

This is the first part of the report to Assembly from the Council of the Congregational Federation. As I stated in my previous letter, it is not possible to allow enough time for churches to consider and discuss the reports if they are not sent out until after Council meets at the end of the month.

Assembly will meet in Dundee on Saturday May 11th from 10.30 am – refreshments will be served from 10 am. Invitations have been sent to all churches, with the details of Assembly weekend.

Beginning on Friday afternoon when Andrew Roberts, the writer of Holy Habits, will be the speaker. Ministers and anyone else interested are encouraged to take advantage of what promises to be an excellent time.

The Friday Fringe meeting in the evening is again open for everyone to attend.

After Assembly the evening will end with a dinner and Ceilidh. You will need to book for this and your lunch if you intend to take advantage of the venue catering.

At Assembly:

Assembly will be an occasion of worship, celebration and information sharing. There will be discussion opportunities regarding the Open Spaces conversations and the next steps in the Governance Review.

General Secretary Yvonne Campbell, Chairs of Committee, Church Support and Finance Staff, and others who have contributed to the Reports will be available to answer any other queries you may have. The President Janet Wootton and Martin Spain will also be there.

Please take these reports to Church Meetings for discussion. Any queries you may have can be addressed to the appropriate Chair of Committee or myself as Interim Chair of Council.

Time to answer detailed questions concerning the Finance Report at Assembly is limited and it would be helpful if you could contact the Finance Team who will be pleased to answer these at the C.F. Office by letter, telephone or email.

Further copies of the report can be downloaded from the website. A copy will be available at Assembly for everyone.

A further report on Open Spaces and other matters from April Council will follow later.

Contact Details:

0115 911 1460 8 Castle Gate, Nottingham, NG 17AS: admin@congregational.org.uk

I look forward to meeting you at Assembly in Dundee.

Sandra Turner
Interim Chair of Council
sturner158@btinternet.com

Report from the interim Chair of Council

In Swansea at the 2017 Assembly the following recommendation was agreed:

That there be an independent review of the process that has been followed to ensure lessons are learned and healing can happen.

At Assembly 2018 in Union Chapel, the results of the independent review by Collective Headspace were received. It was clear from the discussion at the time that there were still issues to be dealt with before the hoped for healing could fully happen. Council met in July to consider carefully the points raised in the report and a statement was sent out in letter to the Churches.

Governance

The next step was to tackle the second part of the proposal agreed at Assembly 2017 to continue work on the second part of the programme.

(And) that the review of the function and powers of the Council and Secretariat of the Federation be carried out with full transparency, in collaboration with the churches and Areas, drawing on legal advice from someone with expertise in charity law as it affects other Christian denominations.

I would like to record our thanks to Margaret Morris for the unstinting time and hard work given to chairing Council through these difficult times and issues.

Open Spaces:

In order to continue the review of the function and powers of the Council and Secretariat ten 'Open Spaces' events have taken place – one in every Area in England; one in Wales and two in Scotland. (at the time of writing nine were complete and one scheduled before Council meet in April)

Open Spaces asked the question:

How can we shape the Congregational Federation for the future?

Over one hundred conversations have taken place so far. These are giving an insight into a number of issues which are important to our Churches. We will use this data to help us to see what changes to our Governance and Constitution may be necessary to achieve a Congregational Federation with Governance, Constitution and Structure which is fit for purpose in the third decade of the 21st Century.

A full report of these conversations will be available on the website in due course. In addition, through the Congregationalist and my letter to the churches anyone who would like to contribute to these conversations are invited to do so by email, in writing, or by telephone to Yvonne Campbell our General Secretary before Council meets on April 24th 2019. My thanks go to everyone who has attended an Open Space event or sent in their comments.

Council expect to bring a proposal for discussion at Assembly on the next stage of the process.

Chair of Council:

The process of electing a new Chair of Council is well on its way and Council hopes to bring a recommendation to Assembly. Interviews will take place over the Council Meeting the weekend of 25/26th April.

President:

It has been a very busy year for our President Elect, Revd Dr Janet Wootton who will be inducted to the role of President at Assembly in Dundee.

Nominations for President Elect are now closed and the person elected will be announced at Assembly.

Janet, Martin Spain and Paul Davis as immediate past Presidents have been working alongside myself and Council to take the review process forward and I thank them for the time, energy and expertise they have brought to the task. Paul has informed Council that he will step down from the process at Assembly while Martin has agreed to continue.

Churches: opening and closing

We have recognised that for too long our operations depended on revenue received through closing churches and the questions that raises concerning our future. Council made a decision to ask the Church Support Team to work on this. To date at least three churches have been brought back to life during 2018/19 with thanks to the team and Area's working together to make this possible.

On the other hand, we sadly see others not able to come back to life. The challenge is for all of us to be vigilant so that we can respond before it is too late.

Finance:

The finance department continue to monitor our operating costs and spending. We still depend on Closed Church revenue to keep the Operating Deficit to a manageable level while maintaining programmes and services to the Churches. The operating deficit has reduced again during 2018. Over the years, due to fewer churches and members, less income comes from Affiliation Fees which goes into the General Purposes fund. This is also the case for the Mission and Ministry fund from which grants to the churches as well as our contribution to CWM are made and these are limited by the income received.

The full report is available to churches upon request.

My thanks to the Finance team and Chair Peter Butler for their diligence.

Church Support:

The department continues to respond to the variety of needs of the Churches and Areas as they endeavour to be church for today. Training, Mission, Children and Youth are top priorities and these are being met with creativity and sensitivity.

The Church Support Committee Report is available and their report to Assembly included in this document.

My thanks to the Church Support Team and Chair John Bentham for all they have achieved in collaboration with our churches.

