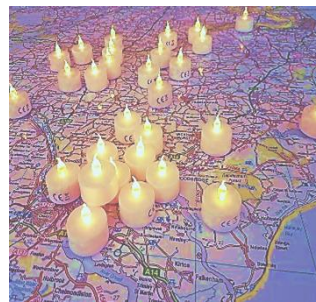




lightwave Annual Report

The Lightwave Community
Bishops Mission Order
and
Charitable Incorporated Organisation

2021
FINAL



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1 Welcome and Introduction to Lightwave

Welcome to the 2021 Report for the Lightwave Community. Lightwave is church with a difference. It is a dispersed Christian community, meeting in small groups working alongside more traditional ways of doing church. We believe our calling is to shine the light of Jesus across Suffolk, through acts of kindness and practical service as well as worship and witness. We have a special heart for rural areas.

Lightwave's small groups aim to make new disciples mainly among those who for one reason or another would not become regular members of a parish-based congregation, and to help members to engage more deeply in discipleship and mission. As such, they are also an ideal way of developing and sustaining the ministry of a core team for a fresh expression of Church or community initiative.

Lightwave Rural Hubs are churches whose vocation is to reach out through to those who are not yet part of any church, across rural areas and networks considerably bigger than that of a benefice. Hubs are developing for the areas around Red Lodge, Emerge (west of Woodbridge) and Bungay, with mini-hubs developing in South Hartismere, Chadbrook and Place by the Water in Shottisham. As these hubs grow, they will provide critical mass and support for particular activities and demographics which may not be catered for in many small rural churches. In this, they will work in partnership and seek to complement the ministries of other churches in the wider rural area.

1.1 What Lightwave Groups do

Lightwave groups do the essential things of church – but in a whole variety of different ways, suited to the needs of their members and the context of a small group who get to know each other well.

Anyone who wants to can join one of our small groups. People do not need to be a Christian or have faith to be part of Lightwave – if someone would like to explore with us what it means to experience and speak God's light in our communities that is enough. Having said that, many Lightwave members are also very active members of another church (most often Church of England but other kinds too) and find that being part of a Lightwave group helps them with the everyday task of putting faith into practice. Each group is strongly encouraged to support and work closely together with a local church or churches.

Some people would not be part of a church at all if it were not for Lightwave. Our aim is also that people who cannot get to Sunday worship or who don't connect with traditional forms of church, will find in Lightwave friends to explore the journey of faith with them.

1.2 What happens in a Lightwave group meeting?

They're all different - but the leadership team and our training encourage a weekly pattern like this:

Welcome - time to chat and generally "catch up" (when not online, often over food and drink).

Worship - time to focus on God and become aware of his presence, giving thanks, leaving behind the business of our day, and allowing him to touch and refresh us and realign our will to his.

Word - This is the Bible bit. We use discussion and activities to help us understand a passage or a subject. Our emphasis is practical – what difference will what we learn make to our lives?

Witness - Showing God's love for our friends and neighbours. This includes praying for the needs of people, giving practical help and providing opportunities for people who want to explore faith. Many Lightwave groups will be the team for a fresh expression of Church such as Messy Church or Cafe Church which provides these opportunities.

Lightwave groups have a lot of fun together - barbeques, bonfires, carol singing, crafting, music-making, lazer-quest and creation care. These are great times to invite friends and neighbours who might not normally feel comfortable to get involved with church events.

1.3 Transforming practices

"The most important commandment," said Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" Mark 12.29-31

These commandments reflect Jesus' values – what was important to him: a high view of God, a high view of others, a high view of ourselves, and sacrificial love. We believe that these values can be used to set a life-giving framework in which people can grow and help others to do the same. In Lightwave, they are reflected in a simple set of practices for the small groups:

All Involved – Everyone is included and valued, whoever they are. Everyone has a role to play.

Becoming Disciples – The purpose of the group is to encourage us to love and live more like Jesus.

Creating Community – We will "be real" with each other - honest about the things we go through ourselves and to respond in a loving way to each other. Caring for each other enables us to care for our wider community too.

Doing Evangelism – Being as well as telling good news together. Giving other people the opportunity to learn about Jesus (not everybody likes the word "evangelism" but really it is just about being the very best of good news for people in what we do and say

Encountering God – Meeting with God. It is God who helps us and changes us.

2 Governance & Structures

The Lightwave Community was started through a nationally funded project called "Growing in God in the Countryside" (GiGitC). The project is all about making new disciples in the countryside – It does this by supporting a rich variety of ways of doing rural church which make a greater diversity of new disciples and disciple-making leaders in the countryside. Just over £2m of Church Commissioner's Strategic Development Funding [SDF] was allocated to support the 6-year project (2019-2024). The project has 2 workstreams:

- i) development of Lightwave as countywide Fresh Expressions Community
- ii) catalysing cultural transformation for rural mission within the diocese.

An important development for the Lightwave Community in 2021 was moving from being part of a nationally funded project to being a fledgling Christian community in its own right with its own governance and beginning on the road to financial sustainability. This was the conclusion of a process of consultation with the DBF and final approval by the Bishop's Council in December 2020. In January 2021, we became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and elected and appointed members of the "BMO Board" became Trustees on a new Lightwave Community Council. This gives Lightwave Community members the opportunity to discern together how God is leading us to continue shining his Light in Suffolk beyond the end of project funding in 2024 and to shape the community to be effective in making new disciples. We also have the opportunity to give to enable the work of Lightwave especially through the Hubs

The Council operates like a PCC for a parish church: it has the responsibility to implement the aims and objectives of Lightwave at an operational level, support Lightwave groups and Lightwave Community members, hold and manage finance and any property of the Lightwave Community, and employ any Lightwave Community. On the Council, up to 3 members are appointed by the bishop and up to 6 are elected for a term of 3 years (and can be re-elected for two further terms before having to stand down for a term). The council also has powers to co-opt members and have others in attendance.

The Suffolk Fresh Expressions Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) held its 2021 Annual General Meeting on 25th May over zoom, including elections to the Lightwave Community Council. 31 people were present There were 57 people on the electoral roll.

Those who have served on the CIO since the start of 2021 are shown below, including their date of appointment or resignation where relevant.

