

Vision of CCE

Giving week – Spring 2024



Introduction

As I have read the various articles in this booklet, I have been struck by the life and vibrancy within CCE, most of which is beyond our public gathering on a Sunday. We impact so many people's lives, week in week out, mostly with little fanfare, as we serve people, motivated by what we have experienced of the love of Jesus and the benefits of Christian community.

In John 15, Jesus invites his disciples to dwell (or abide) in his presence and likens that to a branch that is attached to a grapevine – it is this connection that allows fruit to grow. It has long struck me that as far as I am aware the New Testament never talks about success but does talk about fruitfulness (and fruitfulness isn't just the Christian word for success!). Fruit grows often slowly, in between seasons of pruning, winter hibernation, and small shoots of life in Spring. This is the heartbeat of who we are in CCE.

This cyclical nature of the Kingdom invites followers of Jesus to faithfully abide or dwell in the presence of God, trusting a new season will emerge from any current challenges.

There is much life in CCE that flows from our first being a Christ centred community (being before doing), but we also find ourselves in a season of financial challenge. Can I invite you to read this booklet, to see the life that there is CCE, and join with me in praying for fruitfulness and provision. And would you consider giving financially, so we can continue our current activities and be who we are called to be.

Rupert Ward



Sundays

Sundays at CCE are full of life and variety. Since the pandemic, we have made some intentional changes to prioritise discipleship and mission.

Our open mic on Sundays is designed to enable learning and growth. We wrestle together with the Scriptures and a 'Sunday question', asking, 'How can we put our faith into practice?' It is rich hearing from a variety of different people.



Sundays continued;

We have also prioritised making our Sunday gathering accessible to newcomers – a shorter time, clearer explanations, an awareness of new people who may be unfamiliar with church. The online options allows for people to check us out before coming in person (which we hear people often do).

Over the last year, we have explored topics such as mission in the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit, how to “Be” in a world of doing; how to find togetherness in the midst of disagreements and differences, and a deeper dive into 1 Peter.

There is always a great buzz at the end of our formal part of the gathering, as we connect together over a hot drink. While we don’t think Sundays are the main event of church, they are always a great part of our community life.

Rupert Ward

Worship

The worship and tech team at CCE has around 35 unique and diverse CCE family members. We have people of different ages and nationalities, which is a beautiful reflection of our wider CCE family. Every Sunday morning and once a month on a Sunday evening, the worship and tech team come to serve bringing their gifts in music, sound, and technology.



As a team we meet a few times a year to connect with one another and to pursue the Holy Spirit’s leading for our times of worship. We also have times where we share practical ideas for our band and technology and share new songs that we feel will bless God and His church. The heart of the worship and tech team is to facilitate times of worship where the whole church can encounter God’s presence and move with His Holy Spirit. We love to partner with God and each other as we pursue more of Him in worship. It is a blessing to see church family joining in worship and having space to encounter the love of God.

Abby Lanyon-olver



Children

There are around 30 children aged 3-10 years old in our community. We have a good team of leaders and helpers who serve these children on a Sunday morning. The children's groups are 'Kids Allowed' (for 3-7 year olds) and 'Bonkers Conquerors' (for 7-10 year olds). In both groups we enjoy using 'Raise up faith' (raiseupfaith.com). These materials are engaging and fun resources which the children enjoy as they learn more about Jesus, the bible and what it means to follow God. In the children's work, we feel the beauty and importance of sharing our faith with the young people in our community. We work to give them the opportunity to experience the love and

Find more information at

www.cce.community/children

truth of God in the bible stories and in the relationships we offer in the time that we have with them.

As well as Sunday mornings, we have been running a Messy Church event around Halloween and Easter time. Children from CCE have been able to invite their friends along to enjoy crafts, games, stories and songs as well as share food and fellowship together. At the last Messy Church there were about fifty people! These events are great for welcoming newcomers and sharing our faith with those in our local communities.

Justin and Abby Lanyon-olver



Youth

The youth group (Liquid) at CCE is bursting with life and presents a fantastic picture of what a healthy ministry can look like. We have over 25 attendees regularly on Tuesdays and sometimes 15 on Sundays! It is being run with the majority of youth leaders in their final year of school or having just left high school. It is amazing to see the journey from young teen into leadership. Lucy and myself have been able to develop new areas of the youth programme such as running a course on mental health starting in April, but also focusing on discipleship and developing the faith journey of our church's youth.