Assembly:

There will be time set aside to continue our conversations regarding the Shape of the Congregational Federation for the Future.

Sandra Turner
Interim Chair of Council

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Report from the General Secretary, Yvonne Campbell

"Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times" Romans 12: 11-12

Welcome to Assembly, an annual gathering for fellowship, business and celebration. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, together today, to build each other up and encourage one another seeking the mind of Christ. What a privilege that is.

The Congregational Federation is you, me and the members of Congregational Churches across England, Scotland and Wales, held together by faith in Jesus Christ. My prayer is we have a day full of hope for the future.

Once again this year has been full of joys and challenges as I serve you as your General Secretary.

Visiting churches is always the most fulfilling part of my role, I look forward to receiving your newsletters and hearing about all the wonderful things you are doing to share the message of Jesus with those in your community.

It is wonderful to hear that Roxton have received lottery funding for their roof and have lots of activities planned. It was so encouraging to read in Northampton Congregational Church's newsletter that they were visiting and supporting Roxton one afternoon so..... I decided to surprise them and had a lovely afternoon with both fellowships supporting each other.

One of my joys was spending the weekend in Norwich at the historic conference John Clements organised. It was so informative and we had some powerful lectures in the Old Meeting House (which is one of the most significant churches in Congregational history in England.) We then went out and visited some of the Congregational chapels in the area which were started by the Old Meeting Church. Some are now historic chapels and some URC. I learnt how the Ministers graduated from Cambridge then came to Norwich and spread out into the area planting churches. I saw signed membership papers which just contained lines and symbols which a year later became written names as new Ministers taught people to read and write. I even saw a tunnel used for the preacher to escape through to avoid arrest. More than all that I learnt Congregationalists, this new church model wanted more than Sunday morning worship, they wanted to meet together as much as possible in the week to discuss scripture and pray together. Does your church meet in the week for Bible study?

Of course it is always a joy to be part of any celebrations. The ordination of Audrey Lee in Ebenezer, Oldham and Ruth Leeming in Pickering were a blessing. It was such an encouragement that those who learnt together had built such strong friendships and came to support each other. I have to say a special thanks to Coleen and her husband from South Chingford Congregational Church who travelled miles to support her friends.

It's true that those we study with stay friends for life, and so I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to all those I studied with for the support they gave and continue to give me.

I enjoyed the anniversary service at Old Coulsdon; a church I hadn't visited before but felt I knew so well as they faithfully send me their newsletter and Timperley, a church I do know well and how lovely it was to see how they are growing and welcoming new members.

Hay Mills became an independent church last year which was because of the astoundingly faithful work of Stephane and Jane Vickers. It was a goose bump moment leading the Induction and seeing how Stephane puts his faith into action and is not missing out on any of the new things God wants to do through him. *"Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already"* Isaiah 43v19

Working ecumenically as an ambassador is part of my role and something I enjoy. It was a privilege to be invited to speak at the URC General Assembly which was held in Nottingham. I gave my testimony, shared some positive stories about Congregational Churches and how we complement each other's work. I have also met with the General Secretary of the Independent Methodists to support and share ideas together.

The Church's Together in England had their forum last year, Myself and Alan Kennedy as Inter Church Board Chair and others from the Congregational Federation attended. All six Presidents of the Churches Together in England came together to inspire and encourage us. One such encouragement was to work ecumenically through a prayer movement called Thy Kingdom Come.

Thy Kingdom Come runs for 10 days from Ascension to Pentecost and encourages praying for 5 friends. This year it runs from 30th May – 9th June, there are lots of resources on the website www.thykingdomcome.global and it would be amazing to see all Congregational Churches involved.

I wonder if you know about Congregational Prayer hour, something I initiated but which Lorna Cammock, a member from Airdrie Congregational Church, continues sending out prayers every week for members and churches of the Congregational Federation. Thank you Lorna. Thanks also to the Church Support team, we have done many projects together this year including <https://www.theresourcehub.co.uk> a new website which is full of themed services and resources for churches when you are stuck for ideas or have special services planned.

It has been refreshing to work with Sara Iles on the CWM project, NIFEA (New International Financial and Economic Architecture). The project was a challenge in itself but the joy was being able to produce the booklet called "Abundant life". It includes nine bible studies based around environmental and banking themes. I have received some good feedback so if anyone would like more copies they are available. Thank you Sara for your commitment and encouragement.

Jesus said "*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly*"

CWM (Council for World Mission) are our Partner Mission organisation. Formally the London Missionary Society they are now based in Singapore and have 32 member churches. Each year we make a contribution to their work through your Mission and Ministry donations. I wonder if you still have a box and collect your small change? Part of my role now is as budget holder and unfortunately these contributions have reduced significantly - it would be wonderful if you feel your church could make a contribution or as an individual member you could fill a box with loose change.

Congratulations to Wayne Hawkins who has been promoted to Deputy General Secretary of CWM. Wayne has been a constant support and encouragement and we pray every blessing for him in his new role. The role of European Mission Secretary has been filled by Anthony Reddie who I had the pleasure of meeting at the European Mission Forum last month.

CWM offer a range of opportunities and programmes. Joy Langford was part of their New Face programme in New Zealand last year and I am delighted Justin Lunniss has been accepted to attend this year. Siobhan and Ewan McShane from Penge Congregational Church attended the young people's programme in the summer and Elisabeth Sweeney from Chinley Chapel visited the Holy Land as part of the Faith in the Face of Empire programme.

Once again this year we partner with Christian Aid for "No Lost Generation". We have pledged to raise £12,000 by the end of 2020. Thank you to everyone who has already given very generously, we have already raised over £2,000.

