

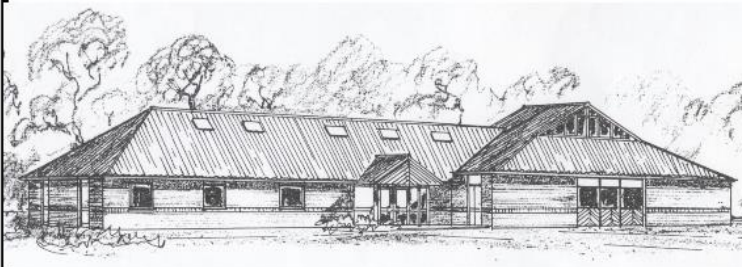


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Annual Report 2022

of

**Cloverfield Community Church -
An Anglican and United Reformed
Church Local Ecumenical Partnership.**



Cloverfield Community Church seeks to be:

- a welcoming place where **Christ's** love can be seen & experienced.
- a united family **caring** for one another; worshipping, praying and learning together
- a **committed** group of God's followers who bring his words & works to others.
- a hub for the local **community**

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www.cloverfieldchurch.org / admin@cloverfieldchurch.org

MINISTERS REPORT



There is lots to give thanks to God for over the last year – growing messy morning community, wonderful numbers at our special seasonal events and I was encouraged to be affirmed as permanent minister of Cloverfield and the Thetford Team of churches in January. The list of groups and activities in our church report shows that despite being a small church we do a lot! In ministry there is always work to be done. I am acutely aware that we are a small church and have limited resources. Where possible it is always good to work collaboratively with other churches and organisations in our community.

Cloverfield church has always been at the centre of the community we have many different and a growing number of groups using our building each week. A key message that can be drawn from the pandemic was that the church of the 21st century needs to be a church without walls. There is a danger in thinking that by having a building we should expect people to come to us but Jesus calls us to go to them! Vincent Donovan reminds us of this in his book *Christianity Re-discovered*

'In working with people, do not try to call them back to a place where they were, and do not try to call them back to the place where you are now, as beautiful as it may seem to you. You must have the courage to go with them to a place where neither you nor they have been before.'

For Donovan, his experiences as a missionary in Africa meant a total reappraisal of the meaning of his faith, and therefore a rediscovery of his Christianity. His book, which is written with moving simplicity, continues to represent a provocative challenge to us today in the church as we engage in our evangelism and with issues of multiculturalism.

We know what the past has been like – we have found hope as communities as we have emerged from the pandemic, life now feels more normal. But uncertainty still remains, shared issues of struggles with the cost of living and lower numbers attending church worship bring concerns and worries for the future. Tod Bolsinger in his book *'Canoeing the mountains'* says "the world in front of us is nothing like the world behind us." What will the future look like?

Proverbs 24:14 says "Know also that wisdom is like honey for you: If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off." God's wisdom is found in prayer as we seek him together. The few small shifts of starting our Monday prayer meeting, sharing God stories and how to share our faith all help each of us build his kingdom. I like this analogy of a wheel – Christ is the axle (Hebrews 13:8); his commands and teaching, the church is the hub; the values and practises the expression of our church and the rim is the activities/events that may change over time. We need God's wisdom, as leadership and community to ensure none of these falter so we become off balance. Lets seek him afresh as we look to be a hub for the heart of the Cloverfield community in 2023!

Reverend Matt Houghton

MESSY MORNINGS AND MESSY SATURDAYS

Messy Mornings is church on a Tuesday for 0-4's and their parents/carers.

We sing, have a bible story, make crafts around that bible story, share good news and thank God for it, celebrate birthdays and end with a bubble blessing.



Since Messy Mornings began in November 2021, we have had contact with over 80 families, which includes well over 100 children! Families do come and go as parents return to work, children extend nursery hours etc so currently we are averaging around 12- 15 families each week and about 20 children. Many of the families who attend are from the Cloverfield Estate or have family members on the estate and love having a local group to come to.

Financially, Messy Mornings is self-sufficient. We charge £1.50 per child which covers the refreshments and any craft resources. We have had many toy donations gifted to us from families who come along to Messy which is a great sign of the community forming and growing.

Another sign of community growth are the open conversations and relationships which are forming. Parents and carers feel it is a safe space to share and to be honest about how they are doing. One mum shared recently how her daughter asked her to thank you to God for all the good things He gives to us, 'like we do in Messy!'