Title	Forename	Surname	Position/Appointment Dates
Right Reverend Dr	Michael Robert	Harrison	Bishop's Visitor
The Ven Canon Reverend	Sally Ann Colin William	Gaze Watkins	Leader of Lightwave and Chair Bishops Appointee - Ecumenical Representative
Revd Canon Mr	Christopher Mark Scott Graham	Robinson Reardon	Bishop's Appointee Bishop's Appointee (from June 2021)
Revd Canon Mrs	Julia Claire	Lall Marshall	Elected Representative Elected Representative
Mr	David	Theobald	Elected Representative
Mr	Robert James	Hamilton	Elected Representative
Mrs	Sophie	Charlton	Until Feb 2021
Mr	Peter	Plummer	Until Feb 2021

In attendance as non-voting members are:

Nina Seaman – acting secretary Andrew Gosden – Treasurer and Stewardship officer.

At the end of 2021 there were two casual vacancies, one of which was filled in Jan 2022 by Mr Stephen Went.

The "Growing in God in the Countryside" Project Core Team includes staff and volunteers who are serving the set-up of the Lightwave Community. Staff paid by the SDU funding are Andrew Gosden (Project Manager), Nina Seaman (Administrator and Prayer Coordinator), Becky Luetchford (Communications Missioner).

The SDF funding contributes (along with local fund raising) towards Alison Earl and Angela Finn (Red Lodge Lightwave Mission Assistants), funds Kathy Wilson, Emma Morris, Debbie Nicholls, Pam Tooks and Nicky Lawson as Rural Outreach Pioneers, and the Lightwave Rural Hub leaders Diane Grano, Ben Wale, and Josh Bailey (shared post with Bungay Benefice) and curates (shared with local churches), Revds Bob Molton and Tracey James

Key volunteers are Graham Miles, leading the Rural Chaplaincy Team Andrew Jarrold (Lead Chaplain for Suffolk Rural College in Otley) and Graham Reardon (Ambassador for Love Rural). This team, the leaders and curates at the Lightwave Hubs (see below) and the Lightwave Council Report to a Project Board, overseeing the fruitfulness of the Project and its use of the SDU funding which we were granted. The Project Board is chaired by Bishop Mike.

3 Lightwave Groups and Hubs in 2021

3.1 Some facts and figures

At the end of 2021, 23 groups were registered members of the Lightwave Community. 16 of these groups look to the Bishop's Mission order for governance while 7 of these groups are registered Lightwave members under the governance of a local PCC. A further 10 active groups are not formally registered members but associate with Lightwave through training and support. This makes 33 active groups involved with the Lightwave Community – an increase of 12 over 2020. Another 15 potential groups are in an exploration phase, with many discussions ongoing.

We are delighted that 115 new disciples (both rural and from Ipswich) have begun to engage at some

depth with Christian faith this year and 314 began this journey through the ministry of Lightwave since the community began. These new disciples are regularly committed to some form of worship (monthly or more) – at a Lightwave group, fresh expression of Church, parish Church or other congregation.

We are so grateful for all the prayer support we receive, and we currently have a Team of 31 Lightwave prayer supporters and 170 people receiving our prayer and events newsletter.

3.2 Red Lodge Lightwave Rural Hub

In 2021 we have revived previous contacts and activities as COVID lockdown regulations allowed. This included the youth café, holiday club, participation in Youth Alive gathering, Youth Faith Focus group and Sunday Breakfast chat for families.

There is evidence of growth in all areas of discipleship. The Red Lodge team are grateful for God’s abundant provision and blessing.



Lightwave Groups in 2021	Outreach Focus
Blaze	Children Key Stage 1
Ignite (aka Faith Focus aka Photography)	Children Key Stage 2
Hope	Tweens & teens (Key Stage 3) Youth Café
Book Club (Mixed group - online)	Café/ Foodbank/ CAP
Truth Quest (Leaders)	Café/ Foodbank/ CAP
Mikey's Men (Zoom - Men) - aka Martin's Men	Café/ Foodbank/ CAP/ Men's Den
Lou's Ladies (aka Maxine's ladies)	Café/ Foodbank/ CAP
Angie's Friends (online - mixed)	Café/ Foodbank/ CAP
Alison's Friends - The Prayer Course	Café/ Foodbank/ CAP
Bob's Friends - Beck Row	youth Café

Thank God for...

- **Baptism and Confirmation** – 3 people who have discovered life-changing faith
- **Sunday café church** Re-established in Beck Row and Red Lodge attracting a mix of non, lapsed, and regular churchgoers.
- **New regular Sunday worship**, which is also developing lay ministry in leading and serving.
- **Café and foodbank** leading to clients joining discipleship groups and more.
- **Young people** participating in events and activities in increasing numbers.
- **Help for those struggling financially.** We have been able to offer help with budgeting, dept management, looking for work (three obtained jobs), applying for benefits and grants.
- **Great team** - 40 volunteers serving others and gaining in self-esteem, confidence and independence in their own lives.
- **Kickstart Programme** - Two young people gained work experience in our food bank & Café
- **Obtaining and disbursing grants effectively** to reach disadvantaged and marginal people in the community.
- **Support for people in crisis** -We have been able to offer support and care through difficult situations including physical and mental health problems, relationship breakdowns, financial crises, debt management, addiction, domestic abuse.

3.3 Emerge Lightwave Rural Hub (Otley/Playford area)

Hub leaders Ben and Leanne Wale began work with the project in late 2020 and moved into area (Playford) in May 2021. During the year, circumstances have led to a change of role for Leanne from co-leader of the hub to licensed pioneer for which she reports to Ben

Ben and Leanne developed a vision for "Emerge" "a multi-generational community following Jesus and serving our local area alongside established churches with acts of kindness and generosity, especially with young adults, schools, young families and teenagers."

An enlarged leadership team was established in Jan 2022.



Lightwave Group in 2021	Outreach Focus
Gather (Kesgrave)	CAP & Childrens activities
Kesgrave / Fynn Valley	Fynn Valley Walkers
Lightwave Youth (Otley)	Fri Youth
Otley Lightwave Group	Wild Church, 40 Days of Kindness, Carols
Started 2022	
Witnesham Post Alpha	In development
Emerge Leadership	Little Borrowers
Emerge Alpha	Community Listening

Thank God for...

