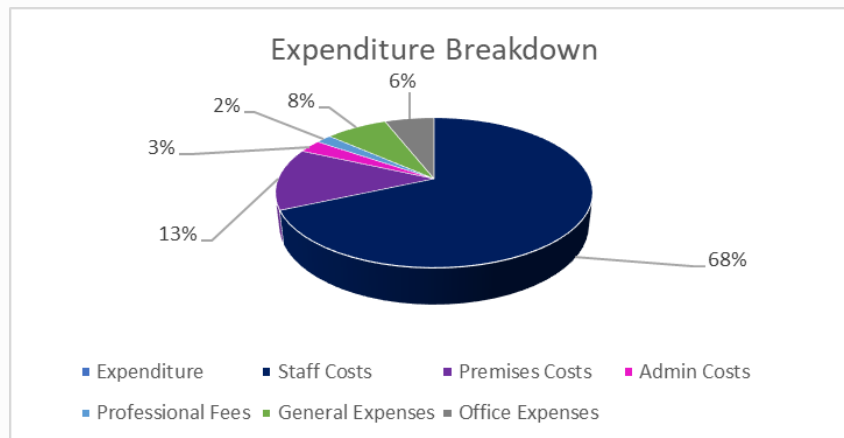
As can be seen, unrestricted donations made up 73% of our income, with charitable activity income providing the remaining 27% - of which 14% was restricted by the donors. All charitable activity income was generated from rental income in respect of our property Morson House.

With regard to expenditure, total expenditure was £74,701 (of which 62% related to salary costs) – an increase on the previous year of some 13%. All expenditure related to charitable activities – the chart below shows the breakdown between restricted and unrestricted:

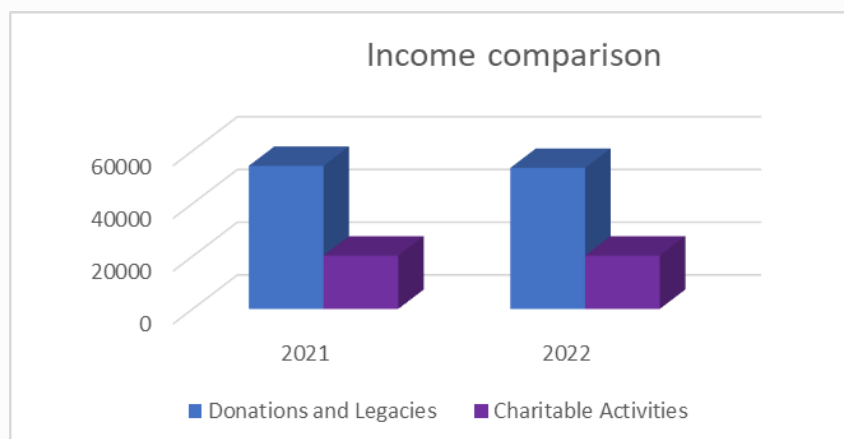


This resulted in an overall small deficit of some £972 – compared to the previous year’s figure of £8,614 surplus.

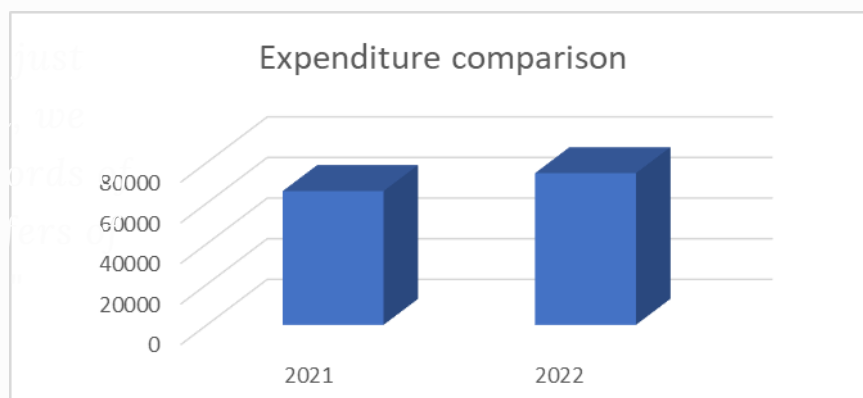
The following chart shows the breakdown of expenditure by type:



When comparing with last year, it can be seen that there is very little difference in income:



However, the chart below confirms the increased expenditure by comparison with last year:



This additional expenditure was as a result of additional premises costs and a small increase in general cost. In terms of reserves, TCT held £83,669 reserves at the end of the year – of which almost 2% were restricted for Telford area mission.

Telford Christians Together



*TCT works with today's church to
build the church and community
of tomorrow*

Please keep in touch via:

Facebook

www.telfordchristianstogether.co.uk

Sign up for our newsletter on the website

Telford Christians Together, Meeting Point House,
Southwater Square, Telford TF3 4HS
Charity Number 1084035 Company Number 4098986