As General Secretary my role is varied and diverse and often challenging. I work from home, I work in the offices at Nottingham, I travel by train, I drive thousands of miles. I work on budgets, I work on safeguarding, I facilitate the Church Support Department, I liaise with lots of people, I read lots of letters, emails and reports, and I write lots of letters, emails and reports.

I organise Assembly, I meet with Ministers and churches, I lead worship, I listen in order to give advice and support, and I am wholeheartedly committed to promoting Congregationalism. The Open Space events have been very challenging, please be assured that I am committed to working with the Presidents to put right all those things that hinder us and shape the Congregational Federation for today and future generations.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for advice, encouragement or prayer.

I pray the Lord will use each of us for His glory this coming year and we will faithfully share the Lord Jesus with those who don't know Him as their Lord and Saviour!

May God bless you abundantly.

Yvonne Campbell General
Secretary
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Church Support Committee Assembly Report 2019

CSC Assembly Report 2019

Fantastic work is taking place locally all over the UK. There have been successful 'Breathing Space' events and training such as 'GIFT' Courses taking place, along with churches embracing the challenge and need of their communities. Some Areas benefit from Area workers and also look for grants and funding to ensure this support can continue in the future.

Within some Areas, some churches which have been closed with the support of the Area and National guidance – have reopened or are in the process of reopening, such as Fritchley, Long Compton and Ruscombe. There are visions and positive movements to plant new churches.

A lot of excellent team work is being achieved in areas with support from the Church Support Workers, Church Support Committee, Area Rep's and Area Workers. There are still challenges of course that we all face within our local churches. Just to simply survive as a church puts the problem into perspective. We have many other demands as well, outreach, meeting the community where their need is. How do we communicate with our community? Do we have the faith? - Do we have the energy? - Do we have the strength to endure? – Do we have the enthusiasm? – Do we have the vision? It is having that confidence to try new things, to step out into the unknown and take that risk.

We need to be inspired – and we do have many wonderful stories to share. Just look at the Community Awards – so many applicants, so many great missional outreach programmes, not just from the three winners, but across the board, along with those churches who are doing such great things but are not mentioned. You know who you are and the great work that you are doing.

Our Support Team – The Church Support Workers have over the last 6 months alone visited 27 churches. Their thoughts, the challenge is to ensure the visits are purposeful and may open up the possibility of change or growth. On the whole churches do not appear to require someone to walk alongside of them for an extended period of time, but they do seem to need a point of reference, and someone to turn to when they need help, either via email, or telephone, or sometimes in person. This work is making good progress and increasingly churches are responding.

We have a whole team to turn to when we are looking for help. We can also be put into contact with other churches who have taken on projects who can share their experience with us – from their successes, along with the challenges and obstacles that came their way.

Financially in 2018 £125,500 Impact Grants, £8,334 Starter Grants and £1,100 Mini Grants have been awarded. At our last Church Support Committee Meeting in March 2019 a further £57,500 Impact Grants were awarded helping churches with funding for three years to help bring alive their visions with their long term plans sharing in the Good News.

Youth & Children Group – a small group of people with a passion for this work has come forward, they have met a few times to start to build this area of work back. Their 9 short-term goals are: 1. Build up a Prayer Network, 2. Share and recommend resources, 3. Identify best practice and where people are prepared to share their experience met together, 4. Share vision and get people to commit, 5. Identify para-church resources, gather and disseminate information, 6. Engage with wider events, 7. Keep children & youth, or add it, on church and areas agendas, 8. Church review and stock take, followed by visits, 9. A safe space for workers. The action plan to be implemented is still a work in progress but so encouraging.

The 'Big Church Day Out' is offering some free youth places this year, as 'Soul Survivor' has been dissolved. This will give young people the opportunity to try the festival to see if they would like to attend in future years.

Website and Social Media: Positive remarks were made on the feedback on 'A Secluded Place'. Many found the reflections useful and it was encouraging to others to share their Christian faith.

The Safeguarding Officer, through the General Secretary, proposed and it was approved at our Church Support Committee Meeting that training for Safeguarding Checkers is taken via an online course rather than an annual yearly face to face training. This will provide the checkers with a recognised safeguarding qualification and is more efficient in resources and time.

Christian Aid: The CF has launched the campaign to raise £12,000, over two years, for the project: No Lost Generation in Syria. Over £2,000 towards that total has been collected already which is fantastic.

CWM MSP4: Yvonne Campbell our General Secretary, Sara Iles and Walter Riggans have been working alongside CWM to apply for MSP4 grant of £79,000 from CWM. The Consultation completed with the CWM European Coordinator identified 3 areas of focus:

Discipleship

Listening to our community

Call to Action

This is a large piece of work which includes a vacancy for a Project Leader for a 15 month period at the beginning of the 3 year project, to take the work forward and set up the new initiatives. The aim of the project is "In 3 years to give all churches in the Congregational Federation the opportunity to be directly involved in contextual and relevant missional activities." The grant application is in progress.

The commitment and dedication from all within the Church Support Committee and the Church Support Team is very uplifting and very inspiring.

Johnny O'Hanlon has received a call to ministry with the URC and will begin his training and new role in September. We thank Johnny for all of his support, care, dedication and commitment that he has shown while being part of the Church Support Team. Johnny will be greatly missed and we wish him well and God's Blessing on his new calling within Ministry.

John Bentham
Chair of Church Support Committee.
bennys50@tiscali.co.uk

Report from the Accreditation Group

Although the group has only met once since Assembly last year the members have not been idle. Since recognising that it is no longer practical for 1 person to meet all the Pastoral Care needs of an Area each Pastoral Care Coordinator has been exploring with others what the best solution would be in their particular part of the country. Most have set up a small team who together seek to offer pastoral care to churches, Ministers both active and retired and students on the CIPT. Each team works in a different way and has welcomed the support that has been offered by CF nationally. Where an Area is unable to fund expenses for team members they can claim from central funds.

