

Annual Report 2021



Introduction

The Eden Christian Trust (ECT) was established in 1990 and took its present form of modus operandi in 1997. It has four main objectives, namely

- To work in partnership with local churches and support them in all areas of Youth Work
- To encourage an understanding of the Christian faith among young people
- To provide activities and opportunities that will bring young people together and encourage "Community"
- To work with un-churched young people in the community generally.

The Trust is an inter-denominational Christian charity that works with those services that engage locally with youth activities.

For a second year our activities and programmes have been impacted by the Coronavirus epidemic especially in the first nine months. The work of our Youth leader being severely curtailed by the guidelines set out by the National Youth Agency under which we operate. However, ECT managed many positive contacts throughout this difficult time via social media etc. with our Youth Worker interacting and engaging with our young people offering them support and concern for their wellbeing.

Thankfully since September 2021 these restrictions have eased and we have been able to once more welcome the young people back to the activities and sessions we offer for them. Our report will focus on this period of time, what has been achieved and what we are planning for 2022.

Activities that have taken place since September 2021 and planned for 2022.

The weekly **ECT Youth Club**, run on Friday nights in term time by the youth worker and volunteers, which regularly attracts 40-50 youngsters. Special activities are planned for each session, such as:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Craft evenings | Themed movie nights |
| Trampoline park | Friendly competitions |
| Games evenings | Cooking sessions |
| Barbecue | NERF Club sessions |
| Disco nights | Ice Skating |
| Christmas party | Laser tag |

Club members will be offered opportunities to attend our popular annual residential camps. These have previously been run at Blackland Farm and The Soul Survivor Festival with up to 25 young people attending from Edenbridge.

Youth Club activities through the Coronavirus crisis and from restrictions lifting in September 2021

Throughout the pandemic ECT has followed guidance from the National Youth Agency who in line with government direction have guided the Youth sector.

Ever since the very first lockdown back in March 2020 we have had to adapt to using online platforms such as Zoom. Activities via Zoom have included quizzes, Jack box games, cooking, bingo, "Would I Lie to You", "Guess who the baby is", topical discussions and much more. The challenge has been thinking up new and engaging ideas for the young people and attendance has fluctuated as not all young people like online platforms.

From September the Youth Club has quickly re-established itself and full capacity has returned with many new young people joining showing the need for the Club in the town. We have had visits from our local PCSO's and further visits are planned. The young people have enjoyed the planned activity evenings as well as just being able to socialise with their friends.

The BRIDGE Youth Church

The Bridge Youth Church was begun approximately a year before the onset of Covid in March 2020 with a small group of committed young people planning and leading a monthly service. Understandably these services have not taken place during the last 18 months. It is ECT's intention to regenerate this and we will be reaching out to local church leaders, the senior ECT volunteers and our young people to begin the process of returning this as a part of ECT's programme.

One-to-One Mentoring and Support

Weekly meetings are normally held for young people who need and want one-to-one support with a designated adult, and are run by volunteers and the ECT Youth Worker. Special activities include swimming, crafts, BBQ, cooking sessions, games and outdoor educational walks and activities.

During the Coronavirus crisis in 2021 it was decided to restructure One-to-One and so in September with a new group of adult mentors on board we were able to offer a new early session expanding this important area of our work enabling more children to benefit from the mentoring service that ECT provides.

School Work and Clubs

ECT Youth Worker has good relationships with the teaching teams at 4 local primary schools in Edenbridge, Crockham Hill, Hever and Four Elms, offering various activities and participating in assemblies. These activities recommenced from September 2021, following school and policy guidance. He has maintained contact and offered support as and when required.

House Group

This discussion and activities group meets fortnightly looking at Bible Study and exploring the Christian Faith. In March 2020 the group moved to the online Zoom platform, and has continued to have great attendance.

Church Visits and Other Activities

From September 2021 our Youth Worker has once more been able to run normally the following activities personally rather than being involved via social media etc.

- Leading church services
- Church networking and support
- Messy Church planning and support for all churches in Edenbridge.
- Baptist and Church of England youth networking meetings
- Participation in local fetes.

YOUR SPACE mental health triage service offered during lockdown periods.

