

Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church, High Street, Chipping Sodbury, Bristol, BS37 6AH, was registered as a Charity in May 2009 (Charity No. 1129527). The West of England Baptist Association acts as the Custodian Trustee for the material assets of the Church whilst the day-to-day running of the Church is entrusted to the Managing Trustees that comprise the Ministers and Elders who together make up the Leadership.

Trustees

The appointments of Managing Trustees and other governing rules are set out in the Church Governing Document (Constitution) and a supplementary document both of which were accepted by the Church meeting on 11th March 2009. The appointments are not time limited for Ministers whilst Elders are appointed for terms of three years with eligibility for re-appointment. In May 2010 Jacob's Well became an independent Church and Reverend Jenni Entrican ceased to be a Trustee at Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church. In July 2010 John Bennell stepped down from his position as an Elder and Kathy Mackay came to the end of her term of office and was re-elected for a further term. No one was appointed in his place during 2010. The Church was not in a position to appoint an Associate Minister. Therefore, at the end of 2010 the Leadership comprised:

Reverend Carl Stokes	Ministerial Team Leader
Vacant	Elder
Mrs. Jean Davis	Elder
Mr. Norman Fuggle	Elder
Mr. Roger Greenslade	Elder
Mr. Peter Llewellyn	Elder
Mrs. Kathy Mackay	Elder
Mrs. Maggie Maclean	Elder

Property Trustees

West of England Baptist Trust Company (West), West of England Baptist Association, The Old Forge, Broom Hill, Stapleton, Bristol BS16 1DN.

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc, 77 Broad Street, Chipping Sodbury BS37 6AE.

Independent Examiner

Burton Sweet, Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors, Pembroke House, 15 Pembroke Road, Clifton, BS8 3BA.

Annual Report for 2010

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2010.

Charitable Object

The Church has a Governing Document (Constitution) and supplementary guidelines, which state that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith, according to the principles of the Baptist denomination, to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine. The Church occupies premises, which are held by the West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) on Trust, which are entirely compatible with the above object.

Organisational Structure and Decision making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Governing Document and supplementary guidelines, which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptised on profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or, if not baptised, to renew their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ. The members meeting normally takes place at least six times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Governing Document and supplementary guidelines, the members appoint seven Elders who are Trustees, one of whom serves as Church Secretary and one serves as Church Treasurer. Together with the Minister(s) and the Young families and Youth Worker (who is a paid employee and not a Trustee) they are collectively known as the Leadership. They are responsible for the day to day running of the Church's work and witness and the financial and legal aspects of the Church. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the Church's charitable objective. Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance, or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Governing Document and supplementary guidelines permit decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

The Church has continued with its Vision and Strategy, with the five Purposes of the Church (Care, Grow, Serve, Share, and Worship) working on their strategies during the year in furtherance of the Charity's aims. The Small Groups, Seniors and Finance teams also developed their strategies, as did the Young Families and Youth teams. Unfortunately during the year, Sue Pearce (Young Families and Youth Worker) had to take time off due to ill health, which meant their strategy was not developed as fully as had been planned. The Church meeting in December 2009 agreed three main priorities for 2010, which were: -

- To develop, in conjunction with the other Churches in the area, a Street Pastors scheme
- To investigate Messy Church, particular for young families
- To investigate the refurbishments of the building on our site

During 2010 the Church released our Minister, Carl Stokes, for a three month period to take his sabbatical. During this period he was able to spend quality time with God through a number of retreats in places like Lee Abbey and the Northumbrian community. He also had opportunity to minister in South Africa to the people of the Trans Kai, Eastern

Cape, finalizing the handover of a newly built Children's village to the local community of an area that had over 400 orphans due to AIDS. He found this a very humbling experience but was grateful for the opportunity to do it. During his sabbatical Carl also walked the 15 peaks of Snowdon with Dave Kimbell, one of our Church members, over a three day period and he walked solo St Oswald's Way, a 100 mile stretch from The Wall (Hadrian's wall) out to and up the east coast of Northumberland to Holy Island. These were fantastic opportunities for Carl to meet with God and spend time seeking him as he walked and rested along the way. He was especially seeking God about his future ministry and calling. Carl says, "During 2010 I have increasingly felt God prompting me to respond to a new call and sphere of ministry as an Army Chaplain. A part of my sabbatical was therefore spent studying Just War Theory and attending the Army Officer selection board. All of this confirmed to me God's call to this new sphere of ministry. I am very grateful to the Church for this opportunity to take time out to refresh myself spiritually and have the space to reflect and discern what I believe is God's call." Carl came back to the Church with not only a sense of God's call upon his life to a new sphere of service, but to a deep sense that God wished to deepen our discipleship and prayer life with Him as a Church. This has led to a new emphasis in our evening services on prayer and going deeper with God and also consolidating the work we have already done in the previous two years as a Church, developing our vision and strategies.