- **Emerge Sundays**, Worship in the house - ave 9 adults and 7 children weekly since Sept 2021
- **Little Bealings Borrowers** –Weekly Wildlife group based on God's care for creation, after school average 7 adults and 8 children every Wednesday since Oct 2021 (with a start-up grant provided by the East Suffolk Community Partnership).
- **Online Bible art journaling** – a fresh expression led by Leanne Wale which went online during lockdown. ave 10 adults each session since May 2021
- **Parish and Community Links**. For example, with Witnesham parish and Talitha Koum, who are working for justice and restoration among vulnerable women. The hub partnered with them by organising a baptism and confirmation service in September 2021 when two of the women from Talitha Koum were baptised.
- **'Refresh'** New monthly worship event for Lightwave groups started Jan 2022.
- **Debenham School Chaplaincy & Pop up Shop** Led by Revd. Tracey James is licensed as a curate to Lightwave 50%)

3.4 Bungay Lightwave Rural Hub

A full-time incumbent (Revd Josh Bailey) was recruited and licensed at the end of June 2021. Josh combines the work of a parish-priest (0.5 FTE – funded through parish share) with the establishing of Lightwave Rural Hub at Bungay (0.5 FTE – funded through the Growing in God in the countryside project), which makes new disciples and creates Christian community for and with people who were not previously part of any church.

Other key members of the Lightwave team include the churchwarden Stephen Went (Lightwave group leader) Pippy Bailey (developing work with parent and toddlers) and Jason Collins (appointed 1 day a week as Lightwave Administrator).

A vision for work in schools and community was discerned with Rev Edward and Mrs Heather Land and they will start work as Associate Vicar and Heather Land as part-time Community Choir Director, working with local schools particularly in May 2022.

Lightwave Groups in 2021	Outreach Focus
Bungay - Stephen's Walking Group	Walking outreach, discipleship deepening
Trinity Toddlers	Toddlers and their parents
Started 2022	
Alpha and more	

Thank God For

- **Gift of Prayer** – A committed core with a rhythm of prayer
- **Growth in Congregations** In Bungay & Barsham, several coming who had not previously been part of any church & several more returning to church after a long season away
- **New Toddler Lightwave group** launching culminating in a Christmas party with about 25 people from 7 different families.
- **Alpha group beginning** with great appetite already to continue into a Lightwave group beyond the 8 weeks we will be meeting.
- **Lightwave walking group** providing fellowship, prayer & whole-life discipleship to mature & young Christians
- **School Links strengthening** Lots of visits and with Bungay Primary families at church festival events Christingle at the newly formed Castle EAST school for children with communication & interaction needs. Initial contact with Bungay High
- **Ecumenical ties** with Emmanuel URC & St. Edmund's Roman Catholic Church and regular meetings between clergy
- **Wider Deanery** – The welcome of Lightwave in the deanery has been a great blessing. The hub has begun to work closely with The Saints benefice and is seeking to be a blessing to the mission especially across the Waveney valley as the ministry develops in 2022.

3.5 South Hartismere Connect

South Hartismere Benefice consists of 8 churches, 11 communities and 4 Church of England Primary Schools close to the Norfolk town of Diss.

The vision of the Benefice is to enable more people to know the love of Jesus and become active disciples through CONNECT- a weekly fresh expression of church, - same time, same place, with the same team - to encourage people of all ages to connect in whatever way they want to. It is a fluid session with a range of activities, culminating in a short act of worship. It an opportunity for people of all ages to build friendship, create community and explore church. People can just pop in for a hot drink, cakes and a chat with friends, and there is a play area for children. There are also activities inside and outside, and we finish with short, informal worship. People can 'opt in' to any of the activities and the worship.

During the Pandemic the hub had to respond to various restrictions, sometimes moving to outdoor activities, on - line sessions, a Zoom craft club, and delivering packs to families.

Debbie Nichols moved to Suffolk from St Albans Diocese and was licensed to work with the benefice as a licensed lay pioneer funded part-time by Lightwave as a Rural Outreach Pioneer, working specifically with Children and Families while completing her ordination training. She will be ordained as a Deacon and start work as a Lightwave Curate in the benefice in June 2022.

Lightwave Group in 2021	Outreach focus
CONNECT small group	Schools/ Family activities, Connect Worship
Hopes for 2022	
Lightwave Youth	youth
Curate-led group	Gislingham area

3.6 Chadbrook Benefice Mini-Hub

A new Lightwave mini-hub is developing in Chadbrook Benefice with two new Lightwave group registered – the Connect Toddler Group led by Pam Tonks and the 4 O'Clock Community led by Revd Matt and Nicky Lawson. Both Pam and Nicky are now being paid one day a week as Rural Outreach workers and significant fruit is already being seen with 23 new disciples (10 adults and 13 under 18) so far attending various groups and services.

The Connect Toddler Group meets weekly during term time and includes bible themed play and songs and child-friendly prayer – presenting opportunities for parents and children to be sign-posted to other events.

The 4 O'clock Community is looking to develop various forms of afternoon church or other event for young families – 4pm being an easier time for many families to attend as it does not clash with sport and other Sunday morning church activities. Activities will be a combination of socials, forest church and walks, Messy Church, Informal worship, and other activities. There is a desire to particularly support the growth of Christian community at Lawshall which has recently joined the benefice.

The group is particularly interested in working with the generations often missing from church which are already engaging in Messy Church, and also our toddler and youth groups.

Lightwave Groups 2021	
4 O'Clock Community	Whole families exploring faith
Connect Toddler Group -	Toddlers and parents

3.7 Place by the Water (formerly known as Farm by the Water)

Led by Kathy Wilson, a Rural Outreach Pioneer and licensed Lay Minister, and one of the leaders of Suffolk in Prayer. **The Place by the Water** offers a space for retreats, and runs a variety of faith-based or outreach activities, supported by a Lightwave Group. The Place by the Water has had a difficult year. Having moved largely online during Covid, Kathy was forced to leave the current rented house (also Kathy's home) in April and since then there has been a time of waiting and discernment and looking for alternative opportunities, spaces. During this time the ministry online has grown including in many areas of training for Christians.

From Feb 2022 Kathy moved into the Rectory in Shottisham, which is rented from the DBF and part funded by money from donors through Lightwave. As well as growing the day-retreat ministry, Kathy is looking forward to working with the Wilford Peninsula Benefice and seeing how the gifts of the Place by the Water can complement and strengthen others' wider ministry in the local area.

