

ACORN
CHRISTIAN
HEALING
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

AND APPEAL 2020

Ministry and Skills For The Journey of Christian Healing



WELCOME

Thanks to your belief and support in Acorn, we have a lot to share with you from this year.

We hope to encourage you by letting you know what we have been up to this year. It is thanks to your gracious generosity that we are able to not only continue, but **develop**, Acorn's ministry. It has been an exceptionally tough year for everyone, however, we have seen light and hope restored in people throughout. To see people receiving God's healing love is a gift, and we want to take a moment to thank you for journeying together with us.

This report aims to update you on the following:

- **Leadership and Staff**
- **Strategic Development**
- **Operational Development**
- **Areas of Encouragement**
- **Achievements**
- **2021 Development**
- **Christmas Appeal 2020**

"PLEASE DO KEEP GOING. JUST KNOWING YOU ARE THERE TO GO TO IS MORE COMFORTING AND HELPFUL THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW. THANK YOU". - GUEST AT DIGITAL EVENT

LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Do you remember the first member of staff you met at Acorn? For some it might be our Director, Rev. Wes Sutton, sharing a teaching. For others it might be the lovely Jo Walker, making contact and helping you feel welcome from start to finish at an event. We are blessed with an incredible staff and volunteer team who are passionate about God.

Please take a moment to get to know our small but mighty staff team. After all, it is fun to learn new things about one another!

My name is Dee Marshall, I'm based at home in Bordon and I am the Financial Controller for Acorn. I really love cooking, baking, walking and photography - most of which I've indulged in during lockdown.

I've been really grateful for the great team I work with enjoying Zoom meetings during this quite isolating time, I feel I'm a part of a well oiled, dedicated team put together by God.



Hi, I'm Howard, Acorn's National Training Manager. I am currently based in Kent, where I share a home with Lani, our daughter Danielle, and Sasha, our long haired cat. I am thrilled to have met people from all over the country, and indeed the world, through training via Zoom this year, I am renowned for my love of large mochas (with cream, of course)!



Hi, my name is Lisa Edge! I am Director of Operations at Acorn, and I'm based in Wiltshire. I love putting on a record and cooking, especially to Frank Sinatra. This year at Acorn I have really enjoyed moving into the digital arena, we've served new people and I've enjoyed the challenge of something new.



My name is Jo Walker and I am the Events Coordinator at Acorn, based in Hampshire. This year I've enjoyed being able to reach more people with our events. Although the pandemic has caused a huge amount of stress and disruption it has also enabled people worldwide to be able to attend our events. Since lockdown I have started to explore cooking a little more - I'm starting small and will see where it takes me!



My name is Wes Sutton, married to Dr Mary, we live in Midhurst in West Sussex. I am the Director of Acorn which means that I get to lead a great staff team and a highly gifted team of volunteer prayer 'ministers'. I am an amateur cellist, and once hung by my feet 100 feet up in the air from a crane! (but not whilst playing the cello). I have enjoyed seeing the whole team grow this year and seeing how the healing ministry of Jesus has impacted so many people - body, mind and spirit - even in these strange days.



STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2017/18 we took the decision to establish 4 regional Acorn centres, over a five-year period, and this remains an essential part of our vision to operate as a national agency in promoting the Christian Healing ministry in its full expression. This decision was prompted by the need to ensure that Acorn did not remain 'southern-centric' but could develop meaningful access to its ministry across the UK. The initial intention was that from a strong central base we would be able to resource another four regional centres.

With the strategy taking a significant and unexpected turn during 2018/19 due to Acorn moving out of its residential base, the way in which we approached the strategy of establishing 4 regional centres over a five-year period needed to be reviewed. Our regular events found homes in Surrey-based venues – St Alban's Church in Hindhead, and Guildford Cathedral. In 2019, regular evening healing services were being held in partnership with Emmanuel Church, Guildford. The decision to stop Recalibrate and Healing Life's Wounds in Haslemere was made in Spring 2019 so that more of a focus could be given to Acorn's regular events.

Our leadership continued to build on natural relationships across the UK to establish regional bowls. Locations that we began to build on were Cornwall, Essex, and Leicester. As well as this, our listening training had the team providing events across the UK, with regular events taking place with organisations in Luton and Birmingham. Like this, Wes accepted an invitation to a conference as a Keynote Speaker from the Order of St Luke in Australia.

Towards the end of 2019, a natural opportunity and relationship with contacts in Leicester Diocese gave us the opportunity to run regular events at St Martin's House, a conference and events venue run by the Diocese of Leicester. This was part of the strategy of implementing the first of four bowls nationally. Starting in January 2020, Acorn was providing a second School of Healing every first Saturday of the month in Leicester.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

Due to unforeseen circumstances with COVID-19, we were no longer able to meet in person and all events were moved to digital platforms. The circumstances, which have proven to be long term, have meant that the bowl strategy has had to be reshaped. Regular events began to be produced for online running and distribution, as well as new relevant events and training being written and delivered, especially in response to the way that COVID-19 is impacting people's lives.