One of the Church's aims in previous years was to plant a Church in another part of the area. A group of 16 people were "set apart" to start this work in 2005, along with two members from another of the local Churches, and they set up "Jacob's Well" with the remit to do Church in a way which might connect with spiritual seekers in the community who would be unlikely to come into a more traditional Church. Jacob's Well does not meet in a Church but every Thursday night at a community centre in Yate. After time for chatting and refreshments, there is an eclectic mix of reflective activities including liturgy, scripture, music, meditation, prayer, film and communion. Every fortnight Jacob's Well also meets on a Saturday, where adults and children explore spirituality together in a similar mix of interactive activities. Jacob's Well has developed over the five years and they became an independent Church in May 2010. As a Church we thank God for their commitment and their courage in stepping out in faith. They have connected with many people in the community and helped them on their spiritual journey. They also have a community allotment, hold soup and bread making sessions and have a stand at the local Mind, Body, Spirit Fair. Further information can be accessed from their website www.jacobswell.uk.net

Throughout the year, Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church has continued to provide a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally with the aim of showing the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord. Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These opportunities take place each Sunday at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. From July the evening service took on a different format using silence and Bible reading as a means of worshipping God. During the autumn we continued this but had intercessory prayer alternate weeks. A more traditional service has been held on a Sunday afternoon, which has attracted a number of older folk from the community, and this was increased to twice monthly during 2010. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised on the Church Notice Board and the website at www.cs-bc.org.uk. There is a full children's programme during the morning services. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services. The Church runs a series of house groups, for the growth of faith and discipleship, in the homes of some members. Members are encouraged to invite friends and neighbours to these groups.

Further details of these can be obtained from the Trustees on request, or at the Sunday services of worship. The Church is responsible for Little Fishes, which is a Carer and Toddler Group, which has two sessions meeting on the Church premises Tuesday mornings and Tuesday afternoons. The purpose of these groups is to assist the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ in a practical way. Although the Church runs this, those who attend are not members of the Church but are seen as part of the Church family. From time to time the Church runs specific courses, which are open to anyone in the community. This year the Grow Purpose has run "Going Deeper with God", which explores Biblical issues, and "Gossip the Gospel" which helps people to talk about their faith in a natural way with their family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues etc. The Church runs various events for Young People mid week, such as Lazars and Trailblazers and Youth Club, which are open to the community. For people in the Third and Fourth age there are a Luncheon Club and Thursday Friends. The Church operates a system to ensure that Criminal Records Bureau appropriately vets all people working with children.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure, but believe that 2010 was a positive year in the life of the Church, and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes in 2011 with continued enthusiasm. At the start of the year there were 217 members. Two people professed faith in Jesus Christ during the year and came into membership and 4 people transferred their membership from other Churches. Twelve members who are part of Jacob's Well were removed from our membership list, as Jacob's Well had become an independent Church. Ten people moved to another Church either locally or in a different part of the country and, as part of the review of the membership list, six were removed, as they no longer attend the Church. At 31 December 2009 the membership stood at 195. Average attendance at worship has varied during the year, the morning service is about 120, the Sunday afternoon traditional service between 30 and 50 and the evening service averaged about 35 except for the last Sunday of the month which was a Praise Service and about 80 people come along. The different format in the evenings has between 20 and 35 people who come along, though not every week. There has been a decrease in the number of children who come on a Sunday but the midweek children's groups have increased their numbers.

Our buildings have continued to be used by community groups. Our Church Hall is used weekly for one session by Wednesday Fun Time (for toddlers), for two sessions by Slimming World, for one evening by a group from Alcoholics Anonymous and for one session by Yate Star Twirlers. It is also booked on an ad hoc basis for children's parties and other activities. The Church Centre is used for eight sessions a week by a Pre School Group and for one session a week by Brandon Trust to run a drama group for adults with learning disabilities. The local schools have a get together in the Church during Lent and Advent, run by re:GENEr8 (the joint Churches ministry to schools) and individual schools bring pupils to the Church to learn more about its purpose.