In October 2022, after a cohort had left us to start school, we realised we needed to run something which would expand the age group at a time when families could come together, so Messy Saturdays was born!

This happens once a month on a Saturday Afternoon and includes craft and activities, a teaching time with worship and finishes with a meal together. On average we get between 5-8 families attending and although at present this group is small, those who come really enjoy it and the meal brings us together even more strongly as a community with solid relationships being built.

It is so exciting to be able to share Jesus with all these families and it is good to be able to look at what God might want to do in and through this community in the future.

Please continue to pray for us as a team and for this great opportunity to reach out in our community.

And of course, none of this would be possible without the amazing team who commit regularly to serving from setting up, cooking meals, making



drinks, being a welcoming presence and tidying away again! My thanks goes to all those in our Messy Team who help to make this happen!

Kirsty Houghton

SPECIAL EVENTS; LIGHT NIGHT, EASTER AND CHRISTMAS

Our seasonal events offer the best opportunity to reach people with the good news. At Easter we had our Messy Easter with the Sports factory and this acted well as a prelude to our new Messy Saturdays. On 31st October for our Light night event a few hundred came through our doors. There is always room to develop this event further and reflect on our witness but our presence on such a dark night brings God's light to all.

I was especially grateful to David Williams for his All Rapped up event and him and Maggie's gift of drama as they use this in services.

WORSHIP

Sunday worship consists of our usual services plus the new Café services. It has been encouraging to see more children and families attending and the return of refreshments.

We should not forget Messy mornings on a Tuesday and Messy Saturday which is church for those who attend. I am grateful to those who serve each Sunday especially our AWA's Shauna Peacock and Kirsty Houghton who leads the children's ministry.



THANKS

I would like to express my ongoing gratitude to the church's leadership team; Shauna Peacock as church secretary, Tim Peacock as buildings and bookings, Maggie Baldwin with the important ministry as Safeguarding officer, Geof Young as church warden and Gill Baker as URC link person, finally Kirsty Houghton as children and families lead. Geof is stepping down as church warden after serving for many years and I am grateful for the dedication he has

given to this role over many years. Tim Peacock has much involvement in the care of our building; the recent leak in the prayer room has caused much extra work for him in making lasting repairs, the installation of our new TV screens which is and will transform our worship and outreach and he has given much to applying of grants as well as leading worship.

I am also extremely grateful to Neil Glen who has continued to be our treasurer and David Ramanos as gift aid secretary.

THETFORD CHRITIANS TOGETHER

These meetings take place every couple of months and as well as providing a space to share news they also help us to consider how churches can work together in initiatives such as the Foodbank, work with the homeless and seasonal events such as the Walk of witness on Good Friday.

ECUMENICAL LINKS

We continue to hold two meetings a year with our St. Cuthberts and United Reformed church friends. As a local ecumenical partnership we are blessed with a mix of congregational and more formal tradition. We have explored the revising of our constitution but this has been deemed too complex and unnecessary with the new model documents.

PASTORAL CARE

The church's small pastoral team meets every couple of months to ensure the church is being cared for in the best way possible way and I am grateful for this small team of leaders – Gill Baker, Corinne Brindle and Maggie Baldwin.

CHILDREN'S GROUPS

Children's groups are a really valuable part of church ministry and a joy to be part of.

We have around 8 children (if they all came at the same time) with ages varying from 5 months – 10 years! It can be a challenge at times to find appropriate teaching to engage this very wide age range, however we



often manage it with a variety of creativity!

We will often use very 'hands on' activities to tell the story and try to also think about how it applies to our lives today. It's amazing the wisdom that can be gained from those so young.

It is good to use the same themes of teaching alongside the church which always gives us great opportunity to return to church after the group and share what we have been busy doing.

My thanks goes to all those who regularly serve on our children's group rota and give their time and energy to invest in our young church of today!

Kirsty Houghton

FAIRTRADE CHURCH

We are a Fairtrade supporting church and purchase our refreshment supplies from a company called Kingdom Coffee who not only supply Fairtrade products but support a number of charities including Tearfund, Toybox and Latin Link all Christian based charities.