Lightwave Group in 2021	Outreach Focii
Farm by the Water / Place by the Water Core Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Club (for those who want an introduction to the bible) • Bible Journalling (for those who engage with spirituality through art and crafting. • Change Management workshop • Jesse Tree Workshop
Hopes for 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teens (working with Youth Lightwave) • New areas identified with Wilford team • Seeker-friendly worship & hospitality

3.8 Pilgrims Together

This group, based in Aldringham and reaching out to surrounding places built up a pastoral and liturgical ministry online in 2021, reached out to people in new housing collaborating with a local pub. Their fruitfulness have been recognised by Church Army who sought out one of their leaders, Gail Southgate to work for the Suffolk Centre of Mission, spreading good practice in rural evangelism.

Lightwave Group in 2021	Outreach Focii
Pilgrims Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Housing • Links with local pub • Online worship (Iona style) • Walking activities

3.9 Lightwave Rural & Agricultural Chaplaincy

Graham Miles as Agricultural and Rural Chaplain for the diocese has been very effective building contacts and relationships and supporting the farming community.

Graham is nurturing a Lightwave Group to develop this ministry, and now has a team of six each working in their local area, reaching out to people that are in need and support, as well as leading Alpha courses, coffee mornings and cafe church. This includes Diane Ekins-Powell who joined as part of a placement when training for ordination. She is now a curate in Mendham and is a key part of the Lightwave chaplaincy team. The team reaches out to people dealing with depression, anxiety, loneliness and suicidal thoughts. Generous availability is very much appreciated.



While 2021 continued to be difficult year dealing with Covid virus and lockdowns, it was nevertheless a good year for making contact with clergy across the diocese and building bridges and relationships which is now paying off as Graham is beginning to be invited to talk or preach at churches wanting to work with him. He has also facilitated visits to farms for Bishop Martin and others and works with the Cathedral to develop agricultural services.

Lightwave Group in 2021	Outreach Focii
Lightwave Rural Chaplaincy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Care for people connected with farming and rural business • 24 hour helpline • Chaplaincy at Agricultural Events • Building closer relationships between church and farming community
Exploring for 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility of regular online zoom service for isolated people who cant get to church

3.10 Safe Harbour



Safe Harbour Church is based at St Helen's Church in Ipswich. Safe Harbour aims to love and serve those who have multiple and complex needs. The Thursday Top Up Shop and cafe serves 50 customers and has 20 volunteers a week. We recently started a worshipping community within the shop with over 20 people exploring faith together. The weekly congregation of around 25 attend the Gathering which includes lunch and an interactive worship service suitable for those who do not go to church. We have a small group of Christians who attend a fortnightly discipleship group called the Journey group with 4 new disciples being confirmed this year. Safe Harbour is led by Bob Hamilton, who is a Pioneer Developer for Inspiring Ipswich.

Lightwave Group in 2021	Outreach Focii
Safe Harbour Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top Up Shop and Cafe • The Table monthly community meal • The Gathering weekly lunch/START Course • Journey Group (fortnightly discipleship group)
Exploring for 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfasts for the homeless • Prayer walks

New disciples	18+	under 18
Since May 2021	14	0

3.11 Other Lightwave Groups active in 2021

Lightwave Groups	Benefice/Area	Outreach Focus	Registration Status
Bring and Share	Rattlesden benefice	Refugee Support	None
Crescendo (choir team)	Roughham, Beyton, Hessett	Choir/ Music	Registered (BMO) 2022
Hessett Big Teas		Big Teas/Alpha	Registered (BMO)
Lighthouse -	Stradbrook Benefice	Leadership Team for Mission	Registered (PCC)
Cook @ Church		After school cooking group	Registered (PCC)

4 Central Activities supporting Lightwave Groups and Rural Hubs

This section is about activities undertaken or overseen by the Trustees of the Lightwave Community (BMO/CIO Council) and by members of staff of the externally funded "Growing in God in the Countryside" Project. As the Project progresses more and more of these central activities are being taken on by people in roles which are planned to continue after the end of external funding – ie the trustees and teams at the hubs.

4.1 Prayer

Prayer is vital in every Lightwave group. Staff pray together frequently and all our meetings to plan are immersed in prayer. We are grateful to our prayer partners who also pray for Lightwave regularly. Nina Seaman our project administrator also works hard to help all to engage in prayer.

Suffolk in Prayer - a movement of Christians who are committed to pray for God's blessing on this the county and its people is led by a fully ecumenical team of church leaders across Suffolk: Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Pentecostal, Methodist and Free Church. It is co-ordinated by the GIGitC team which provide funding one day a week for Kathy Wilson as a rural outreach pioneer to work on the initiative. A new website has been launched which includes 2022 resources and information about upcoming events. <https://www.suffolkinprayer.uk/>

For Thy Kingdom Come 2021, Suffolk in Prayer Facebook public group released daily video reflections/thought for the day from Ecumenical church leaders in Suffolk and hosted a 24/7 prayer room. The 11 days of prayer culminated in an in-person service - Catching the Fire Diocesan-wide Pentecost celebration of mission, This was also live streamed and available to watch through the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Facebook page.

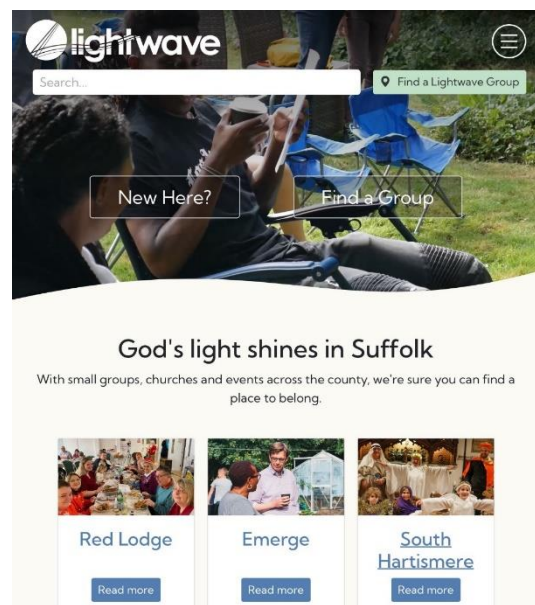
It is our conviction that united prayer across denominations and streams is key to rural mission.