Priorities for 2010

Street Pastors: One of the priority areas we identified as a Church as our vision was the development of Street Pastors to serve in Chipping Sodbury and Yate. This is a ministry of offering care, support and a listening ear to folk on a Friday night between 10pm and 2 am. In 2010 through into 2011 we have worked hard to get this set up and 20 street pastors from four different Churches will be undertaking training in the New Year.

They will venture out onto Chipping Sodbury High Street on the Easter weekend in 2011. It has been good to see this come to fruition and to be so well supported by members of our Church with well over half the street pastors coming from the Church. Currently Pat Fuggle, Steve Mills, Dave Marshall and Helen Craddock all serve on the Management Committee. We continue to pray for this exciting opportunity to share the love of God.

Messy Church: During 2010 our Young Families and Youth Worker had to take time off due to ill health. The Family Strategy Team did not meet to progress the idea of Messy Church for the first part of the year. Once they met, after having considered this form of ministry, they concluded that, although there is a successful Messy Church meeting in the adjoining town of Yate, it was not appropriate for our local families as this would not meet their needs. It was decided to develop monthly family social events to build stronger relationships during 2011 and then review the idea of Messy Church.

Refurbishment of buildings: As a Church we have three buildings on our site in Chipping Sodbury High Street – the original Church building (Church Centre), the next Church building (Church Hall) and the current Church building. We agreed as a Church that we needed to consider what we should do with these buildings to make them fit for purpose for the future. At the beginning of the year we invited an architect to give us some ideas about the potential of the buildings and he did this and said that we should consider having a measured survey carried out and undertake a feasibility study for which he gave the Church a quote. In March, the Church agreed that we should seek two further quotes for carrying out this work. In May we held an open meeting to seek views and discuss concerns people had. This enable the Buildings group to draw up a brief and in July the Church agreed to appoint Andrew Wotton Associates to arrange a measured survey and to carry out a feasibility based on the brief. Once the feasibility study was received in November, we held a consultation period with the Church and an open meeting in December for people to ask questions of Andrew. The Buildings Group agreed to collate the views from the consultation and the meeting and prepare a proposal for the first Church meeting in 2011. This project will continue during 2011.

SODBURY Strategy

Small groups: **John Bennell**, who stood down as an Elder during the year, has continued to lead the Small Group Strategy. Small groups are an important part of our being Church. Groups meet weekly to study, pray and support one another. During 2010 there were 12 groups meeting at various times during the week. Groups are open to people from the Church as well as friends and neighbours who don't attend the Church. Total group membership was approximately 120 and included regular Church attendees. Besides study, prayer and caring for one another the groups undertook various tasks in support of a much wider community. These included sponsorship of children in Hosanna School Uganda, local community projects, support for the elderly and young families. Activities also included were weekend breaks, away days and social events to include non-Christian friends and relatives.

Outward looking: **Maggie Maclean**, one of our Elders on the Leadership, leads our Share Purpose. The Share Strategy Team meets regularly to implement and develop the 3 strands of the strategy adopted by members in 2009. The community based outreach activities are varied and many have been running for some time and are faithfully maintained by our members. Examples of the Community based witness are as follows: the Saturday coffee mornings in the Church Hall provide a popular meeting place for local people. The weekly Luncheon Club offers a hot meal and fellowship for older people, from all parts of the community. Church members organize regular services for residents

in a local Care home, and support the Prison Fellowship, having regular input at Leyhill Prison. The Church takes part in Chipping Sodbury Festival in the summer and the Victorian Evening in December. The provision of refreshments on both these occasions provides a service to the community and enables the Church to raise money for charity. The Environment Group meets regularly and raises our awareness of environmental issues and encourages best sustainable practice. Members of one of the Care Groups provide refreshments at the monthly weekday Farmers Market. The Church has hosted 2 evenings in the Town Hall under the title 'The Conversation'. These evenings have given people the chance to meet with experts from local organisations and ask them questions. The first evening focused on how to make Chipping Sodbury a better place to live, and the second on provision for older people. The Baptist Church together with St. John's, St Lawrence's and Christ the Rock have agreed to work together to develop a Street Pastors Team to patrol Sodbury High Street on Friday and Saturday nights. There has been a good response and training is due to start early in 2011. A group of members regularly have a stand at the local Mind Body and Spirit Fair and have been able to engage in conversation and pray for enquirers. We see these activities as examples of ways of becoming more involved in our community.