ECO CHURCH

Cloverfield Church has registered with the Eco Church scheme in order to encourage us to be more aware of our need to care, in a more holistic way, for God's creation. The scheme is based on a simple online survey and we report on our eco efforts in areas of church life including, worship, building management and community engagement. The church has already made positive changes and we now use LED light bulbs, environmentally-friendly cleaning materials and toilet paper and we are looking, longer term, at the church heating system. There is a personal element too and we are encouraged to assess our own individual carbon footprint and lifestyle. Each step of our journey is recognised with the addition of a new leaf



to our "green tree" on the notice board in the corner of the foyer. Do have a look and be encouraged by the efforts we have already made ... we are well on our way to a Bronze award!

Corinne Brindle

HOMEGROUPS

Corinne Brindle continues to lead our afternoon group and I am grateful for her leading of a large group. Our evening group has been revised and over the last year we have run the Discipleship explored course and Making Disciples courses. Small groups provide a place for spiritual growth and support. They are church as Acts 2 reminds us and provide a place to connect with God and one another.

Other short courses included – Hope explored course.

Schools

The Thetford team are engaged in several schools in Thetford including Bishops, Drake and Norwich Road Academy. I am now governor at Norwich road school and go in regularly to take assemblies. We will be hosting an Easter experience for Year 5 pupils in March.

YOUTH WORK

Daniel Sherrington continues to be our trainee Youth worker across the team and serves in Amplify Sunday group, Pulse youth café on Tuesdays and the schools assemblies and clubs at Thetford Academy. His role will come to an end in Sept 2023 and so much prayer is needed for the way forward beyond this.

CAP MONEY COURSE

We held a pilot course in 2022 and have plans to run further two courses in 2023. Howard Truscott is now trained up as a money coach and we are looking to share the provision of this resource with Vineyard church across the town.

WEBSITE AND DIGITAL PRESENCE

Our online presence has continued throughout the year as a general source of information about the church and church life, (27000 hits since the site went live a few years ago). The Cloverfield Church YouTube Channel is still available and currently has a mix of short talks, prayers, and worship. It is not currently being added to but remains as a library resource.

As the new parish ChurchSuite software continues to be rolled out advantage has been taken of the opportunity to automate links between that software and the website. Take a look at the 'coming up soon' section of the homepage and the what's on page. As we continue to develop ChurchSuite further advantage can be taken of facilities to sign up to events directly from the website. Watch this space and when available please do sign up to ChurchSuite.

The church FaceBook page has also been very important in keeping people up to date with what is going on, particularly with the development of Messy Church, so big thanks to Kirsty for keeping an eye on that.

I know that not everyone has access to the internet and we must be mindful not to leave people behind.

Tim Peacock



HOLMSUND—OUR TWIN PARISH

We have been keeping in touch with our Swedish friends with monthly Zoom meetings and we hope to maybe visit Holmsund later this year.



Anneli, one of the Team Clergy, will be coming to stay with Tim and Shauna in May for a holiday so it will be lovely for everyone to catch up with her during her visit.

The Young Leaders visit at the end of October saw the arrival of five girls accompanied by Peter and Christel, their Leaders. They were all hosted with our Church Family. They took part in our services, attended the 30th Anniversary afternoon tea, went to Amplify, the Youth Group at St Cuthberts, visited the Town and completed a town trail including a visit to King's House. They also helped to set up and run our Light Night event which they loved. Mainly the catering took place at Cloverfield with food for about 20 people each meal so it was quite hectic at times!

The Young Leaders were delightful and it was soon time for them to set off for London, they all remarked afterwards that they had enjoyed their time in Thetford more than their time in London!

If anyone is interested in joining in on Zoom or taking part in a future visit to Holmsund please speak to us.

Bob and Maggie Baldwin

GOOD GRIEF CAFE

Alongside Mal Turner of Turners funeral directors, I have attended and facilitated this small community of folk and continues to meet every two weeks in our building. Offering a place of support and solace for those facing grief and loss.

Reverend Matt Houghton



CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

The duties of Churchwarden in Cloverfield are not typical for an Anglican Church as the main responsibility of premises maintenance has been taken by a Premises Manager, a role which Tim has developed over the years. I assist as part of his team and generally look after the trees and bushes around the building. There has been a lot of cutting back of these in the last year.

I have also represented Cloverfield on the PCC and other meetings during the year as another part of my duties.