4.2 Communications and County-wide events.

Through 2021, the Project team were working on a more contemporary-looking website, now launched at www.lightwave.community. Resources for Lightwave small groups are now very easy to find here. The website URL can be used to create email addresses for any Lightwave groups that would like one.

The Lightwave Community has its own [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lightwavesuffolk) page (www.facebook.com/lightwavesuffolk) with many of the groups having their own groups for sharing locally. We also have a presence on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/lightwavesuffolk) (www.instagram.com/lightwavesuffolk) and lots of resource videos on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).

Becky, our Project Communications Missioner is available to train up people from groups and hubs to take pictures and short films and to post on social media. Contact her at becky.luetchford@cofesuffolk.org



The central team initiated "40 Days of Kindness" in Lent and "Doorstep Carols" at Christmas. These were events supported by local radio which enabled Lightwave groups and parishes to participate in Christian community action in a way which was widely publicised throughout the county.

4.3 Leadership Development

Growing local lay leadership and supporting clergy in leadership oversight is key for the flourishing of the Lightwave community. In 2021 we provided training and support as follows:

- Mission Shaped Ministry flexi (including on AOP pathway) – locally led, 3 central Saturday mornings on zoom, sometimes several groups led by a hub
- Lightwave Group Leader Initial Training
- Formational Community of Churchplanters – Led by Bishops with Sally Gaze
- Three localised learning communities led by Archdeacons and Director of Ministry and Mission, 3 or 4 times a year
- Launchpad weekend for Fun fellowship and discipleship Sept 21.
- One-to-one mentoring for a few key leaders

4.4 Stewardship and fundraising

It is the aim of the Project that the ministry of the three Lightwave Hubs and the Lightwave groups should be self-sustaining through the income of the Lightwave Community by the end of 2024. To this end, we are using a fundraising and stewardship consultant (Karen Lawson) to advise and help the hubs and groups on this journey. In 2021, she has scoped the task and had conversations with the leaders of each of the hubs to help them to begin to plan for future sustainability.

4.5 Chaplaincy at Suffolk New College – Suffolk Rural

Educational Chaplaincy was originally part of the work of the Otley Hub (now Emerge). However, all Chaplaincy activity had to be put on hold in March 2020 and while Suffolk New College (who have taken over the college when it was de-merged from Easton College, Norfolk) has allowed this to open for short periods Covid has prevented most activity. We have negotiated re-entering college using a purely voluntary team as part of the wider chaplaincy agreement for Suffolk New College working with Linda Pepper the new lead chaplain and two volunteer Chaplains Graham Miles (also working as Lightwave Rural Agricultural Chaplain and Capt Andrew Jarrold (Salvation Army), and for the short time this has been possible, it has been well received.

4.6 LoveRural: Making Jesus visible through loving service

LoveRural is a Lightwave initiative which seeks to...

- **SHOW:** Spread the news about the enormous role of rural Christians play in building healthy and happy community life in Suffolk. We gather and share stories online and in local media.
- **SHARE:** We connect projects and congregations of different streams and denominations so that good rural practice can be shared and mutual support offered.
- **SHINE:** We help people engaged in Christian-based social action to sensitively offer inviting ways to learn about Jesus and faith in him. Loverrural is an inter-denominational initiative of the Lightwave Community supported by Churches Together in Suffolk.

LoveRural is still at the beginning of its journey. This year we have recruited Graham Reardon as an enthusiastic volunteer to champion this ministry. As part of his work, Graham is seeking to start an online Lightwave group to be the champion and praying heart of this ministry.



5 Discernment and planning for the future...

The externally funded project which gave birth to the Lightwave Community will come to an end in 2024. Therefore, in Autumn of 2021, the Lightwave Community members and project staff together with many from the wider diocese engaged in an extensive process of discernment about what God is calling the Lightwave Community to beyond 2024.

We asked

- Where is God already at work?
- What scriptures is God drawing to our attention?
- What patterns of support help people to grow in leadership?
- What vision is God giving us for the future?

Since the autumn, the leaders of the Lightwave Community have been working on what enabling structures we think God may be guiding us to develop to lead this growth:

5.1 Where are we seeing God at work?

- **Togetherness & Connection** – Partnering, praying, studying, planning, doing life and mission together (lay and ordained). Christian togetherness between parish and Lightwave important and also across denominations. Connection between Lightwave groups.
- **Loving service** of many kinds
- **Lost, Poor and Marginalised People** – especially people who are often marginalised becoming part of the team and church family
- **Intergenerational work** – Children, Teens and older people helping each other and working together
- **Online ministries**
- **Community Partnerships & People of Peace**– People being drawn to faith where Christians partner with secular bodies for the sake of their community's wellbeing
- **Healing** – Hearts & emotional hurts as well as physical healing
- **Small initiatives** – with room to grow
- **Public Worship becoming more public**
- **Local story-telling** – personal story and good use of social media and film
- **Vocation and Growing Leaders** – People being called (often together) to particular places and outreach in Suffolk.
- **Creation** – Caring and stewarding, an attitude of gratitude

5.2 What do we sense God is teaching us about approach?

- **Trust and boldness** The strongest repeated message was to trust in God, not fearing and being expectant of God for this is his work. This was connected with an affirmation of the original vision for small groups and God doing a new thing in Suffolk. (Isaiah 43.19)
- **Listening and humility** Continued listening to God through prayer, each other and our communities.
- **Journey** Seeing both the development of the Lightwave Community and the transformation of culture for Rural Mission as being a God-led journey where his timing may be different from our ways of predicting and developments may have more of the character of rewilding than linear planning.
- **Cherish Scripture** – Intentional area of development for Lightwave Community is grounding disciples in knowledge of scripture

A Selection of Quotations and Pictures from our Discernment Afternoon

"Do something small to grow something big"

"Listen, don't be afraid. Break down the barriers, boundaries and the bubbles. Take worship out into the homes and fields and don't be afraid of technology – use it all, so all may benefit"

"Way in the Wilderness"... "God has provided the springs" (Isa 40-44)

"overflowing and abundant activity of the Holy Spirit working through Lightwave and through our benefice"