ECT and our Youth Worker have been particularly concerned about the isolation and mental health issues facing the young people of the town and surrounding villages throughout the year.

During the months of November and December 2020 it was felt that we should offer a safe environment for young people to be able to discuss issues of concern. Subsequently Your Space was devised and set up during Lockdown 3 from January 2021 to April 2021 and the reopening of in-person youth club activities.

Your Space offered drop in triage sessions for young people in the Edenbridge area, in partnership with Eden Christian Trust and West Kent Housing Association youth services. The sessions focused on supporting the needs of young people, offering signposting and information, or just a listening ear to chat over their worries and concerns. The sessions were arranged to adhere to Covid-19 guidelines.

PLANS FOR 2022

Thankfully with Covid restrictions lifted we are able to plan a full year of activities, opportunities, camps and sessions for the young people who come to ECT through whatever guise. ECT should be able to carry out once again an exciting programme which we know from past experience the young people enjoy so much.

PULSE Camp 2022 Plans

In May 2021 we had planned to host a camp at Blacklands Farm, an activity centre near East Grinstead, West Sussex. This would have been the second time that PULSE (Prepare, Unite, Love, Serve, Equip) had run. It was to be open to all young people associated with ECT.

However due to the pandemic, the 2021 outing was cancelled due to restrictions and the closure of Blacklands farm. Plans to run this camp in July 2022 are well underway.

Satellites Festival/Camp 2022

We are planning on taking a group of young people away to a brand new and exciting festival / camp in August 2022, run by Youthscape. The camp looks to become a replacement event for the Soul Survivor festival that was enjoyed by so many of our young people for many years.

Supporters of ECT

The Trustees thank all those who have supported ECT generously over the past year by way of finance or time including individual supporters and the following organisations:

	Sevenoaks District Council
Arnold Clark Community Fund	St Johns URC, Marsh Green
Drake Oil Syndicate	St Peter & St Paul Church, Edenbridge
Grace Community Church	St Peter's Church, Hever
Holy Trinity Church, Crockham Hill	The Eden Church, Edenbridge
Kent Community Foundation	Wates Foundation

Trustees and Organisation

At the end of 2021 the serving Trustees were as follows:

- Tim Hill (Chairman)
- Brigitte Hunter
- Sheila Stapleton (Fund Raiser)
- Dorothy Sutton
- Sue White (Safeguarding Officer)
- Heidi Tanner
- Marnie Woodward (Hon Treasurer)

There is one co-opted position (non-trustee), Sue Paice, who continues as ECT Secretary.

To deliver the objectives of the Trust, the ECT employs a full-time youth worker (the only paid employee) who is supported in the youth club activities by a number of volunteer youth leaders.

Decision making is by majority vote. Trustee meetings are held monthly and are attended by the above together with a Church Leader. This important role is filled by Dave White, minister for the Grace Church, providing the additional link between the Trustees and the Churches that support the ECT. Support for the youth worker is provided internally by a line manager selected from the Trustees, with spiritual support provided by Rev David Flagg.

None of the Trustees, nor any person connected with them, are paid.

Accounts for the Year Ending December 2021

The accounts report on four areas of activity in 2021:

- Core ECT expenditure in support of the Youth Worker and related costs
- The "One-to-One" youth counselling scheme, which raises restricted income in support of its ring-fenced activities
- Other restricted income and expenditure
- The ECT Youth Club. Activities are funded by weekly subscriptions from the young people, refreshment purchases ('tuck'), and payments towards outings and trips.

Total income in 2021 was £34,725 (2020: £49,770). We actively fundraise and attract donations and grants from local organisations to support the core activities of the charity. Individual donations of £5,039 were lower than the previous year (2020: £9,190). Income from organisations remained significant, including funding from the Sevenoaks District Council, and a 3-year grant from the Kent Community Foundation. We received a restricted donation of £1,000 towards the One-to-one programme. We continue to be supported by numerous local organisations, the local churches in Edenbridge and surrounding villages. We also accessed funding through the HMRC flexible Furlough Scheme.

