

CHRISTIAN
CONFERENCE
TRUST

IMPACT REPORT

Enabling Christian Ministry
Since 1910



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THE HAYES

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hayes@cct.org.uk



HIGH LEIGH

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Hertfordshire EN11 8SG
01992 463016
highleigh@cct.org.uk

Message from the Chief Executive

Dear Brothers & Sisters

Thank you for reading our first-ever Impact Report!

As a charity we exist to promote the Christian faith, so we thought it would be good to share with you how we have been doing that and our plans for the future.

We have much to thank God for during the last year, not least for his sustaining and protection over our centres which were open for the whole year for the first time since 2019. Since re-opening after the pandemic over 640 church groups and Christian organisations have enjoyed the blessing of a residential conference at one of our centres, with tens of thousands of men, women and young people gathering together to worship and praise God.

We thanked God too in 2022 for one hundred years of conferencing at High Leigh, and celebrated our centenary with Christian leaders from across Christendom gathering with us to thank God for his hand over the centre since 1922 and to ask for his blessing for the next hundred years.

During the year The Hayes partnered with leading Christian environmental charity A Rocha UK. This has led to investment in many biodiversity initiatives including the introduction of two colonies of bees. Guests can now enjoy "The Hayes Honey" with their breakfast, collected straight from our beehives!

We recently completed the centenary tower at High Leigh, a £1m investment which enables all our first-floor meeting rooms to be fully accessible for our guests for the first time ever.

Over the past year more than 450 people benefitted from our bursary fund, set up to bless guests who may otherwise not have been able to experience residential conferencing because of financial disadvantage.

We thank God for our staff team. We employ over 250 staff, most of whom live in our local communities. As a staff team it is our joy to serve each and every one of our guests, and we describe ourselves as "servant hearted, history makers".



As we look prayerfully to the future, our vision is to serve the Christian family with beautiful venues and great hospitality, to see ministry flourish. We are exploring the possibility of opening new centres in the future so we can serve more Christians across the UK. As we do this, please pray that as a trustee board and executive team we may have much wisdom, insight and courage.

We value you all and pray you may know the Lord's continuing blessing on your own ministries and we look forward to continuing to serve you at Christian Conference Trust.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Heason". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Chief Executive

Our impact

96^K
VISITORS
IN 2022



£7^M
TURNOVER

**FIVE-STAR
RATED
ON
REVIEWS.IO**



131
NEW CHRISTIAN
GROUPS
WELCOMED
SINCE REOPENING
IN 2021

643
CHRISTIAN
GROUPS HAVE
STAYED WITH
US SINCE
REOPENING

271,992
MEALS SERVED



348,150
CUPS OF COFFEE
SERVED



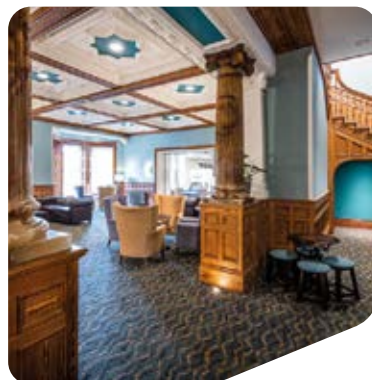
**OVER
450**
BENEFITED
FROM OUR
BURSARY FUND
IN 2022



Our offering

415
ENSUITE
BEDROOMS

48
MEETING SPACES



**CHATSWORTH
DINING ROOM
REFURBISHED
AT THE HAYES**

**BROWN
LOUNGE
RESTORED
TO FORMER
SPLENDOUR
AT THE HAYES**

£1_M
SPENT ON NEW
MEETING ROOMS,
DISABLED ACCESS
AT HIGH LEIGH



188
ACRES
OF LAND

**SITE-WIDE
INVESTMENTS
IN ENVIRONMENT
AND BIODIVERSITY**

250
LOCAL STAFF
EMPLOYED



Our mission

We serve the Christian family with beautiful venues and great hospitality to see the Church flourish.

For over 100 years we have been helping Christian groups to promote the faith by enabling people to gather together for conferences, retreats and meetings. We provide a safe space in which to meet, learn, worship, share and pray. At our venues you'll find an experienced, supportive team that understands Christian

groups and is sensitive to what they need. We're also committed to being accessible and affordable, providing all-inclusive accommodation at unbeatable prices, so everyone can get involved. Millions have benefitted from the warm welcome and excellent facilities that we offer.



OVER
8^M
CHRISTIANS
BENEFITED
SINCE 1910



112
YEARS
OF SERVICE

**NOT FOR
PROFIT
CHARITABLE
ORGANISATION**

**FULLY-CATERED
GROUP RETREATS**

**QUALITY
FACILITIES,
EXPERIENCED
TEAM**

**HALF THE PRICE
OF COMMERCIAL
VENUES***

*see cct.org.uk/about-us

Who we serve

We love the diversity of the Church and its many vibrant expressions of Christian faith.

We welcome all denominations and all groups to enjoy gathering with us, whatever their age, background, or tradition.