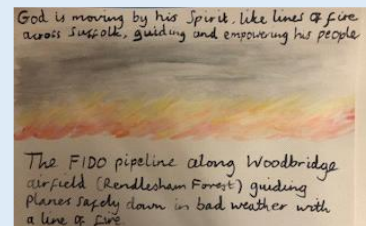
"Respond in love to what is before you... walk alongside

"churches without walls"



"Behold, I am doing a new thing..." (Isaiah 43)... The time is now

"Blessed is the one whose delight is in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day & night. This person is like a tree, planted by streams of water which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither" Ps 1



5.3 What patterns of support help people to grow as leaders?

One of the distinctive aspects of the most fruitful Lightwave groups have leaders who are learning and are supported with all four of the following ways/approaches:

1. **Local Missional Group** – These leaders reflect on their mission and learn as they go with the (Lightwave) group with whom they are on mission—they "do life" together. They are supported in prayer, discerning and attending to scripture by this group (usually weekly). The leader is not merely giving out/leading it because others share in leadership and discernment with them.
2. **Mentor, Coach, Mission Accompanier or Supervisor** – These leaders are committed to a regular meeting with someone who has expertise in the areas of ministry which they need to address. They respect this person and will have usually chosen them themselves. The frequency and intensity of meeting can vary a lot. It may be a few times a year with a lot of thoughtful preparation for each meeting, or it may be a casual coffee and prayer every week – but they value this highly. This "mentor" has permission to ask difficult questions and to speak into their life. This relationship too is grounded in prayer.
3. **Peer Group** – These leaders are committed to a group of leaders like themselves where they share both questions and wisdom and this is rooted in prayer and scripture. This may be a learning community or part of being on a course. It may be as often as monthly or much less frequently – but it is a priority commitment.
4. **Access to and support from key permission givers and advocates** – These leaders are able to help their groups/initiatives to become more fruitful because they have easy or frequent access to people who have authority to make decisions affecting their work and who encourage them to take risks and to think big. These people both instill confidence and help the leaders to access other kinds of support within the diocese.

5.4 Vision for 2030

The overall vision which has emerged for the Lightwave Community from the season of prayerful discernment includes the following:-

- many people discovering the light of Christ in rural Suffolk
- an ongoing dynamic mission movement – a wave of love for rural Suffolk, constantly giving itself away, with a committed Christian community at its centre.
- prayerful working with other churches to make a difference in the countryside
- being a blessing beyond our size – every village blessed in some way by Lightwave
- creative approaches becoming normal, including outdoor and online

Concrete goals include

- Lightwave groups helping to nurture 1500 rural-dwellers who have become Christian disciples since 2019 (Many of these attending parish church and many under 25)
- 120 disciple-making leaders (mostly lay)
- Lightwave hubs helping the financial and missional sustainability of local rural church through local giving
- Rural and agricultural chaplaincy sustainable, flourishing and growing
- A new Christian centre built at Red Lodge with Christians of all denominations working together for youth ministry across the area.

5.5 Planning for the future:

In 2022-3, central Lightwave will work on the following to facilitate ongoing growth and sustainability locally:

a) **Keep prioritising prayer and helping people to become disciples and grow as disciples in everything we do.**

- Support deeper bible engagement (New Lightwave notes on website)
- Facilitate more participation in the eucharist
- Work with interested groups on a Rule/Rhythm of Life
- Developing the work of LoveRural to share ways of connecting social outreach with discipleship opportunities
- Using Suffolk wide opportunities to facilitate local outreach eg Queen's Jubilee

b) **Grow disciple-making leaders**

In order to offer the 4 kinds of support identified as most fruitful this year...

- Establish a high quality Lightwave Formational Community for Whole Teams to learn together– working with a team from a National Partner
- Continue to support new and potential Lightwave Groups through 1-2-1 encouraging and mentoring (Sally Gaze, Gail Southgate, Di Grano & others)
- Continue existing Lightwave Community of Church-Planters and pioneers led by Bishops Martin & Mike and Archdeacon Sally
- Group coaching in evangelism through Church Army Envoy

c) **Partner with more benefices:**

- Advertising availability of small mission grants with Lightwave mentoring
- Using seed funding to create 3 or 4 full or part-time benefice posts with a key Lightwave component. Planning in sustainability through parish share.

d) Enabling the Lightwave hubs and current ministries to financially sustainable independent of SDF funding by end 2024

- Complete budget and sustainability plans for each hub in 2022, supported by the project team, Karen Lawson as fundraising advisor and key diocesan leaders (e.g. Finance Director)
- Potential income streams to include personal giving, local and national grants, trading and use of synergies with diocesan ministries
- Working with the Diocese and Strategic Development Unit (SDU) on transition funding for some posts as funding from the SDU winds down from end 2024.
- Teach and inform about stewardship and make financial giving to each hub easy to do.

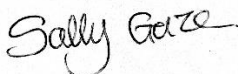
e) Further to trial and develop oversight and enabling structures for the Lightwave Community as a whole beyond 2024

- Develop and maintain expertise on the Lightwave Community Council in key areas – finance, fundraising, digital communications and safeguarding.
- Plan for giving to cover 0.5 Leader for Lightwave Community county-wide (big-hearted intrapreneur, rooted in local mission, skilled to develop other leaders)
- Work with Bishops staff to identify how the voice of Lightwave Community can be part of strategic thinking after the role of Archdeacon for Rural Mission comes to an end.

6 Final Reflections

Grateful thanks to all who have participated with the bishops and the community in our season of discernment this year. As we have found guidance for future growth, we have also discovered how important it is to wait and listen to God and others, each step of the way. Thank you to all the group leaders and members for all you are doing and all your prayers, patience, love and joy. Thank you also to our wonderful Growing in God in the Countryside Staff and wider diocesan staff who do so much to support Lightwave, the many who have committed to pray regularly for Lightwave, those who give financially to the Community and the members of the Lightwave Council who have served us well with dedication and vision.

It has been a delight to share in baptisms and confirmations, in creative worship and deep sharing, in serving and partnering. Your response in the face of adversity and so much weariness in our society has been awesome. I know it is because you are rooting your lives in prayer, in the study of the scriptures – and in lives of loving service. 2022 promises another rollercoaster of circumstances for our communities – the aftermath of lockdown in mental health, the rejoicing at our Queen’s jubilee, the challenges which flow from the war in Eastern Europe and no doubt highs and lows which we have not even dreamed of yet. The one thing we know is that we will face these highs and lows together with the God who loves us and with each other, our brothers and sisters in Christ and it is this which will give us the strength to share something of Christ’s light and love.