Members of several teams gathered with the Pastoral Care Co-ordinators for a Training Day in February on the day before the Accreditation Group meeting. The theme was Pastoral Care to Older People. The training was appreciated and will be repeated next year on a different theme. To reflect the increasing role of group members in coordinating pastoral care across the CF, the group discussed a change of name to Accreditation and Pastoral Care Coordination Group.

In response to requests to start the Accreditation Process, the relevant pastoral Care Coordinators have arranged Area interviews. The meeting was encouraged to hear such good reports about the Ministries of the 5 people currently working through the Accreditation process. They should complete their training this summer.

The 4 people who had applied for Accreditation were given National Interviews while the group were meeting in Nottingham. After considering the reports both from interviews and covering the candidates ministry and wider CF involvement the group were delighted to recommend all for Accreditation.

Rev Barbara Bridges, Chair Accreditation Group
revbarbara@talktalk.net

Recommendations

To change the name of the Accreditation Group to Accreditation and Pastoral Care Coordination Group.

To recommend the following people for Accreditation on the CF Roll of Ministries

Sian Lampard	Chaplain	Royal Oldham Hospital
Sue Rayner	Minister and Chaplain	Gilfillan Congregational church and NHS Grampian.
Audrey Lee	Minister	Ebenezer Congregational Church
Ruth Leeming	Minister	Pickering Congregational Church

Report from the Congregational Institute of Practical Theology Management Board (CIPT MB)

Introduction

The Board meets twice a year just before each meeting of the CSC. The composition of the Board consists of the Learning and Development Director, the Chair of the course board, a Tutor, a Student, a representative of CSC and an external scrutineer.

Functions of the Board

Reproduced from the Terms of Reference, the functions of the Board are as follows:

External Facing:

To provide a point of management contact, as appropriate, for the Department of Theology and Religious Studies of York St John University.

To monitor the quality of training provision in accordance with the requirements of York St John University.

To recognise and support new tutors who are approved by both the Congregational Federation and York St John University.

Internal Facing

To provide oversight and guidance for the CIPT.

To oversee the CIPT Budget.

To provide guidance for the Learning and Development Manager / Director of Studies on specific student cases brought to the attention of the CIPT MB.

To provide representation to, and report back from, wider Congregational Federation structures, as appropriate.

Each meeting has these functions at the heart of its agenda.

External facing

Contact with the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at York St. John University continues and is completely satisfactory, which has been confirmed to Dr Walter Riggans, the Federation's Learning & Development Manager.

Revalidation by York St. John is underway in 2019. The outcome will determine the future direction that Learning and Development in CF should take with potential budgetary implications.

Quality Assurance of training provision is a standing item on the Board's agenda and the Board received confirmation that all training provision continues to meet the requirements of York St John University.

Proposals to discontinue the BA (Hons.) programme and use the money saved and the training material for wider benefit have been taken to the CSC.

There are several reasons for discontinuing the programme including a declining number of students, as well as whether CF churches need L&D to offer such a programme.

Internal Facing

Each meeting receives verbal reports from the Learning and Development Manager / Director of Studies and the Chair of the Course Board. The Board continues to be satisfied that CIPT overall currently fulfils what CF requires. However, in the changing circumstances of the wider academic environment and the CF Open Space initiatives, flexibility of provision may be appropriate.

Scrutiny of the budget takes place at each meeting and the Board is satisfied with the current financial position.

The Alumni Association, which is completely independent, is recognised as a valuable supportive function to CIPT.

The graduation ceremony in October 2018, held because no ceremony was offered by York St. John, was a wonderful occasion and a credit to the organising skills of Walter and Maddy.

The Learning and Development Manager / Director of Studies continues to engage with Areas to publicise the range of offerings of CIPT to potential students. Areas are encouraged to ensure that all churches are aware that there are many ways in which their members and members of other denominations may engage with the CIPT. CF Assembly attendees are encouraged to promote CIPT to their churches to ensure that ministries in our churches continue to be well equipped and underpinned by Congregational principles.

Conclusion

The CIPT Management Board continues to support the Learning and Development Manager / Director of Studies and the Chair of the Course Board, and their respective colleagues.

It is conscious of the need to keep the provision relevant and cost-effective.

Revd Nicholas Gleich B.Sc. (Hons.) B.A. (Hons.)
Chair CIPT Management Board
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Report from the Inter Church Board

Churches Together in England Enabling Group

November 22nd -23rd 2018

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

- Meeting over two days, there was a good representation from many different denominations in England.
- News was reported from Member Bodies, giving us a chance to share and to learn.
- Representatives from different churches led devotions according to their own tradition.
- Two new member churches were welcomed into membership;

The Serbian Orthodox Church

The Order of St Leonard

- An application for membership was received from the Wesleyan Reform Union.
- The new General Secretary Rev Paul Goodliff, was welcomed. He presented us with a new Vision Statement which provoked discussion and was adopted. He also led us in a workshop on "Speaking into the public Space", covering such topics as;

World geo-political events - climate change, populist movements etc

English socio-political issues - Brexit, drug gangs etc

Intra-church matters - Orthodox disputes, persecution in the Middle east etc

Social Trends - Identity politics, AI, NHS etc

- There was a Bible Study on Acts 13 vs. 1-12
- There was a presentation on the new resource "Receptive Ecumenism".

Necessary business was also carried out including the appointment of trustees and receiving a financial statement but there was plenty of time for fellowship and genuine sharing together.

National Ecumenical Officers Meeting

January 10th 2019

Methodist Church House London.