Our venues facilitate the specific needs of each of our guests.

We welcome and serve:



**CHURCH
FAMILY
RETREATS**

**CHURCH
LEADERSHIP
MEETINGS**

**TEAM
BUILDING
GATHERINGS**

**ALPHA
WEEKENDS**

**CHRISTIAN
TRAINING**
(e.g. Christian
counselling,
pastoral training,
Bible colleges)

**DAY
VISITS AND
RESIDENTIALS**

**YOUTH
GROUPS**

**BIBLE
STUDY
BREAKS**

**MEN'S
AND
WOMEN'S
RETREATS**





“

It was a delight to run our council summit with you this year. It was my first time organising and managing a conference, and I felt so blessed and supported by your whole team. The front desk staff, the kitchen staff - everyone!

“

I've found their booking staff extremely professional and helpful! I find their prices very reasonable, and I like that the cost they gave me was all-inclusive. Meals, accommodation and a conference room are all included in the price I was given.

“

Because they are a Christian conference charity, they understood well what makes us tick as a mission organisation... When we arrived, everything was exactly as we hoped... We can't recommend them enough. Superb!

TESTIMONIALS

“

A great conference centre in a really beautiful area. The food is especially great... there are lovely grounds to explore and the location is at the heart of beautiful countryside. A great venue for a good value conference.

“

Our church office had a fabulous time at our residential at High Leigh and we are already planning for 2023! Thanks so much to all the staff!

“

Staff politely answer questions and patiently clarify any confusion. They desire to help their customers set up a memorable visit to any of their centres and seem happy to go the extra mile to make it happen and to be the best it can. We are really looking forward to our next visit.

“A place of tranquility and beauty, where we can easily feel the peace of God”

“Chinese Overseas Christian Mission (COCM) is a mission organisation reaching Chinese people in Europe with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Since January 2021 thousands of Hong Kong immigrants have come to the UK to make their home here on a new visa route. We wanted to bring Hong Kong families together for community and encouragement, to give them practical, emotional and spiritual support.

We needed a place suitable for a large number of families to enjoy and bond together. We needed to run separate programmes for adults, youth and children, which called for multiple spaces. Quality catering was vital, and we needed it all at an affordable price. That’s why we chose The Hayes – we had been before and it left a great impression.

Booking was simple, especially thanks to Sales Manager Gemma who was incredibly helpful and accommodating, giving us confidence whenever we were unsure. Visiting the site we were really impressed by the facilities, from the number of rooms to tech support to the diverse range of food.

The event was a weekend conference with over 260 adults, young people and children – it was a great success. With the

excellent facilities we had, we ran different sessions of worship, Bible talks, workshops, men’s and women’s nights, a youth music night and all sorts of group activities. We also loved the leisure time with each other in the beautiful gardens and comfortable lounges.

The teaching was about walking with God and with one another, knowing that we are strangers in this world and heaven is our eternal home. Half the guests were new immigrants to the UK – they were encouraged that this journey from Hong Kong is under the sovereign plan of God. They are not alone, God will guide them, and as Christians we will all love and support each other.

The guests told us they felt relaxed and reassured by the teaching and community provided. New relationships were formed thanks to this conference. The majority of those who filled in the feedback survey said they would come again to a similar event, so we have booked on for next year and are looking at booking 2024 too!

The Hayes is our first choice of Christian conference centre for large-group programmes and I will certainly recommend it. It’s a place of tranquillity and beauty, where we can easily feel the

peace of God and one another. The all-inclusive price package also gave us great value and peace of mind. *Thank you!*”

LAWRENCE SIN, COCM

“

The Hayes is our first choice of Christian conference centre for large-group programs and I will certainly recommend it.



“

New relationships were formed thanks to this conference.

Our bursary fund

2022 Achievements

£38_K
OF BURSARY
FUNDING
AWARDED

OVER
450
PEOPLE
BENEFITTED

57
CHURCHES
OR CHRISTIAN
GROUPS
RECEIVED
FUNDING

“TREASURE IN HEAVEN”

“We host a bi-annual conference for the ladies of the Christian Motorcyclists Association. Every time there are those who have absolutely no funds, and no hope of raising the funds to attend the event. We have a policy that money should not be the issue to receive God’s blessings and so we set out to fund all or part of their attendance.

“We were advised by one of the team from Christian Conference Trust that there is a bursary available and we were delighted to receive this funding, which added to our own and allowed us to be able to bless every lady that applied to attend the conference, no matter what their need was (full or part funding).

“Thank you so much to the Christian Conference Trust; with the bursary, we have never turned a lady down due to lack of funds. Those living in difficult circumstances have been able to be refreshed by three days of drawing closer to God, challenges from Scripture, receiving prayer and counselling – that is treasure in heaven. There is great value in women gathering together and sharing a common passion to serve God in CMA’s ministry.”

SANDY ANGEL-JONES-FITTON
CMA UK LADIES CONFERENCE LEADER & COORDINATOR



Loving our community

We prioritise community and relationships – and not just at our venues. We work for the good of our local communities and are committed to ethical practice that supports those we work with overseas.