Sally Gaze (Archdeacon for Rural Mission, Leader of the Lightwave Community 2022)

*Raise your voice loudly, herald of good tidings
Say... "Behold your God"..
Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God, creator of the ends of the earth...
Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength
They will mount up with wings like eagles.
They will run and not be weary
They will walk and not faint.
From Isaiah 40*

7 Finance, Giving and Stewardship

7.1 Growing in God in the Countryside

The Growing in God in the Countryside (GiGitC) project (supported by the Strategic Development Unit of the Church of England and the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Board of Finance) has funds of around £6m for 6 years from 2019 (extended in some areas for a further 1 ½ years to mid 2026). This funds the majority of day to day operational expenditure and people and this is not included in these accounts.

7.2 Lightwave Community Financial Review

The financial objectives of the Lightwave Community at this stage in development are:

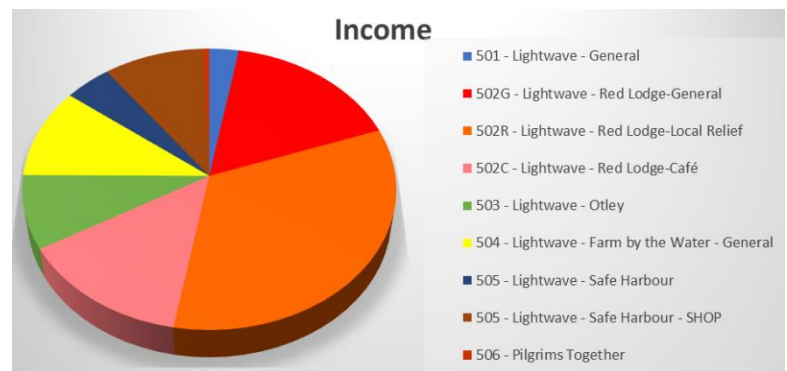
1. To support Lightwave Hubs in day to day operations outside the scope of the GiGitC project, e.g. operation of a café at Red Lodge
2. To support the operation of Lightwave Groups, e.g. the Safeharbour Lightwave Group pop-up shop
3. To encourage giving and grants for the above objectives
4. To develop with the GiGitC project a plan including grants and giving for sustainability of the work when GiGitC funding winds down largely at the end end 2024 with some funding extending to the middle of 2026.

Funds for the Lightwave Community CIO ("CIO") are largely held in a number of restricted funds for each Hub (in some cases for a specific aspect of Hub work), and any Lightwave Group that requests it.

7.2.1 Income

Total receipts across the CIO as a whole were £99,647, of which £32,506 were from voluntary donations and a further £2,756 from gift aid. There remains around £4,500 of Gift Aid yet to be claimed for 2021 and this will be done in April 2022.

Regular giving has grown by 221% from £8,449 to £27,119 in 2021, and at end of 2021 stood at £2,877 per month, the majority eligible for gift aid.



Overall income for Red Lodge Hub represented £64% of total income.

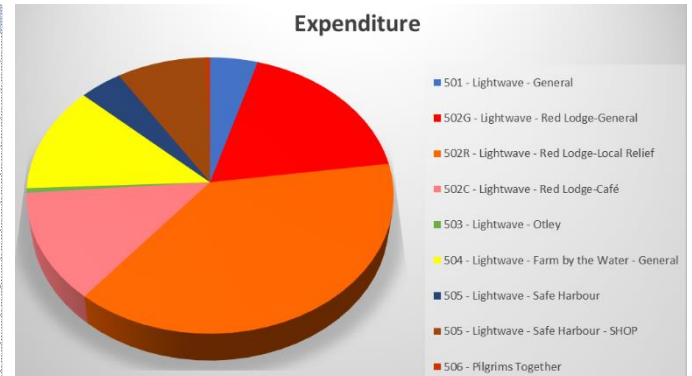
Fund	Income	% of total	Comments
501 - Lightwave - General	2,788	3%	
502G - Lightwave - Red Lodge-General	16,667	17%	Red Lodge represents 64% of the total. The café showed a surplus for the year of £4,917 which in 2022 will contribute towards the salaries of Lightwave Mission Assistants
502R - Lightwave - Red Lodge-Local Relief	33,142	33%	
502C - Lightwave - Red Lodge-Café	13,831	14%	
503 - Lightwave - Otley	8,400	8%	
504 - Lightwave - Farm by the Water -	10,315	10%	Donations for the work of the group include leader Kathy Wilson
505 - Lightwave - Safe Harbour	4,447	4%	
505 - Lightwave - Safe Harbour - SHOP	9,512	10%	
506 - Pilgrims Together	544	1%	
	99,647		

The work of Lightwave, especially in Red Lodge and with Safe Harbour in Ipswich continues to attract

external funding, reflecting the confidence of those bodies in the work Lightwave is doing and our ability to help those directly in need in their communities. Red Lodge received almost £26,000 in grants from West Suffolk District Council (£10,745), Hope Beyond All Churches Trust (£7,750), Suffolk County Council (£2,500) and Suffolk Community Foundation (£5,000). The Safe Harbour Lightwave Group in Ipswich also received £5,000 from the Suffolk Community Foundation and the Otley Emerge group £661 from East Suffolk District Council. Grants received totalled £31,833. In addition funding was received from the DWP for two Kickstart employees for six months each.

7.2.2 Expenditure

Fund	Expenditure	% of total
501 - Lightwave - General	3,212	5%
502G - Lightwave - Red Lodge-General	12,665	18%
502R - Lightwave - Red Lodge-Local Relief	26,566	38%
502C - Lightwave - Red Lodge-Café	8,914	13%
503 - Lightwave - Otley	374	1%
504 - Lightwave - Farm by the Water -	8,709	13%
505 - Lightwave - Safe Harbour	2,859	4%
505 - Lightwave - Safe Harbour - SHOP	6,039	9%
506 - Pilgrims Together	272	0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	69,609	
Operational Reserves	3,924	
Liabilities (Mission assistants funding)	11,400	
Grants not spent	14,713	
Surplus/(Deficit) after allowance for reserves	-	



Major areas of expenditure are shown below to support the work of the different areas – through mission and through local relief work.