The Church based strategy continues to focus on developing existing links and building better relationships with those already coming to events, such as Little Fishes, Coffee Mornings and Women's Own (a short informal service during the week for women). 'Affinity Groups' meet regularly to offer companionship and support to members e.g. for Carers. The Team and Leaders have been looking into using 'Table Talk' as a tool to encourage members to engage with non-Christian friends and talk about important issues. We also support Baptist Home Mission.

The International strategy includes support for Baptist World Mission, in particular Reuben and Katie Martin in Rouen, who visited us in July. Many of our members support Christian Aid by helping with door-to-door collections. Our Harvest Service raised funds for the work of Samaritan's Purse in Haiti. We also supported the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal and again the Church was a drop off centre, and sorted about 2,200 boxes. A group meets regularly to pray for those being persecuted for their faith. Our young people run a Traidcraft Stall. The Church continues to support Hosanna School in Kampala, Uganda and helped to raise money for mosquito nets for children and their families.

Devoted Discipleship: **Norman Fuggle**, an Elder on the Leadership, leads our Grow strategy team but unfortunately the team has only met twice during the year due to sickness. However the members, at the meeting in January, passed the Grow Strategy. 'XEE' is helping a few members to learn how to share their faith with others. Going Deeper with God was started and meets once a month to discuss a particular topic and to help people to explore and understand the biblical context. We are now linked with CVM (Christian Vision for Men) and a few men attended the Men's conferences at Cardiff and Exeter during the year. We also held a men's breakfast, a Bar-B-Q and a Curry evening, all of which included men from within and outside the Church.

Belonging to Christ and each other: This is our Care Purpose led by **Roger Greenslade**, an Elder on the Leadership team. Care is one of the most important aspects of Church life and we are grateful to God that we have such a loving and caring fellowship at Chipping Sodbury Baptist. The Care Strategy team meets regularly to discuss the care of Church members and to exchange updates on particular issues. In addition the team discuss with each other at Church and through email. The phone ministry is another very good way of keeping in touch with folk and their needs, as are texting and email. Lunches are arranged periodically for new members, people who are unwell or discharged from hospital and others who may value fellowship in this way. Home Communion is

provided for those who cannot get to Church. A whole host of other activities are arranged to provide fellowship such as walks, dancing and golf!

Our Minister, members of the Strategy Team and other members of the Church carry out hospital and home visits whenever there is a need.

Tom Williams, a very supportive member of the team, stepped down towards the end of 2010 to serve in other parts of the Church.

United in Service: This is our Serve Purpose led by **Kathy Mackay**, an Elder on the Leadership team. This purpose includes helping people to recognise and develop their gifts, by looking at their God given SHAPE (Spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experience) and how they can be used to serve God, the Church and the community. During the early part of the year the "Serving in the Family" course was offered to members through the Care Groups with individual follow up. The Strategy Team also held a training day for those with responsibility in the Church to see how best we could support them.

This purpose also includes the administration and fabric of the Church. We have three buildings, a burial ground and gardens on our Church site and two manses. Our Ministerial Team Leader and his family live in one of the manses and the other one has a tenant at present. The Fabric Team maintain the buildings, burial grounds and gardens, ensuring health and safety for those using the buildings. An independent Play Group for which we receive a rental payment uses our Church Centre four days a week. There are various youth activities in the Church Centre, which attract friends of our young people. We use the Centre for a Luncheon Club for members of the community. Our Church Hall can be hired for clubs and hobbies as well as children's parties or other social events. Slimming World and Wednesday Fun Time have a regular booking and a group from Alcoholics Anonymous use a room on a weekly basis. Coffee and Chat on a Saturday morning is very popular with the community and there is also a monthly coffee morning when the Farmers' Market is held. Thursday Friends, our social time for those who cannot usually get out, is held once a month and Crafty or Knot, a craft evening for all the community, is held monthly. Our Church building is used by 're:GENer8', a joint Churches group who go into schools locally. They have joint gatherings for schoolchildren during the year, particularly at Advent and Easter. Our Church building is also used for weddings and funerals for people from the Church and their families.