In addition to the One-to-One programme, Restricted Funds included:

1. Trip Sponsorship Fund – available to fund young people who otherwise could not afford the holiday camps
2. Overseas Mission Fund – fund for a future overseas mission.
3. Wates Foundation – staff cost support
4. Edenbridge Town Council 2020 grant – youth club outing
5. Great Stone Bridge Trust – camera equipment

	RESTRICTED FUNDS	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expense £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
1	Trip Sponsorship Fund	69	-	-	-	69
2	Overseas Mission Fund	1,607	-	-	-	1,607
3	Wates Foundation	7,500	-		(7,500)	-0-
4	Edenbridge Town Council 2020 grant	330	-	(343)	13	-0-
5	Great Stone Bridge Trust	12	-	-	-	12
	TOTALS	9,518	-	(343)	(7487)	1,688

Emerging from the Covid 19 pandemic, total expenditure increased to £34,526 (2020: £32,321). The main on-going areas of expenditure were staff costs and overheads, as lockdown restrictions closed the youth club during the early part of the year, and most schools work and other in person activities were suspended. Subsequently, youth club activity was offered on-line for part of the year, and trips and outings resumed after the summer.

In 2021, The Trust reported a net surplus of £199 (2020: £17,450). We applied the remaining half of the Wates Foundation grant to core costs, which enabled us to increase our core unrestricted funds to £61,633 (2020: £54,101).

Fund Balances and Reserves Policy

Total funds at year end rose slightly to £64,742 (2020: £64,543), comprised of

- ECT General funds of £36,633 plus £25,000 Designated funds
- One-to-One Restricted Funds of £921
- Other Restricted Funds of £1,688:
 - Trip Sponsorship Fund £69
 - Mission Fund £1,607
 - Great Stone Bridge Trust – camera equipment grant £12
- ECT Youth Club Designated funds of £500 towards youth club running costs.

Due to reliance on fundraised income, the Trust aims to keep sufficient reserves to support approximately six months staff and running costs. Beyond this contingency reserve, we favour the retention of additional uncommitted reserves where possible up to three further months of running costs, to provide security against fluctuations in income to cover core costs. For these purposes, the Trust has increased the designated fund to £25,000. The General Fund provides additional support for all on-going activities. ECT Youth club funds are maintained to provide sufficient working capital in planning and enabling advance payments towards outings and other expenses. One-to-One manages its own fundraising and expenditure, and is considered a ring-fenced restricted fund. The Trust reviews this Reserves Policy once a year.

Accounting Policies

Income and expenditure are recorded on a cash received basis.

Public Benefit statement

In planning our activities for the year, the trustees keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We believe that the activities of Eden Christian Trust benefit local young people, volunteers, and the wider community.

Risk Factors

The greatest risk facing the Trust is, and probably always will be, the inability to fund the incumbent. Over 75% of the funding received has to be researched and requested. Therefore, the capacity to fundraise effectively is essential.

To date it has been possible to retain the £25,000 allocated to designated reserves intact. This allows approximately six months direct employment costs, plus other running costs and a working capital contingency, in hand.

Also, the Trust relies on the voluntary support of youth leaders and must be able to retain a core of leaders sufficient to assure the safety of the young people who attend ECT Youth Club and other events.

Finally, the Trust must be able to maintain the capability to manage itself in accordance with all necessary regulations affecting employment, financial administration, child protection and health and safety.

Chairman's Comments

For ECT and the young people who use it, be it at the facilities we offer, the school clubs we run or the church services and sessions we are involved in 2021 has been a difficult, demanding and at times stressful year. Throughout we have placed the young people and their well being at the centre of all that we were able to achieve under the extremely limiting circumstances of the Covid 19 restrictions.

But on a more positive note, since September, and the ending of Lockdown 3 and the re-opening of ECT's activities and programmes we have been greatly energised by the return of the young people of Edenbridge and its surrounding villages. On many occasions maximum numbers have attended Youth Club on Friday evening. Our plans for the year ahead are either being finalised or in place. All at ECT are excitedly looking forward to a full 12 months without Coronavirus.

A special mention must be made of Anthony Shipwright, our Youth Worker, who has been innovative and adaptable in all he has achieved whilst also bringing a caring and supportive approach to his work.

To our supporters and donors, recognising the challenges that all face financially at this time, we are forever grateful of your support over the past year. Thanks to you all for your donations, large and small. These enable us to offer so much.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Trustees and our volunteers who give of their time freely and willingly to make Eden Christian Trust such a vibrant caring group for the young people in our communities.