Once beginning this new way of providing events and resources, it was recognised by the staff and Trustees that Acorn was **meeting a wider demographic, providing more events, and being more accessible to others.**

The Board of Trustees agreed that developing the digital aspect of Acorn would be beneficial to the charity as well as those who use its resources, both nationally and internationally. This is an area that will continue to be developed whatever the direction of COVID-19 takes the country, and a focus that can help Acorn reach its vision of having regional 'bowls' (ministry centres) across the UK.

The support of all of our donors has meant that we have been able to develop the digital production and delivery of our resources, a very crucial step for Acorn in the current climate.



OPERATIONAL CHANGES

Naturally, with life being interrupted this year for everyone, we have had to adapt accordingly.

We succeeded within a matter of a few weeks from national lockdown in March to provide the following events regularly, online via Zoom and YouTube:

- **Live @11** (previously held at St Alban's Church, Hindhead)
- **Two, monthly Schools of Healing** (previously held at Guildford Cathedral and St Martin's House, Leicester)
- **Listening training modules** open to the public and for private bookings (previously held for private groups only)
- **New ministry events every other month**
- **Weekly podcasts**
- **Daily meditations and free downloads**

- **Online staff meetings and volunteer prayer meetings**
- **Purchasable downloads.**

Since operating digitally, we have been working in more **diverse locations** both around the UK and internationally. It feels wise, and more effective, to provide easily accessible resources that people can access from the comfort of their own home or chosen location.

Operating digitally still allows us to respond to invitations from organisations, either by running private bookings online, going to their venue (when safe to do so), and by joining digitally.

In June 2020, Jo Walker, who many of you know well, reduced her hours to three days a week. Jo has served faithfully for many years at Acorn and she continues to serve with such joy and compassion, while now also being able to spend more time with her growing family.

As well as this, we were thrilled to have freelance Photographer, Chris Orange, join the team in May 2020 on a temporary contract. Chris has played a crucial part in developing the digital production of Acorn and we are so grateful for his expertise. Without his time and knowledge, we would not be able to provide all that we have this year. Your support has also made it possible for Chris to be on the team during this season - for that, and for you, we are grateful.

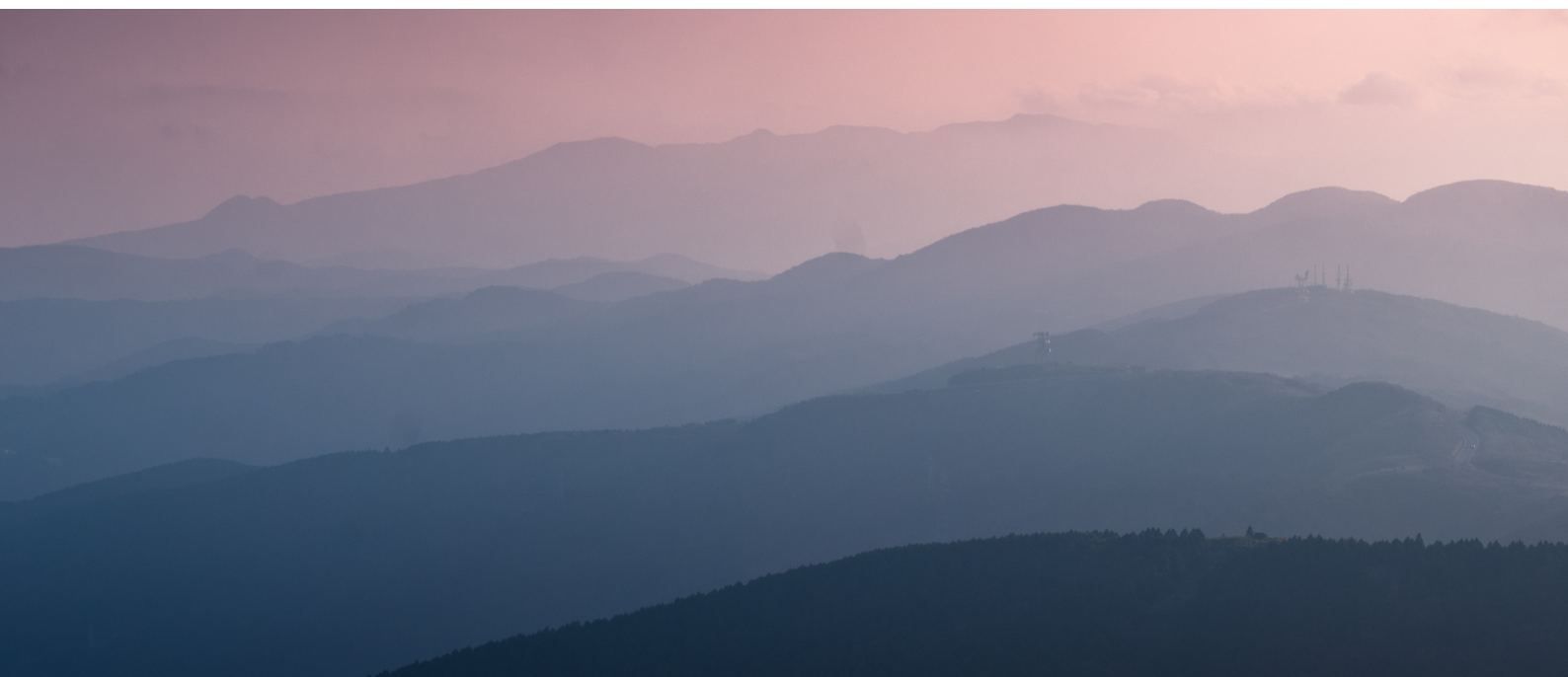
AREAS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