Our Church Office is very busy each weekday morning but there is always someone available to make a cup of coffee and chat to people. We have a Church Office Co-ordinator, who is employed by the Church for 20 hours a week and she is assisted by a team of volunteers. The office produces a weekly newsheet, a monthly magazine "Focus" and various posters and leaflets of a very high standard throughout the year as well as carrying out other routine office tasks. We also employ two part time cleaners for our buildings

Relevant Worship. Prayer and Preaching: This is our Worshipping Purpose and is led by our Ministerial Team Leader, Revd **Carl Stokes**. Over the past year the worship has stabilised on a Sunday mornings through the continuity of having three main worship leaders, in Juliette Stokes, Christine Marshall and Carl. We still have an array of musicians on the rota, with the core lead coming from Rachael Cann and Peter Nolan. However it has been good to see others like Pat Leaman and Cherry Buse using their gifts in this area and the musicians they arrange to accompany them. This year has seen the development of our singers who regularly lead us alternate weeks. Family services are set for the 1st Sunday of the month and involve the children in the service in direct participation. This year we provided two traditional services a month, but the turn out for the additional service was not enough to sustain this, so in 2011 there will be only one traditional service per month. The celebration services stopped half way through the year

but will be restarted 2011. The evening services during the second half of 2010 have been used to pray together, alternating between weeks of silence and intercession. Those who have regularly attended have found these to be a real encouragement. The purpose behind this was to take the opportunity to develop our devotional life through prayer. It has also been a practical answer to the problem of lack of musicians available on a Sunday evenings. Prayer Guardians has continued throughout the year as a way of encouraging us to pray for each other and get to know one another better. We are grateful and thankful to God and those who are involved in the ministry of worship, not just the musicians, singers and worship leaders who have lead us so well in 2010, but also all the support ministries that enable the worship life of our Church to happen. Nigel Belsten and Jo Stubbings and their teams of people have continued develop the sound and visual ministry, and the Welcome team and the flowers team have continued to serve us well, enabling an inviting and welcoming environment to all.

Young families, Youth and Seniors

The Young families and Youth strategies are headed up by **Sue Pearce**, our full time Young Families and Youth Worker, who is also part of our Leadership Team. As a Church we have had a few new young families joining us during 2010 but these numbers are still low. However, we continue to minister to eighty families in our Little Fishes Toddler groups, the majority of whom don't come to Sunday Services. This ministry has been developed by building stronger relationships and opportunities to meet up and offer them support. The Share Strategy team has designed a survey to find out more about needs and concerns for families in our community, asking if we meet any of these needs and what we can do to support them. We have also built more links with another toddler group and pre-school group who use our buildings. The pre-school group has invited us to take 'storytime' once a month and share out Christian message. All groups now have Easter and Christmas services in the Church and the pre-school are keen for us to bring more Christianity into their faith curriculum. Children's and Youth activities based at the Church include a Sunday morning programme for children and youth, including a crèche, midweek clubs and Friday night Youth Club. Although Sunday numbers are low, our midweek clubs continue to grow and our programmes reflect more about the Christian message. The Youth Club has continued to attract young people from the community, which brings with it the challenge of how best to share our faith with them. These young people have grown a strong sense of 'belonging', so now comes the challenge of helping them to 'believe'. There are children and youth events in local schools, including lunchtime clubs and assemblies, which involve members of the Church.

Jean Davis, one of the Elders on the Leadership, leads our Seniors Strategy. The aim is to reach out to non-Christians in the community by offering friendship and meeting any needs with kindness and love and also to share with Christians, both inside and outside our Church, learning from them, and growing with them in Christ. Thursday Friends, our monthly afternoon tea for anyone who doesn't get out much, and the weekly luncheon club are going from strength to strength. A great band of helpers ensures that all of our guests get a warm welcome and individual attention. Responding to demand the Traditional Services ran twice a month for most of this year but due to lack of support recently, they have now reverted to monthly. Refreshments are still served afterwards. Services in care homes, home communion for the housebound and one-to-one support of individuals in need both within the Church and in the community continues. In July our Church facilitated a 'Conversation' in the Town Hall at which interested parties and members of the public were asked to suggest anything which would make life better for older people in our area. The event attracted a lot of attention and a group of around twelve representatives of local councils, professionals, Churches and charities now meet at our Church to take forward some of the ideas raised. Our greatest challenge continues

to be insufficient volunteer drivers to collect people from their homes and bring them to the Church, whether it's for Luncheon Club on Tuesdays, Women's Own on Wednesdays, Thursday Friends or the Traditional Service monthly.