We employ locally, bringing opportunities for meaningful work and professional growth to our nearby communities.

We have strong relationships with local churches and actively seek to support them. We work with those further away too – we're a member of Christian Residential Network

– an umbrella association that represents Christian conference centres, retreats and adventure centres across the UK.

Wherever possible, our food and beverages are sourced from fair trade, rainforest secured and child labour free suppliers. We work in partnership with our coffee supplier, Paddy & Scott,

to support the children of farmers in coffee-growing countries of the world. Every bag of Lunch Box Coffee we buy provides a school meal for children in coffee growing regions, so that they can focus on studying and not where their next meal is coming from. In 2022 we provided 8,112 school meals for children who needed them.



Loving our environment

We're committed to sustainability, biodiversity and creation care. We want to wisely steward the beautiful grounds we have, preserving them for future generations, and we're committed to reducing carbon emissions as we play our part in looking after the planet.

We source as much locally produced food as possible, buying in-season produce, reducing the amount of food miles, helping to lower carbon emissions and supporting local farms and businesses. At our centres, we have even created our own gardens so that we can grow and pick fresh herbs every day for our guests to enjoy.

We are eliminating single use plastics throughout our centres. Bathroom amenities come in recycled plastic containers, your coffee will be poured in a reusable mug and we encourage our guests to turn down radiators and heaters in rooms and turn off lights when they are not in use, to save energy.

We've replaced 2,000 lightbulbs with eco-friendly alternatives over the last 2 years as well as switching to 100% renewable electricity. We encourage our staff to cycle to work by providing bike racks, and enable our guests to arrive in environmentally cleaner vehicles

by providing electric charging points. We have installed several hundred solar panels and two new air-source heat-pumps to increase our renewable energy use and purchased picnic benches made from recycled plastic bottle tops.

Our centres are set in 188 acres of mature grounds, which include lakes, streams, woodland, countryside and farmland. To encourage nature conservation, we have created wildlife spaces including wild play areas, nest and bug boxes, new wetland, non-mowed wilding

areas and compost heaps for grass cuttings and uncooked waste fruit and vegetables and other garden waste. In 2022, we planted 400 trees and 300m of hedgerow and installed two beehives within the grounds of our conference centres.

We are developing new nesting and roosting sites for threatened and declining birds and animals, which help to increase our biodiversity and encourage younger visitors to explore and enquire. We love our environment and it's a privilege to care for it.

400 TREES
AND
300_M
OF HEDGEROW
PLANTED IN 2022

**PARTNER IN
ACTION WITH
A ROCHA**

188
ACRES OF GARDENS,
LAKES AND
COUNTRYSIDE

350
SOLAR PANELS
60,000
SHEETS OF PAPER
SAVED BY USING
E-DOCUMENTS

**EXTENSIVE
WILDING AREAS
INTRODUCED**
80,000
BEES MAKING
HONEY

**OVER
2,000**
ECO LIGHT BULBS
FITTED, USING
100% RENEWABLE
ELECTRICITY

A legacy for the next 100 years

We're proud to say we've been hosting Christian conferences for over 100 years, and we're passionate about building a lasting legacy for the next century.

We've served Christians throughout the many challenges and changes of the past century, and want to continue that work for future generations, supporting the church of tomorrow in all its rich diversity. We want to see ministry flourish and to encourage you in your mission by facilitating the powerful connections that come from in-person gatherings. We long to see the church grow in number and in depth, and we're committed to partnering with you to see God's Kingdom flourish.

We have two fantastic centres that we're constantly upgrading to enable the best possible guest experience. Whether it's reinvigorating the dining experience with new catering

teams, making our centres more environmentally sustainable, or refurbishing bedrooms and meeting spaces, we're committed to improving our centres so we can better serve our guests.

We also want to expand the number of centres we run, so that we can serve more Christians with accessible, affordable, excellent spaces across the UK. Right now we are actively looking for suitable venues and locations to reach the church where it is growing most.

We're immensely proud of our teams who make the guest experience possible, and we want to continue to grow and invest in them, offering training opportunities that help them grow

and flourish. We're committed to each of our staff feeling valued and supported as they serve at Christian Conference Trust.

We're a financially stable organisation with a strong board of trustees and executive team. With our rich history and ministry-led vision, we're excited for what the future holds and the Kingdom legacy we leave. As you consider your own legacy we would ask you to prayerfully consider making a bequest to Christian Conference Trust so that we can continue to invest in our centres for the next generation of Christian residential ministry.





100 years ago, Robert Barclay left the living legacy of High Leigh to enable Christian conferencing...

With your help, we can open new venues, refurbish our centres, build new large meeting halls and prepare for the needs of the next generation of believers.

**COULD YOU
LEAVE A LEGACY
TO THE TRUST?**

Find out more at
cct.org.uk/support-us

**CHRISTIAN
CONFERENCE
TRUST**

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