Youth continued;

What do we do in our youth meetings? Simply put, we pray, worship, listen, and eat! We have the desire to disciple youth in following Jesus with their whole lives. We are keen to help youth posture themselves towards Christ for the long run, not just a Sunday morning.

CCE has been around long enough to see several of the youth stay around to raise families of their own. Personally, I take great heart in seeing youth praise Jesus passionately and devote their lives to Him, and it is such a delight to also know these individuals as adults. When I meet with them, I often hear about how formative having a youth community was to them as a young Christian, which I hope will be the continued experience of all children and youth at Community Church Edinburgh.

Find more information at www.cce.community/youth

Justin Lanyon-olver

Students



Our group Rooted, seeks to cultivate a community of young adults firmly grounded in Jesus and his church. We welcome students from varied backgrounds, whether they're reconnecting with God, questioning their faith, or new to Christianity.

Rooted gathers three times a month for student lunches after the church service, facilitating meaningful conversations and prayer in a welcoming environment. We also invite students to our home to foster deeper connections and fellowship.

Apart from the group meetings we also value individual connection with our young people. One-on-ones are a great opportunity to get to know the students and provide a safe space for sharing thoughts, struggles, and questions.

Currently, we are preparing for a student-led Sunday service on April 21st, focusing on the theme of social justice. We look forward to serving the church as a group and sharing about what matters to our young adults.

Bella and Roman Tanzer



Find more information at
www.cce.community/students



Sozo is an inner healing model which we have been working with for some years now.

It's a gentle and respectful process facilitating a safe space to connect with the three persons of the Trinity.

What we hear back from people is that wounds from the past are healed, barriers between themselves and God come down and they feel burdens lifted. Often they report back saying they feel lighter. Life will always continue to throw challenges our way, but the aim of Sozo is to allow us to face those challenges with less baggage from the past and greater connection to God, enabling us to make good choices.

We are part of a network of churches offering Sozo across the UK and I'm part of the Scottish team who run training programmes in Scotland. It's been wonderful to offer Sozo to many within CCE but we also have people coming from elsewhere, from various parts of Scotland and even further away via zoom. I love being part of what CCE can offer to people within and without the community. I love being a small part of people's journey towards being closer to Jesus and enjoying closer connection with a loving Father.

Find out more at www.cce.community/sozo

Lesley Helfer

Encouraging Mission

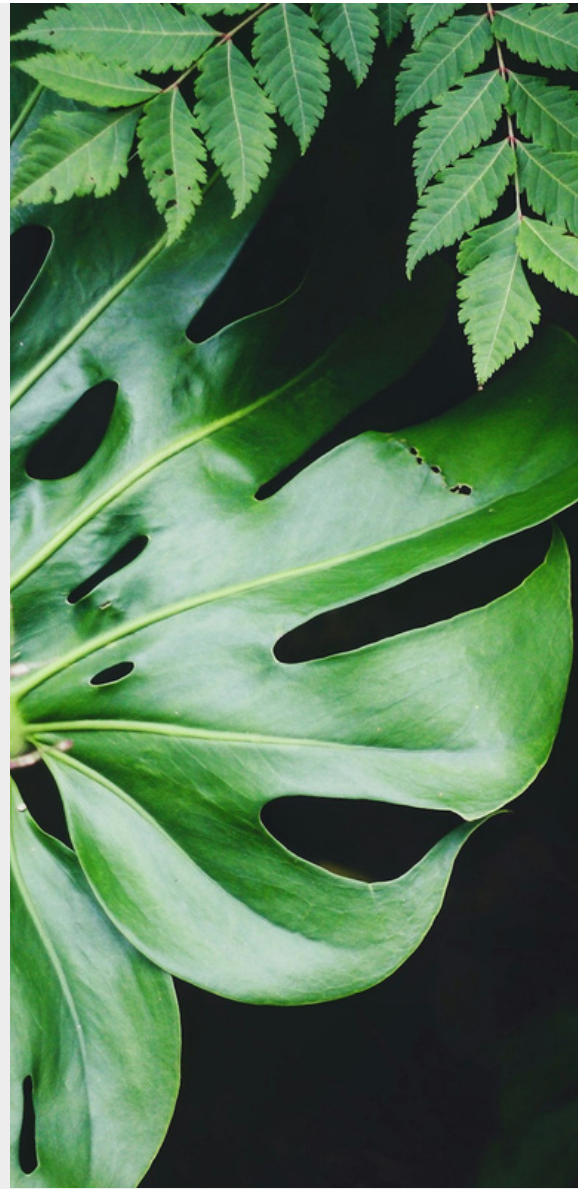
A small group has been meeting for a few years now with a view to encouraging all of us to have a more missional mindset in all that we do. We can't leave mission just to evangelists in our community. The first people we share the good news with has to be ourselves - can we each say what the good news of Jesus has meant in our lives in the last week?