There is much to be encouraged about, as well as continued challenges to face. The morale of the staff and the prayer ministry team remains strong, if not stronger than a year ago. The team have adapted well to the digital software being used for ministry. We are seeing regular guests attending many events and being positively impacted by new resources. Acorn continues to have a growing presence and impact, and we are **increasing our efforts** to place Acorn before more people and be prepared to take on new forms of ministry, and in new locations on different platforms.

"Thank you so much for all of your efforts to make this ministry digital. it has been an incredible help and encouragement during this strange season!"

**"THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR CONCERTED EFFORTS
IN PRAYING FOR THOSE IN NEED. I AM SINCERELY GRATEFUL".**

"Thank you Wes and the Acorn team for what you have done and are doing in providing such a varied and rich on-line programme. I was particularly impacted by the Grief & Loss course and have enjoyed 'Coffee Pods'".



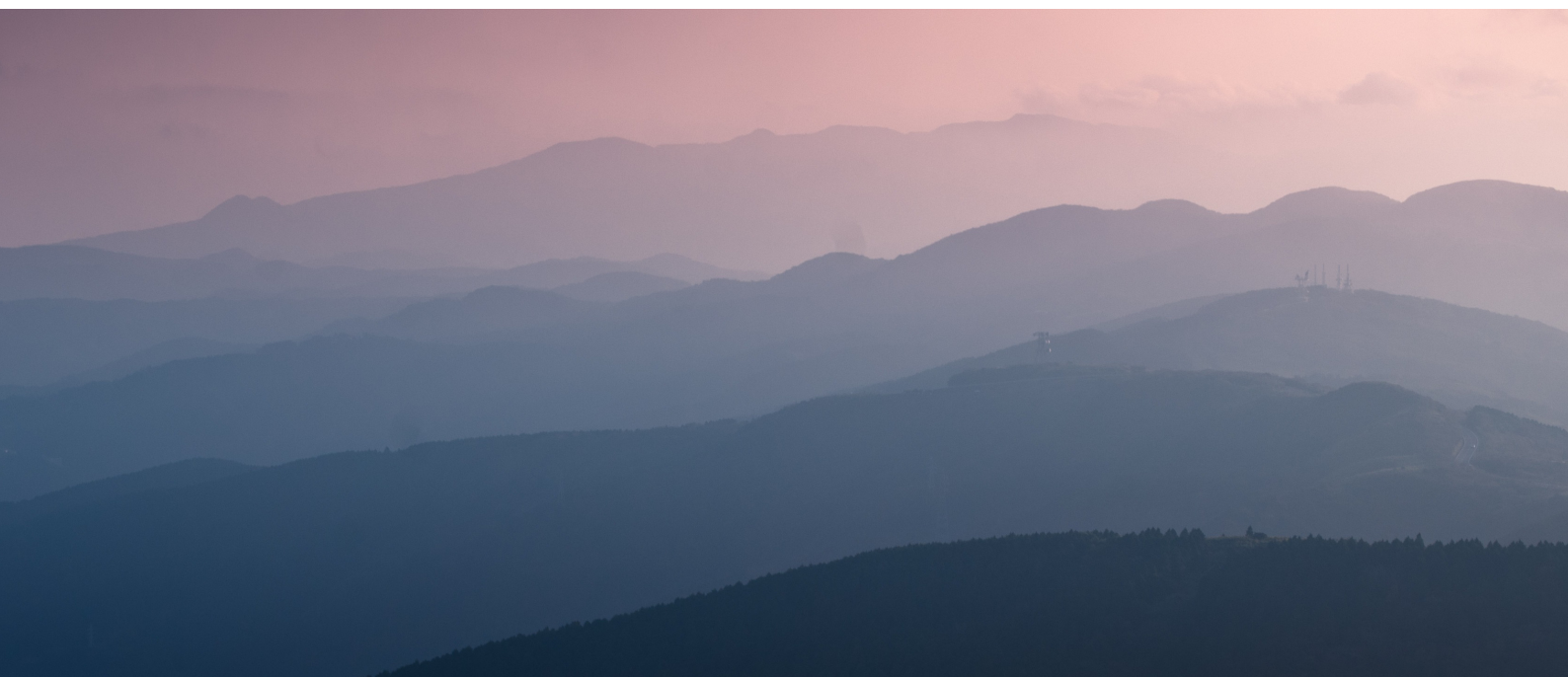
ACHIEVEMENTS

Just some of our achievements this year.

Guildford Healing Conference 2020 - what a wonderful time! With around 150 guests attending, as well as guest speakers, Bishop James Newcome (Bishop of Carlisle and Acorn's Patron), and Rev Paul Harcourt (Director of New Wine UK), the day was greatly received by all. Topics such as healing and the NHS, wellbeing, listening, nurturing mental health, and healing stories; guests left with a toolkit in ministry and skills for the journey of Christian healing. We enjoyed working alongside the Diocese of Guildford and Guildford Cathedral, strengthening an already joyful partnership.

Delivered a seminar at New Wine Conference 2019 - Wes spoke at the New Wine Conference on Reconciliation, a great opportunity for us to be exposed to a wider demographic. He had a great time!

Successfully launched and established a second School of Healing in central England - We are thrilled to have started this school in Leicester once a month (now taking place online due to social restrictions). This location makes the event more accessible for many people who are familiar with Acorn.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Established evening Healing Services to facilitate access for those working or with day time commitments – Until national lockdown in March, we had been running two, evening services - one in Hindhead and one in Guildford. Both these services have strengthened new partnerships within Guildford Diocese and have provided a service that guests can attend who couldn't necessarily attend a day time service. We are aware that many who were previously attending are now tuning in online to Live @11.

Acorn's Training Programme available online, both live and via downloads – this is now fully available online, live and downloadable, with further digital downloads in production.