As mentioned at the last AGM, I am not going to stand for re-election this year as I have been Churchwarden for 30 years and think the position should now be reconsidered. That may mean electing someone else or perhaps deciding the role does not fit into the Cloverfield structure and should be abolished. If anyone has a view on this please let the leadership know and/or come to the AGM.

Geof Young

GIFT AID REPORT

In 2021/22 the church received a £2,527 Gift Aid payment, thank you to everyone who gift aids their giving! 2022/23 will

probably be a bit less at just over £2100. (In addition giving for a specific Team purpose will add another £500 to benefit the Team as a whole, including Cloverfield)

If you do pay UK income tax, and already give regularly please think about gift aid. You don't have to promise an exact amount each week, and if your circumstances change or you move away you can just stop without any formalities. For every £100 an individual gives, we get an additional £25 gift aid. I would like to thank people who have gift aided for many years, and those who commenced more recently

You can set up a standing order, or transfer an amount to the church account when you want. Some people give weekly, others monthly, others as and when. It's so flexible ! Just have a word with me in church or phone me on 01842 755272. I can then email you a gift aid form. If you have any concerns, do ask me.



We can no longer provide sets of green envelopes. This is because we had to order a minimum of 25 sets but only one or two people used them. I have talked to them personally and made arrangements so they can continue to gift aid. If anyone did want to start gift aiding cash donations, please speak to me. We just received individual green envelopes, with wording approved by the Tax Office specifically designed for visitors to use.

David Romanos

WORSHIP

Very little change this year. It would be good to have some suggestions of new songs to learn. As long as I can get hold of the music I can arrange it for other players and teach them to the congregation.

It is still our dream to move towards a time where we have two autonomous worship bands, but this is something that is still at the prayer stage at the moment.

Big thanks to Karen and Bob for their skills and gifts with the worship band.

Tim Peacock



HOME GROUP

The afternoon Home Group meets fortnightly on Wednesdays. Our normal attendance varies and has been generally around 7 or 8 but always seems to be the right number to get lively discussions going. We have used various study guides and we try to choose prayerfully and democratically when we need to move to another topic. We have studied parables and prayer and recently exploring the Sunday readings in more depth. This year we also had the responsibility of preparing a cafe service - happily God provided the resources needed and we were encouraged by the affirmation received. We always include prayer and time to share some of our personal concerns and joys has been an important part of bringing us closer together and, of course, to God.

Corinne Brindle

Operation Christmas Child

Our campaign runs year long with the collection of items for shoeboxes as well as bi monthly stalls aiming to raise funds for admin costs. We open in autumn as a drop off centre for boxes and in 2022 we loaded up 284 shoeboxes to be sent off to the campaign sorting centre.

A big thank you to Carol Holt for her enthusiasm for this project.



SILVERTHEADS

We are still going strong although since last year we have lost a few members always due to either old age or illness because of the age ranges of the members this is often the expected problem but we are still getting new members mostly by word of mouth there are currently 41 members.

Last year we had two outings one to the Hippodrome in Great Yarmouth and for Christmas lunch at the Bell in Thetford but with this one we had a staffing problem at the restaurant but Green King compensated us with £300 with an apology. We also have had many different talks, exercises, music, bingo and quizzes all in all a very happy successful year

Moya Brown

30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

On Sunday 30th October we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of Cloverfield Church. Past members and ministers were invited to join us for a service of thanksgiving and a wonderful afternoon tea. It was great to catch up with old friends and to share the day with our Swedish Young Leaders who were visiting. We were able to display some old photos and papers and many of us realised how much things had changed. The church has come a long way since its inception and base of the nursery on the estate. Long may it continue to grow.



SAFEGUARDING REPORT

We, as a Church, have complied with our duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

All DBS checks required during the year have been applied for and appropriate Safeguarding training has been undertaken for the various roles in the church. The Leadership Team will have to complete a further module on Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse by the end of Dec 2023 to bring their training up to date.

Training has been undertaken by people in various roles but I must emphasise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and if anyone has any concerns at any time please speak to me.

Maggie Baldwin – Thetford Team Ministry Safeguarding Officer



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

It was really exciting starting the after-school club on Wednesday afternoons in September. After a slow start, we changed the format to include hot food and welcomed pre-school children in January. As a result, we have seen an increase in numbers, but more importantly there is now a better sense of community as we eat together. It is wonderful to be able to share a short video on the Christian faith each week and talk about it. It really embeds the verse that The Sports Factory seek to live out; "...because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well" (1 Thessalonians 2:8). As this community is growing it would be wonderful to have one or two people join the team so we can continue to provide both the games and food each week. If this is something you would like to know more about please get in touch with Matt or Susie.