We have been trying to instil a more missional mindset in all that we do as a church. We're telling stories, praying, and encouraging new initiatives (like the Transforming Work course and our Missional Greenhouse evenings), that equip us to be Jesus wherever we are.

There is a lot more to do and further resources and equipping that we'd like to do.

For more information email office@cce.community.

Joy Heenan





Prospects

We are a mixed group that shares with people with learning disabilities about Jesus and the Bible. We meet on the last Sunday of each month (1.00-3.00pm) at CCE to enjoy a meal together. We then share in music, drama, craft, prayer and lots of chat! Our Prospects group is part of a charity 'Prospects across Scotland' and there are many other groups meeting across the country – all run by volunteers. However, we rely on a host church, such as CCE, to support and nurture members and leaders.

Many people with disabilities find how we 'do church' excludes them but they really want to know Jesus! We provide a place for people with learning disabilities to learn and share in a creative and fun way, with a simple message that all can understand.

Over the last year our group has been thriving with new members joining and everyone enjoying themselves in monthly fellowship. We have also had several social events – a summer picnic and a Christmas party where others from CCE joined us for some fun.

We would like to be able to offer more friendship and fellowship to the group members. It would be great to have more regular meetings with the chance to build deeper relationships as social isolation can be an issue for people with disabilities.

We want to thank everyone at CCE for giving the group a home and being so welcoming and supportive.

Find out more at www.cce.community/prospects

Jacquie Knox

Toy Library

We have been serving the Newington and wider Edinburgh community of under 5s and their parents and carers out of the King's Hall for over 13 years. We had a new granny start with us last week who, on her way across the Meadows, started chatting with a lady. The lady said she used to come with her daughter and the daughter is now about to start high school! This mum also said she thought the Toy Library was great and remembered it doing the best snacks in town!





Toy Library continued;

We run alternate Wednesday mornings in the main auditorium in CCE, which is set-up with toy stations (cars, trains, dolls, dress-up, kitchen), comfy chairs and cushions, a warm welcome, hot drinks and those infamous snacks. Our heart has always been to provide a safe and welcoming space to allow friendships and mutual support to develop. Our heart is to share the Good News of Jesus through genuine relationships.

As the years have gone by our own caring responsibilities have changed which means that as volunteers we are able to pray at the end of each session. In a confidential space we lift up toy library families and situations to Jesus. It has been a precious space of seeing God answer prayer: meeting a baby we had prayed for throughout IVF and pregnancy; being able to pray for families through terminal illnesses and seeing a growing interest in Jesus and wanting to connect more with God through the Christmas services.

What next? We want to continue to serve our community through play and prayer and want to be willing and obedient to follow God's plan for Toy Library.

Find out more at www.cce.community/toylibrary

Hannah Hasson

Hope Counselling

Hope Counselling Service was founded in 2007 by Ann Symes and Rupert Ward from a desire to provide a professional Christian counselling service. Our vision is to see people journey towards wholeness. This ties in with two core aspects of CCE's purposes, namely, to see people become fully alive and to help the world flourish. We offer low priced professional counselling and provide further reduced priced places by way of our bursary fund to enable those who would otherwise struggle to access counselling.





This fund is usually financed from an offering taken up from the church family. Last year over 17 people were funded by the bursary. We try to offer a generous number of sessions for each client, so they can fully explore their issues.

We have a warm, friendly team of six qualified counsellors and two trainees. We are trained in different modalities, but all counsellors are committed Christians and want to be part of a team where their faith can be part of their work. Clients can bring faith into their counselling process or not as they choose. We see the service as part of the healing work of God, for those with faith and those with no faith.