Tim Hill, Chairman, 14 May 2022



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

EDEN CHRISTIAN TRUST

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DECEMBER 2021

Charity no (if
any)

1001961

Set out on pages

1 page only

Respective responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's
statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

14/5/22

Name:

PAULA HARDY

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

CAMRIE
HIGH STREET
BRASTED, KENT TN16 1HS

THE EDEN CHRISTIAN TRUST
Registered Charity no 1001961

Income Expenditure for 12 months ending 31 December 2021

	OTHER FUNDS				TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	ECT CORE	ONE TO ONE	RESTRICTED	ECT Youth Club		
	Unrestricted	Mentoring Restricted	Restricted	Designated		
£	£		£	£	£	
Income						
Individual donations and Gift Aid	5,039	-	-	-	5,039	9,190
Donations/grants from organisations	24,113	1,000	-	-	25,113	39,775
HMRC Furlough scheme	2,452	-	-	-	2,452	0
Fundraising income	23	-	-	-	23	0
Youth Club subscriptions	-	-	-	675	675	303
Youth Club Tuck Income	-	-	-	1,141	1,141	446
Trips and activities	-	-	-	156	156	0
Other income - equipment hire	-	-	-	-	0	0
Interest income	126	-	-	-	126	57
TOTAL RECEIPTS	31,763	1,000	0	1,972	34,726	49,770
Expenditure						
Staff costs	27,771	-	-	-	27,771	27,187
Trips and Outings	-	-	343	412	755	216
Events and Activities	91	504	-	99	694	472
Youth Club Tuck Expenses	-	-	-	928	928	458
Equip / supplies	805	-	-	355	1,160	956
Fundraising exp	-	-	-	-	0	0
Travel / Sub	899	-	-	-	899	732
Training	80	-	-	-	80	105
Rent / utilities	750	-	-	-	750	695
Insurance	827	-	-	-	827	540
Telephone	238	-	-	-	238	277
Postage / printing / photocopying / office	-	-	-	-	0	102
Fees / subs	424	-	-	-	424	238
Grant refunded	-	-	-	-	0	345
Misc	-	-	-	-	0	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS	31,886	504	343	1,795	34,528	32,321
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(122)	496	(343)	177	199	17,450
Opening balance - FUNDS @ 1 Jan	54,101	424	9,518	500	64,543	47,094
TR to/(from) ECTreme designated fund	177	-	-	(177)	0	0
TR between Restricted and Gen Fund	-	-	-	-	0	0
Wates grant	7,500	-	(7,500)	0	0	0
EB Town Council 2020-outing	(13)	-	13	-	0	0
CLOSING BALANCE - Funds at Period End	61,633	921	1,688	500	64,742	64,543

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2021						TOTAL 2020
	ECT	ONE TO ONE	OTHER	ECTreme	TOTAL 2021	
	Unrestricted	Mentoring Restricted	FUNDS Restricted	Youth club Designated		
	£	£		£	£	£
NET ASSETS						
Cash and Current Accounts	16,386	0	-	747	17,133	26,601
Deposit Accounts	45,000	921	1,688	0	47,609	37,943
TOTAL BANK AND CASH	61,386	921	1,688	747	64,742	64,543
Due to/ from ECT to ECTreme	247	-	-	(247)	0	0
Less: Due to HMRC	0	-	-	-	0	0
NET ASSETS	61,633	921	1,688	500	64,742	64,543
REPRESENTED BY						
Restricted						
One to One	-	921	-	-	921	424
EB Town 2020 grant	-	-	0	-	0	330
Great Stone Bridge-cameras grant	-	-	12	-	12	12
Trip sponsorship fund	-	-	69	-	69	69
Wates Foundation	-	-	-	-	0	7,500
Overseas Mission Fund	-	-	1,607	-	1,607	1,607
Designated						
General	25,000	-	-	500	25,500	20,500
TOTAL FUNDS	61,633	921	1,688	500	64,742	64,543

TIM HILL, CHAIRMAN, 14 MAY 2022

MARNIE WOODWARD, HON TREASURER, 14 MAY 2022