Susie Bratby

BOOKINGS

Our regular family of users continue to make great use of the building and in some cases have increased their hours. We are pretty much at full capacity for regular bookings now.

Our regular users include the following

Monday - Slimming World All day

Tuesday - Messy Mornings, Silverthreads and Stacey's Fitness

Wednesday – Penny's Pilates and weightwatchers

Thursday – Drama Tots and U3A Spanish speakers, Good Grief Café (fortnightly)

Friday – TADDS

Saturday – Verve Karate and Messy Church once a month

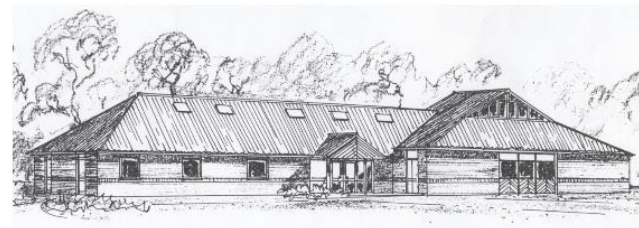
Sunday – Ambition baton twirlers (pm)

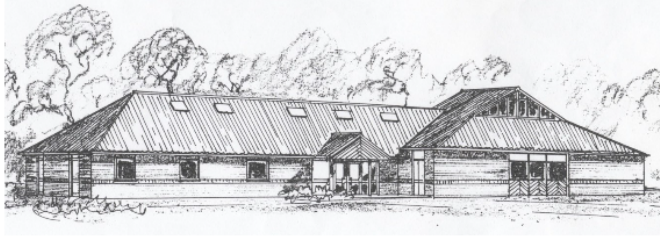
Our income from regular users, if they all have a full week, is around £400 each week.

Our policy is not to make a profit from renting, but just to cover the costs of keeping the building operating. As numbers of users have increased over the years we have been able to hold our charges with no increases. As our costs increase we need to keep a careful eye on our hire charges and an increase may be necessary in the next year

Saturdays is the only realistic availability for one off private hire (parties, etc), and many of the bookings are from return bookings or from recommendations. We do need to balance our own requirements of the use of the building with the reality that it is our hirers who largely pay for our resource. To this end we have pencilled in several church events on a regular basis.

Tim Peacock





BUILDING AND FABRIC

The highlight of this year in terms of the building was the purchase of two 85" TV screens for the front of the church to replace the projector and screen, which was getting harder and harder to see. The cost of this was met by a grant from the Diocesan Church Planting and Revitalisation Project. They are of course for much more than Sunday services and will allow for film events, multi-media presentations and much more. They are 'smart' screens and are making the most of the church's fast fibre broadband.

This year also saw the delivery of 12 chairs with arms, to match the existing blue chairs in the hall. These meet the needs of some of our less mobile users and the cost of these was met with a grant from the Norfolk Community Foundation.

The project to find a replacement for our boilers has been slowly moving forward. Three companies have now visited to give advice, although one of these has since disappeared. We have had initial indicative quotes for a ground source heat pump system (circa £90k) and an air source heat pump system (circa £39k). Both of these quotes would require a survey to provide

definitive proposals and this would cost £500. Funding has already been obtained from Norfolk Community Foundation to pay for a survey from another company who are suggesting a hybrid system of an air source heat pump combined with a high efficiency gas boiler along with an array of solar panels. We are currently awaiting these quotes. This project is becoming more important as we are currently working on only 1 out of the 2 boilers; parts are becoming more of an issue with the current system.

Cloverfield works day has continued to deal with the majority of routine maintenance and housekeeping tasks. These days are still on the first Wednesday of the month, but we have recently been starting at 1130 and working through to the afternoon, stopping for a shared lunch together.

Although technically for next year's report, I should mention the burst pipe in January which brought down part of the ceiling in the Prayer Room. We were fortunate that this leak was noticed quite early and the damage could be limited. On this occasion it was considered best not to make an insurance claim and to do most of the work ourselves. To prevent future burst pipes a frostguard system has been installed, so hopefully this is the last time we will have this problem. We will however have to redecorate the Prayer Room.

Big thanks as always to everyone who helps keep the building going, both on works days and often doing things which 'just happen' behind the scenes.