We are looking for ways to develop the service. One of our counsellors has recently trained in couple work and we are fulfilling a long-awaited dream to support and enhance relationships. We are exploring ideas of doing group and psycho educative work.

Over the years we have seen over 300 clients. Currently we have capacity for seeing 29 clients weekly. In the present mental health crisis, we feel the service is a way we can really impact our local community and see people flourish.

Find out more at www.cce.community/hopcounselling

Kirsty Hook



Small groups

At CCE we are committed to creating community. We want to find ways to help deepen relationships and offer places of learning (discipleship). We believe that we can develop faith and draw closer to God in community.

One of the ways we can do this is in small groups. We have two different types of groups. Some run all year round, these are called Community Groups. For example, we have a Men's Group that meets monthly for fellowship and discussion; a Women's Group with a focus on prayer; a group for young professionals and a group with a focus on living out our faith day to day.

The other type of groups we run are called Growth Groups, which usually run for 6-12 weeks. These are gathered around a particular topic. Anyone can put forward an idea and we have had many creative ideas for groups. In the past we have had a prayer walking group, groups on mental health awareness and even an art group. Groups sometimes gather for a meal, sometimes online, sometimes in person. People have benefited from the variety of input, getting a chance to step out and lead and meet a new group of people.

Find out more at www.cce.community/smallgroups

Kirsty Hook

Foodbank+

At CCE community is really important. We manifest our hope for the community around us by delivering help and assistance through our part in the Edinburgh City Mission CCE Foodbank+ Partnership. We walk with people through crises offering not just food but support and community. Each week we help 15 to 45 individuals and family members. To do this we are now reliant on the generosity of our church and other supporters. We receive gifts of food and funding. At this time of high interest rates and budgets under pressure this support is critical. This year we have had 3 people find their lives with Jesus and the change in their circumstances has been quite dramatic. Helping us to continue this would be a great thing.

For more information go to www.cce.community/foodbank+

Nick Yencken

Scottish Network

It is important for everyone to be part of something bigger than ourselves, to help us realise that we need others and can give to others. This is also true of a local church. The Scottish Network is a small group of churches around the nation, all on a mission to see churches resourced and new churches planted, so that every community in Scotland has a vibrant community of faith in its midst.

The Scottish Network makes us better, and we make the Network better. The flow of wisdom, friendship, ideas, and resources is so helpful.

This last year has seen the Network become more intentional about resourcing churches, training leaders, and nurturing mission. Stan Lyth (Joy's brother) is now employed 3 days a week, as our operations and development director. Just having the time and his gifts has meant that new things are emerging, such as LAUNCH, a one year, very part time, leadership training pathway, with the aim to raise up new church planters and church leaders. We also facilitate IGNITE, a one-year discipleship programme (mostly on evenings via zoom) and various events for leaders for encouragement, connecting and training.

Rupert Ward

For more information go to www.scottishnetwork.org



scottish network
fellowship of leaders : network of churches



5 CCE Finance UPDATES

1 2023

- £40K reduction in annual giving predicted in 2024 due to relocations
- A substantial reduction and not sustainable
- Draft year end cash result of a £1.5K deficit (per budget)



2 2024 Budget

- Budget for a £10K deficit
- Utilise a reserves fund (£5.7K)
- Keep staff costs as per 2023
- Take up an offering (£8.6K+)
- Assumes a reset giving budget and a festival let

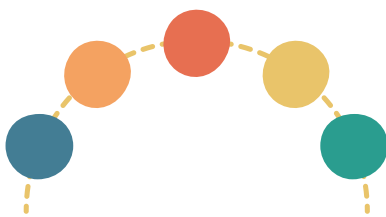
3 Additional strategies

- Publish hall hire web pages
- Set up a finance subgroup to research new funding options
- Purchase a contactless digital collection bowl for Kings Hall



4 2024 Back up/contingency budget

- Giving is worse than budget and/or no festival let
- Spring review of 2024 to date
- Deeper budget cuts significantly impacting our ability to sustain what we do
- Budgeting for a £10K deficit



5 What you can do

- Please pray for our Father's provision for us as a church
- Consider what you can give during the giving week
- Consider reviewing your giving or start giving