Also shown are reserves, liabilities, the remainder of any grants not spent which a surplus for the year of £3,924 which is less than the reserves required by our policy of £8,800. This will be recovered in 2022.

7.2.3 Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the CIO to maintain a balance across all funds equivalent to 2 months operating costs of individual Hubs/Groups plus an additional one month's direct salary costs and the amounts of any external commitments. This excludes funded items from the GiGitC project. This amounts to £8,800.

7.3 Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Lightwave Community CIO

The examiner has reported on the accounts of the Lightwave Community CIO ("the CIO") for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 19 to 20.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The CIO's Trustees (The Lightwave Community Council) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is the Independent Examiner's responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to his attention that need to be brought to the attention of the Trustees.

7.3.1 Basis of Independent Examiner's report

The examination was carried out in accordance with the 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:

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 2011 Act; and*
 - *to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.*

Signed:

Richard Turner

27th April 2022

Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA)

Ipswich, Suffolk

THE LIGHTWAVE COMMUNITY CIO

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Receipts and Payments Accounts (£)

Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	TOTAL YTD 2021	ACCOUNTS 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Voluntary receipts						
Grants from external bodies	-	-	32,506	-	32,506	6,800
Regular Donations	1	-	27,119	-	27,119	8,449
One-off individual donations	152	-	6,017	-	6,169	8,986
Gift aid recovered	7	-	2,756	-	2,763	1,498
Other	97	-	937	-	1,034	-
	257	-	69,335	-	69,592	25,733
Activities for generating funds						
Red Lodge Café donations	-	-	13,698	-	13,698	4,722
KickStart DWP Funding	-	-	9,314	-	9,314	-
Safe Harbour Basic Life Shop donations	-	-	4,512	-	4,512	-
Events and Activities incl. Training	2,531	-	-	-	2,531	-
Church Activities						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	2,788	-	96,859	-	99,647	30,456
Payments						
Church activities						
Red Lodge General Expenses	-	-	12,665	-	12,665	2,934
Red Lodge Café running expenses	-	-	8,914	-	8,914	2,680
Red Lodge foodbank etc.	-	-	26,566	-	26,566	2,923
Lightwave Group Costs	-	-	11,840	-	11,840	5,450
Safe Harbour - SHOP	-	-	6,039	-	6,039	-
Lightwave Emerge Hub	-	-	374	-	374	-
Other	3,212	-	-	-	3,212	155
TOTAL PAYMENTS	3,212	-	66,398	-	69,609	14,142
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	(424)	-	30,461	-	30,038	16,314
Balance Brought Forward at 1 Jan 2021	532	-	15,885	-	16,417	103
Balance Carried Forward at 31 Dec 2021	109	-	46,346	-	46,455	16,417

Statement of Assets (£)

Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	TOTAL 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds					
Cash held in CAF Bank Lightwave Community CIO Main Account	109	-	22,160	-	22,268
Cash held in CAF Bank Lightwave Community CIO Red Lodge Account	-	-	23,954	-	23,954
Cash held by DBF in Board Trusts for Lightwave	-	-	232	-	232
TOTAL CASH HELD	109	-	46,346	-	46,455

NOTES

Income

- 1 Profile of regular giving At December 2021 was as follows:

	Donors	Total Monthly Amount
502G - Lightwave - Red Lodge-General	5	1,399
503 - Lightwave - Otley	3	638
504 - Lightwave - Farm by the Water	5	360
505 - Lightwave - Safe Harbour	8	480
TOTAL	21	2,877

Expenditure/Liabilities

- 2 £11,400 is owned to the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Board of Finance as an agreed contribution from Red Lodge (Café and General funds) which will be transferred in the first half of 2022.

General

- 3 The financial statements of the Lightwave Community CIO have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis as outlined here: <https://www.parishresources.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/example.pdf>
- 4 Only donations and expenditure for the Lightwave Community CIO (and those transferred from the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Board of Finance given specifically for the work of Lightwave) are included

- 5 The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were as follows. Some further movements (e.g. to offset negative balance in Lightwave General Fund) will be made in 2022. Note that there have minor movements between funds carried forward from 2020 to reflect the latest position.

Fund	£	Bal B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Bal C/fwd £	Comment
Restricted						
502G - Lightwave - Red Lodge-General		4,554	16,667	12,665	8,557	General use for Red Lodge Hub
502R - Lightwave - Red Lodge-Local Relief		2,391	33,142	26,566	8,967	Restricted as per Grants to Red Lodge
502C - Lightwave - Red Lodge-Café		1,996	13,831	8,914	6,913	Red Lodge Café
503 - Lightwave - Otley		4,542	8,400	374	12,568	General use for Emerge Hub
504 - Lightwave - Farm by the Water - General		246	10,315	8,709	1,852	General use for Place by the Water Group
504 - Lightwave - Farm by the Water - Covid Relief		2,000	-	-	2,000	Restricted as per Grant conditions
505 - Lightwave - Safe Harbour		-	4,447	2,859	1,589	General use for Safe Harbour Group
505 - Lightwave - Safe Harbour - SHOP		-	9,512	6,039	3,474	Safe Harbour Pop-up Shop
506 - Pilgrims Together		-	544	272	272	Donations to group to pass on
		15,730	96,859	66,398	46,191	
Unrestricted						
501 - Lightwave - General		687	2,788	3,212	264	
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		16,417	99,647	69,609	46,455	

8 Glossary/Definitions

BMO	Bishop's Mission Order , the order made under which the Lightwave Community is formed as a formal mission initiative of the Church of England, under part 7 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.
CIO	The Lightwave Community Charitable Incorporated Organisation
DBF	Diocesan Board of Finance of the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich (the charity which administers the work of the Diocese)
GiGitC	Growing in God in the Countryside – the name of the project funded by the DBF and the SDF which has established Lightwave as a Community
Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community	The alternative name for the Lightwave Community
SDF	Strategic Development Fund of the Church of England from which funds have been granted for the GiGitC project
SDU	Strategic Development Unit which administers the SDF
New Disciple	This is defined as faith explorers / disciples not engaging in church regularly in 2018 now participating in some form of church at least monthly.