Tim Peacock

TREASURER REPORT 2022

1. Last year was the year when we finally started to recover from the covid years with a thankful increase in revenue. It was a year of increased hall rental(thanks to Tim for bookings) but sadly decreasing church giving. Many thanks for those who continue to support the church with regular giving but there is always room for improvements. Another surprising income stream came from Messy Mornings and Saturdays with income greater than expenses. Gift aid revenue fell again, David will explain that, but I once again managed to apply for Gift Aid Small Donations(GADS) (which is claimed on cash giving) and hope that will increase for the next financial year.
2. As usual our major outgoings were for Parish Share, URC Fair share, Utility bills and cleaner costs.
3. Last year we ended the year unfortunately with a deficit of just over £3000 but it was less than I expected so we are on the right track to once again break even. A budget was agreed which will substantially reduce 2023s payments to the Parish Share and URC Fair Share so that should offset the large increase of energy bills. Cleaning bill may also increase because as from April we will be paying our cleaner less than the minimum wage so that might need addressing then.

The church is in a stable position financially, provided the hall income remains high, and I believe that with the measures put in place in your budget for 2023 that there should be no reason for the church to go into deficit again. At time of writing the church books have gone for Independent Examination and I hope to complete my financial return to the Diocese on time. I am still willing to remain your treasurer but if anyone would like to take over I will happily step aside.

Neil Glen Treasurer



General Fund - Unrestricted Fund			
01/01/ 2021 to 31/12/2021	Income	01/01/2022to 31/12/22	
£654.61	Cash collections		£2,130.25
£1,306.50	Envelopes - Gift Aided		£368.00
£9,675.00	standing Orders - Gift Aided		£8,280.00
£3,330.00	Standing Orders - Not Gift Aided		£2,930.00
	Shoebox collections		£801.73
£6,997.20	Interest/other grants, refunds		£144.35
	gift aid small donations		£278.16
£3,354.43	Tax refund gift aid		£2,527.43
£285.15	Messy Mornings/After School Club		£1,165.76
£121.00	Dedicated charity collections		£20.00
£73.88	Donations/grants		£5,683.86
£8,406.71	Hire of Premises		£20,534.25
£625.00	Project fund		
£34,829.48	Total Income		£44,863.79

01/01/2021 — 31/12/2021	Balance Sheet		01/01/2022— 31/12/2022
(£7,429.11)	Surplus or (deficit)		(£3,133.21)
£38,073.32		Balance as of 31/12/22	£34,858.73

01/01/ 2021 - 31/12/ 2021	Expenditure	01/01/2022 – 31/12/22	
£3,666.80	Thetford PCC - Youth/Other		£714.92
£1,200.00	Contribution to Clergy Expenses		£1,200.00
£21,131.00	Parish Share Diocese		£22,176.00
£2,640.00	URC Mission Giving		£2,772.00
£65.00	Mission Giving		
£680.49	Miscellaneous :- Website/Communion Wine/TV screens/ Find a Church		£5,811.86
£228.62	British Telecom		£408.69
	Teaching Material / Training		£20.83
£1,562.61	Insurance Premium		£1602.51
£600.00	Anjum Mission		£600.00
£1,919.34	Heating/Lighting/Water		£3,917.44
£123.90	Messy Mornings		£447.24
£523.58	Local Mission & Outreach		£184.47
£64.77	covid spending		
	Print & Copyright		£342.45
£2,911.04	Maintenance		£915.15
	Muddy Church		£107.83
	Shoebox		£800.00
£1,373.02	toilet rolls etc		£217.29
£2,424.99	Cleaning		£3,775.59
	Security deposits/stripe payments		£544.83
£365.49	Photocopier		£590.88
	Postage & Stationery		
£7.94	Bank Charges		£77.02
£770.00	Thetford Christians Together		£770.00
£42,258.59	Total Expenditure		£47,997.00

CONTACT INFO

Rev'd Matthew Houghton Minister for Cloverfield Community Church & Team Vicar vicar@cloverfieldchurch.org/01842 630350

Rev'd Dr Peter Herbert: Team Rector
revpeterherbert@gmail.com / 01842 763579

Rev'd Tony Heywood: Thetford Team Vicar tony.heywood@talk21.com/ 01842 755175

...& there's also your 'Pastoral Contact'