- The meeting was chaired by the Methodist minister, Rev Ruth Gee, as they were our hosts.
- The agenda for the day was set and agreed by everyone, based on the minutes of the previous meeting and deciding the order of topics according to importance.
- Discussions covered items related to ecumenism as well as issues facing the churches and the country, like Brexit.
- News was shared from member denominations and networks.
- As with all such gatherings, some of the most meaningful sharing was over food.

Churches Together in England Enabling Group

March 21st - 22nd

High Leigh Conference Centre

Hoddeson Herts.

- A Financial Appeal:
An appeal for Member Churches and Bodies in Association to consider increasing their financial contribution by 10% at least, if at all possible.
- New Members:
Received - The Free Churches Group
Received - The Wesleyan Reform Union
Applications - The Apostolic Church UK (commended by the board for approval later this year)
The Presbyterian Church of Ghana (under consideration)
- General Secretary of CTE has asked Alan Kennedy to serve on the Search Committee for a new Moderator for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.
- Presentation and workshops on "Living in Love and Faith" a new teaching and learning project on Human Identity, Sexuality and Marriage commissioned by the Church of England led by Eva John. The C of E is sharing this with all ecumenical partners. "Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together" is a resource from the C of E Pastoral Advice Group.
- Sharing of news from member Churches:
Alan Kennedy shared news from the Congregational Federation.

Future Dates

CF Inter Church Board

May 10th 2019 Gilfillan memorial Church Dundee

- The ICB will meet on the Friday morning of the May Assembly weekend in Dundee.
- We will receive reports from our representatives on the Scottish, Welsh and English ecumenical bodies.
- We will also review the membership of the ICB and how best we can include all who represent us ecumenically.

Rev Alan Kennedy

Chairman Inter-Church Board

alanrk1690@gmail.com

Finance and Support Services Committee

Chair of Finance & Support Services Committee to Council

There are still some difficulties in giving an accurate prediction of what to expect with budgets/forecasts for 2019 / 2020. Unlike 2018 we no longer have the uncertainties of the committee reorganisation and the cost of the review asked for by Assembly, but we do still suffer from the political uncertainties both at home and around the world. All these factors should have had an adverse effect on our investments and mostly they have not until the back end of the year. However, at the time of writing this report Parliament's vote on the Brexit deal of Theresa May's should have sent the pound lower, but instead it went higher. What happens next is anyone's guess. In addition, the USA is still in a state of flux regarding their budget. These and other things around the world have finally caused the stock markets to fall drastically. The best advice in such a situation is to not panic and hold firm with our investment, which are expected to regain on the unrealised losses sooner rather than later. Our experience after the 2008 crash is that this proves to be the best long-term strategy. Unrealised losses or indeed gains do not affect what we do about investments, but it could result in less investment income. By the time of the Assembly in May, the picture should be clearer and clarifications to this report might then be made.

As everyone will be aware the May Assembly is due a report in reference to the constitution and overall governance of the Congregational Federation and at the time of writing I am due to attend the Council meeting specially convened for the subject. I have no desire to pre-empt what the findings might be but must point out that my term of office is due to end at this Assembly. As the constitution stands now the Finance committee should appoint the next chair in their April meeting, however as far as I am aware, no one has yet come forward or been proposed to take my place, so the possibility is that the committee might wish to re-appoint me. If this was the case, I would be willing to stand on the proviso that if a suitable replacement is found I would step down as soon as that person can be put in place.

Representation continues to be a problem and sometimes results in certain decisions and recommendations not being made due to not being quorate for the whole or part of meetings.

You all will have had the minutes and summaries of our meetings along with the Financial Controller's reports and accounts. Consequently, I don't propose to go through the minutiae of these, but there are some points that need highlighting.

1. The figures for 2018 look bad at the base line largely due to the unrealised investment losses experienced at the end of the year of £696,315. The underlying operating figures also incurred a deficit in the year as the money coming in from closed churches and property sales; something we hope not to happen in the future, was less than in recent years. Looking at the forecast for 2019 we are looking at a deficit of around £461,048 (£415,420 + £45,628), which is likely to be reduced by further closed church receipts of £379,204, to £81,844. Whilst this is an improvement on recent years it is still too high.
2. Some good news is that there is amortised capital expenditure that will be coming to an end, which will improve finances a little.
3. Ethical banking remains on the agenda and is something that we need to seriously think about, but this has had to be put back due to all the other considerations that Council have recently been involved in.
4. At the November Council meeting a great deal of time was spent on the finance report to enable members to better understand the figures that were presented to them.

This report is meant to give a flavour of what we are about and not a definitive answer to all questions. If there are any more questions arriving from the reports from myself and the Financial Controller, please feel free to ask and we will answer to the best of our abilities. However, I would urge you all to read all the papers first as your question may already be answered within them. Any in depth questions that cannot be answered on the day will be noted and a definitive reply will be given via post or email at the soonest possible opportunity.

2018	£
Operating Deficit	(492,277)
Closed Church Receipts	96,799
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Losses	(395,478)
Unrealised Investment Losses	(696,315)
Net Movement in Funds	(1,091,793)

Peter Butler
 Chair of Finance and Support Services Committee
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CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION

2019 - FSSC - Assembly Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the accounts for the year end 31 December 2018 are received.
2. That the budget for 2020 be adopted.
3. That the Assembly approves the appointment of UHY Hacker Young as the Federation's auditors.
4. That the affiliation fees for 2020 will be £150 per church and £8 per member.
5. Personal Membership/Associate Fee for 2020 will be £40.

CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Congregational Federation (the 'charity') for the year ended 31st December 2018 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31st December 2018, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

UHY Hacker Young
Statutory Auditor 14
Park Row Nottingham
NG1 6GR

UHY Hacker Young LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2018 Total Funds £	2017 Total Funds £
<u>Income</u>					
Income from donations & legacies	169,457	12,326	-	181,783	1,161,871
Income from lettings	230,289	20,436	-	250,725	198,042
Investment income	234,805	123,298	-	358,103	317,317
Income from charitable activities	137,243	34,548	-	171,791	192,243
Other income	-	-	-	-	(14,442)
Total	771,794	190,608	-	962,402	1,855,031
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Expenditure on lettings	155,805	-	-	155,805	138,045
Expendable on charitable activities	977,249	224,826	-	1,202,075	1,255,678
Total	1,133,054	224,826	-	1,357,880	1,393,723
Net Income/(Expenditure) before transfers	(361,260)	(34,218)	-	(395,478)	461,308
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	(361,260)	(34,218)	-	(395,478)	461,308
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(452,305)	(185,955)	(58,055)	(696,315)	433,912
Investment Property re-valuation	-	-	-	-	119,000
	(452,305)	(185,955)	(58,055)	(696,315)	552,912
Net movement in funds	(813,565)	(220,173)	(58,055)	(1,091,793)	1,014,220
Total funds brought forward	10,445,390	3,655,531	1,148,071	15,248,992	14,234,772
Total Funds c/f	9,631,825	3,435,358	1,090,016	14,157,199	15,248,992

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year

**CONGREGATIONAL FEDERATION
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2018 Total Funds £	2017 Total Funds £
<u>Non Current Assets</u>					
Tangible Assets	1,351,212	456,085	265,105	2,072,402	1,884,254
Investment Property	3,292,644	229,498	-	3,522,142	4,044,594
Investments	6,038,007	2,341,818	824,911	9,204,736	9,750,375
	10,681,863	3,027,401	1,090,016	14,799,280	15,679,223
<u>Current Assets</u>					
Debtors	41,872	187	-	42,059	65,200
Cash at bank & on deposit	373,670	412,350	-	786,020	895,785
	415,542	412,537	-	828,079	960,985
<u>Creditors</u>					
Amounts falling due within one year	(101,613)	(4,580)	-	(106,193)	(110,074)
Net Current Assets	313,929	407,957	-	721,886	850,911
<u>Creditors</u>					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	(1,363,967)	-	-	(1,363,967)	(1,281,142)
Net Assets	9,631,825	3,435,358	1,090,016	14,157,199	15,248,992
<u>Funds</u>					
Unrestricted Funds	9,631,825	-	-	9,631,825	10,445,390
Restricted Funds	-	3,435,358	-	3,435,358	3,655,531
Endowment Funds	-	-	1,090,016	1,090,016	1,148,071
Total Funds	9,631,825	3,435,358	1,090,016	14,157,199	15,248,992

The financial statements were approved and authorised by the Board of Trustees on
and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Revd S J Turner
Trustee

Congregational Federation

Financial Summary Report

	2020 Budget	2019 Forecast	2018 Actuals	2017 Actuals
Income/Expenditure Summary				
<u>Core Operations</u>				
FSSC - General Purposes	(60,525)	(121,908)	(93,977)	(115,785)
FSSC - Church Financial & Custodian Services	(14,979)	(14,034)	(5,798)	(12,185)
FSSC - Ministers' Pension	(4,775)	(4,490)	(2,546)	(18,733)
CSC - CIPT	(86,432)	(77,727)	(47,200)	(103,010)
CSC - General	(17,500)	(17,000)	(15,831)	(13,500)
CSC - Department	(175,487)	(165,168)	(140,370)	(97,526)
CSC - Safeguarding	(15,028)	(15,093)	(10,016)	(26,550)
CSC - Hay Mills	-	-	(14,206)	(25,199)
	(374,726)	(415,420)	(329,944)	(412,488)
<u>Additional Operations</u>				
FSSC - Homes for Retired Ministers	(9,995)	(10,930)	(18,870)	(54,100)
FSSC - Trading	(36,608)	(18,758)	(35,779)	(28,437)
FSSC - Pastors & Widows	(20,900)	(20,900)	(21,142)	(21,577)
FSSC - Education	20	20	1,069	1,071
FSSC - S Berry	1,700	1,700	1,671	1,671
FSSC - CF Area Funds (England & Wales)	265	475	36,372	5,102
CSC - Church Support Grants	(42,235)	(3,235)	(110,464)	83,424
CSC - CWM Mission Programme (MSP3)	(875)	-	(4,250)	66
CSC - Special Appeals	(6,000)	6,000	(2,959)	(830)
	(114,628)	(45,628)	(154,352)	(13,610)
<u>PPF and Closed Church Fund</u>				
FSSC - Closed Church Fund	-	4	1,651	(17,096)
FSSC - Protected Programme Fund	275	379,200	87,167	968,479
	275	379,204	88,818	951,383
<u>Discontinued Operations</u>				
	-	-	-	(63,978)
	0	0	0	(63,978)
<u>Surplus/(Deficit) before unrealised gains/(losses)</u>				
	(489,079)	(81,844)	(395,478)	461,307
* Unrealised Investment Gains/(Losses)			(695,907)	416,093
Unrealised Investment Gains/(Losses) on Property Re-valuation			-	119,000
Profit/(Loss) on sale of Fixed Assets			(408)	17,820
Total CF Funds Surplus/(Deficit)	(489,079)	(81,844)	(1,091,793)	1,014,220