Financial Review **Peter Llewellyn**, one of the Elders on the Leadership Team, leads our Finance Strategy. In preparation for 2010, the Trustees agreed a balanced budget with an expectation of income and expenditure being £150,300. In the event, the income was much less than expected at £137,783 and the expenditure was more than expected at £155,460. These changes from the budget resulted in expenditure being greater than income by £17,677.

There is an apparent further loss of £31,086 which represents Jacob's Well's balance at the end of 2010, which was transferred out of our church accounts as Jacob's Well became an independent church.

The Church relies on the gifts of money given week by week by those who come to the Church, and in 2010 there was a drop in the gift-aided offerings, resulting in the amount of tax reclaimed being smaller than expected as well. In addition, the rent we receive from letting our second manse was less than expected as a result of the tenant at the start of the year running into financial difficulties. However, since August 2010, we have had a new tenant living in the house.

The expenditure was more than we had expected primarily because of money spent on feasibility studies in relation to the development of our buildings that we hope to carry out in due course.

However, because of the funds we already had available, we were able to absorb the loss during 2010. Put more positively, the Church was able to continue the extensive work it carries out in the community, which is outlined in the remainder of this Annual report. In addition, the Church was able to maintain its giving to the Baptist Union Home Mission and to the BMS World Mission, as well as give a donation of £3,500 to Jacob's Well, which is now a Church in its own right.

We have been pleased as well to have given considerable sums of money through special collections for national appeals for Pakistan and Haiti for example.

The Trustees have kept the membership fully informed about the financial losses being incurred and the Finance Team Leader gave a more detailed explanation at the Church Meeting in November 2010 and subsequently to a letter to everyone who attends the Church. The Trustees explained that we could not continue to make a loss year by year and unless funds became available we would have to reduce the number of paid staff. The membership responded very positively to this and the prospects for 2011 are encouraging.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy, and are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the Church to function effectively in the coming year.

In the unlikely event of the Church having to suddenly close down, the Trustees would have funds available from the investments, valued at £28,000, to go towards costs such as redundancy payments (which would be in total less than £5,000) plus pay in lieu of

notice and any accumulated holiday pay. In addition the manse in Hudson Close, currently rented by a tenant, would eventually become available releasing over £200,000.

In the event of income falling significantly, the Trustees would again have available the £28,000 from investments plus the cash in the banks. The total expenditure in 2010 was £156,400 so the cost of maintaining that level of expenditure for, say three months, is £39,100. It is the Trustees' policy to keep the cash in the banks between a range of £30,000 and £55,000 so as, on the one hand, to have enough available to meet exceptional contingencies, and on the other hand not to unnecessarily save money that has been given to fund the objects of the Charity. On 31st December 2010, the cash balances in the bank accounts totaled £36,278.

Future Plans

Our priorities for 2011 are: -

- Building relationships
 - (a) within the Church using new initiatives such as "Table Talk" and a Lent course on "Belonging"
 - (b) outside the Church with the community, by strengthening our existing links (Coffee and Chat, Luncheon Club, Little Fishes, Golf, Dancing, Crafty or Knot etc) and developing new ones.
- To train and prepare those who are to be Street Pastors with a view to being out on the High Street in April
- To develop a ministry to families, which will start in February
- To consider the feasibility study and the next steps for the refurbishment of the buildings to make them fit for purpose and fit for the future both for the Church and the community, as a centre for activities to meet the needs of the community.

There are many other activities, which will continue within the Church, to serve the community as well as provide spiritual development for those who attend the Church. Although we have seen a small decrease in membership this year, we are encouraged by what God is doing in people's lives and how individuals put their faith and love into action in the community.

Conclusion:

2010 has been a very busy year for the Trustees and the membership particularly as Carl and Sue were both away for 3 months. We remain confident that God wants us to work with our community to show His love and, with the help of His Holy Spirit, we know we can achieve great things. There are many other things that happen in our Church and one way to find out about these is to look at our website www.cs-bc.org.uk. As our Mission statement says, we want "To know God and be the people of God in our community".

January 2011