Actual Staff employed - equivalent to at year end

Projected Staff employed - equivalent to at year end

	14.7	14.7	14.3	14.4
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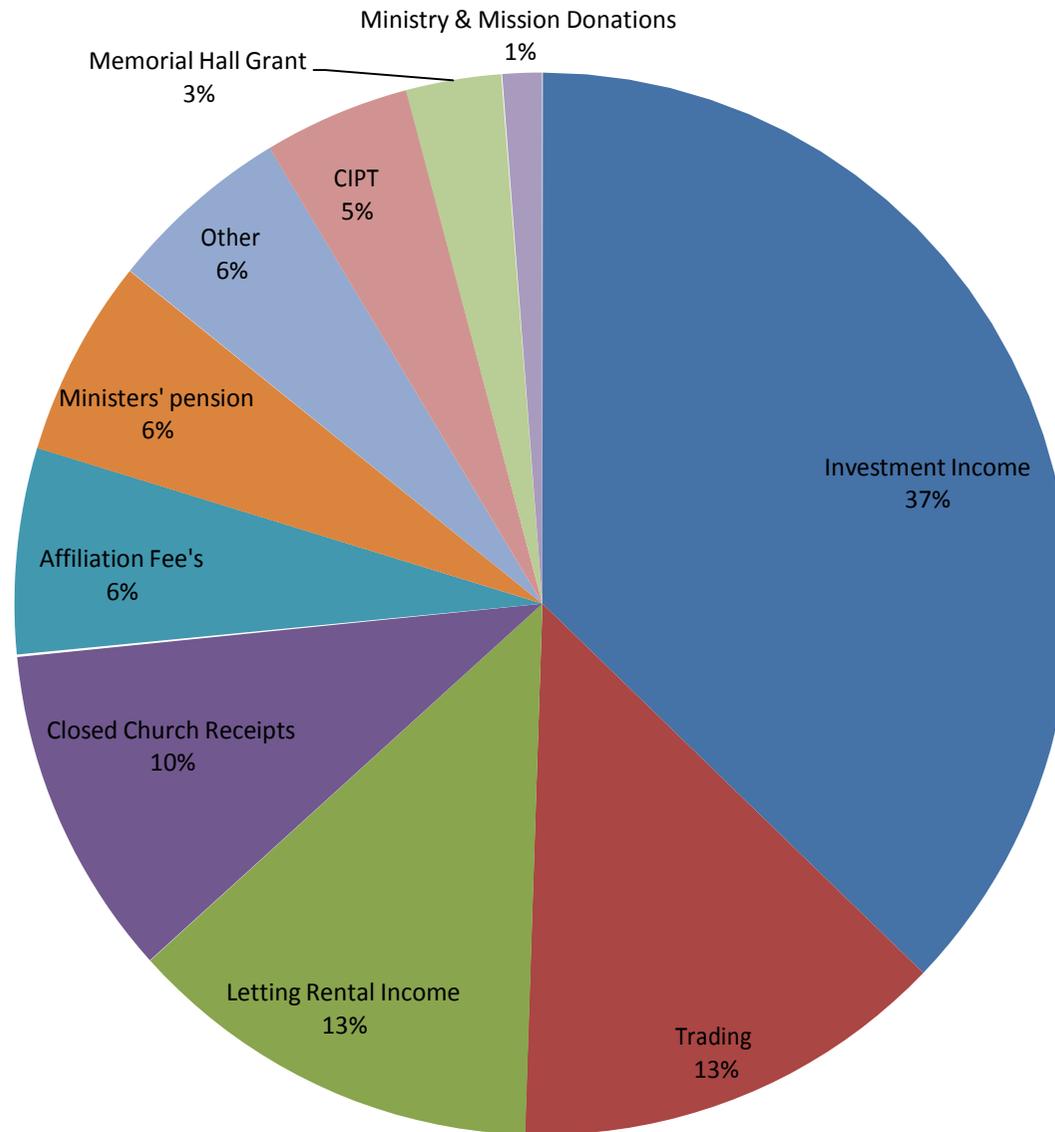
* Money market investments can go down as well as up.

CWM MSP4 grant application of £79k for 2019/2020 not included in above

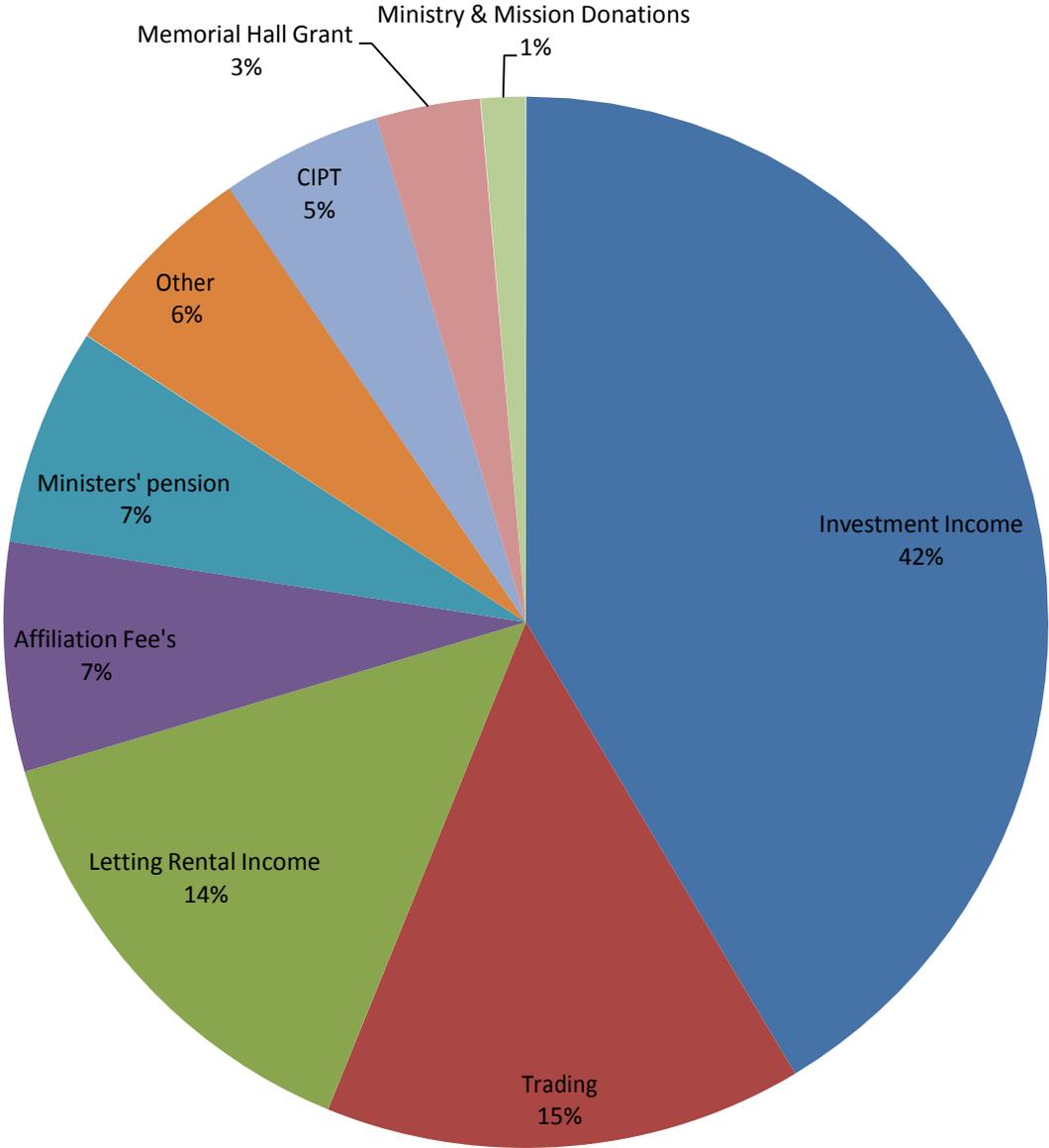
Income/Expenditure

	2020 Budget			2019 Forecast			2018 Actuals			2017 Actuals		
	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/ (Deficit)
<u>Core Operations</u>												
FSSC - General Purposes	296,943	357,468	(60,525)	256,083	377,991	(121,908)	297,477	391,454	(93,977)	254,104	369,888	(115,785)
FSSC - Church Financial & Custodian Services	61,670	76,649	(14,979)	61,260	75,294	(14,034)	61,383	67,181	(5,798)	49,641	61,826	(12,185)
FSSC - Ministers' Pension	93,735	98,510	(4,775)	92,355	96,845	(4,490)	91,322	93,868	(2,546)	75,952	94,685	(18,733)
CSC - CIPT	100,186	186,618	(86,432)	113,156	190,883	(77,727)	118,535	165,735	(47,200)	96,026	199,036	(103,010)
CSC - General	-	17,500	(17,500)	-	17,000	(17,000)	0	15,831	(15,831)	-	13,500	(13,500)
CSC - Department	27,200	202,687	(175,487)	26,420	191,588	(165,168)	23,939	164,309	(140,370)	26,678	124,204	(97,526)
CSC - Safeguarding	24,250	39,278	(15,028)	23,820	38,913	(15,093)	23,522	33,538	(10,016)	11,174	37,725	(26,550)
CSC - Hay Mills	-	-	-	-	-	-	912	15,118	(14,206)	7,609	32,808	(25,199)
	603,984	978,710	(374,726)	573,094	988,514	(415,420)	617,090	947,034	(329,944)	521,183	933,672	(412,488)
<u>Additional Operations</u>												
FSSC - Homes for Retired Ministers	17,150	27,145	(9,995)	15,770	26,700	(10,930)	14,852	33,722	(18,870)	3,654	57,754	(54,100)
FSSC - Trading	122,200	158,808	(36,608)	127,000	145,758	(18,758)	128,516	164,295	(35,779)	114,783	143,220	(28,437)
FSSC - Pastors & Widows	-	20,900	(20,900)	-	20,900	(20,900)	0	21,142	(21,142)	-	21,577	(21,577)
FSSC - Education	1,070	1,050	20	1,070	1,050	20	1,069	0	1,069	1,071	-	1,071
FSSC - S Berry	6,500	4,800	1,700	6,500	4,800	1,700	6,466	4,795	1,671	6,476	4,805	1,671
FSSC - CF Area Funds (England & Wales)	73,790	73,525	265	73,790	73,315	475	72,907	36,535	36,372	73,770	68,668	5,102
CSC - Church Support Grants	15,025	57,260	(42,235)	59,025	62,260	(3,235)	29,218	139,682	(110,464)	130,236	46,812	83,424
CSC - CWM Mission Programme (MSP3)	125	1,000	(875)	-	-	-	127	4,377	(4,250)	66	-	66
CSC - Special Appeals	6,000	12,000	(6,000)	6,000	-	6,000	3,339	6,298	(2,959)	4,170	5,000	(830)
	241,860	356,488	(114,628)	289,155	334,783	(45,628)	256,494	410,846	(154,352)	334,226	347,836	(13,610)
<u>PPF and Closed Church Fund</u>												
FSSC - Closed Church Fund	-	-	0	4	-	4	1,651	0	1,651	4,238	21,334	(17,096)
FSSC - Protected Programme Fund	275	-	275	379,200	-	379,200	87,167	0	87,167	968,479	-	968,479
	275	-	275	379,204	-	379,204	88,818	0	88,818	972,717	21,334	951,383
<u>Discontinued Operations</u>												
	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	27,552	91,313	(63,978)
Surplus/(Deficit) before unrealised gains/(losses)	846,119	1,335,198	(489,079)	1,241,453	1,323,297	(81,844)	962,402	1,357,880	(395,478)	1,855,679	1,394,155	461,307

2018 Income



2018 Regular Income



2018 Expenditure