Developed a fresh resource for churches supporting people with anxiety – We ran our first live, digital resource called 'Do Not Be Anxious' in 2020. Around 20 guests attended, and it is a resource that we aim to run again in the future.

Expanded the Acorn Volunteer Team – we are pleased to say that we have had four new individuals join the prayer team, all who are actively serving Acorn and those we are in contact with.

Responded to the restrictions that COVID-19 caused - as mentioned before, we have successfully managed to provide all of our regular events and resources throughout the pandemic, while continually developing our operations. We are humbled by the guest feedback during this year.



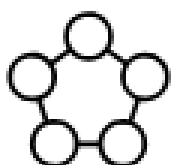
**Zoom in
to Listen**

2021 DEVELOPMENT

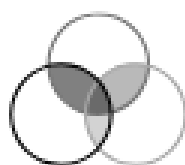
Some of our focus areas for 2021, while still providing our core events and resources.

- Provide a new digital resource, introducing you to the Christian healing ministry. In nine, one hour online sessions we take a look at some of the key issues that we all encounter when we minister in Jesus' name. Available from April 2021 as a downloadable resource that you can access at a time that suits you, as an individual or part of a group. More details to follow soon!
- Acorn Multisite - we will be providing events that you can access as part of your community or as an individual, alongside other groups across the country and the world! We will provide training on a number of topics relating to Christian healing from a central location, which you can access via Zoom with your group. The beauty of this event delivery is that when it comes to the times of ministry, you will be able to minister to one another in your group with people you know - putting into practice what we've been learning!
- Equip volunteers to deliver online training on behalf of Acorn - we have been working with a number of volunteers to work with us on delivering Acorn ministry and training, we are so grateful for their willingness and look forward to you meeting them at some of our events.
- Develop and shape our events to fit well with both the digital and face to face elements. It's really important to us that all of our events are accessible, so we are continually working on the development of the ministry so that it is accessible and effective when we are able to safely meet in person.

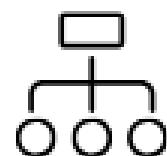
ACORN



Digital



Face to Face



Multi-site

The page is decorated with several clusters of green holly leaves and red berries scattered around the text.

Acorn Christmas Appeal 2020

**"Even during a season of severe difficulty and tremendous suffering, they became even more filled with joy".
2 Corinthians 8:3**

It has been a challenging, difficult year for everyone. We understand that you, and your friends and family may have lost jobs, are battling health issues, and have been separated from family this year. We are in a season of difficulty, and for some - suffering. Even popping to the shops for milk has become more difficult! Our anchors have been removed and we are having to sail in new waters.

During this season at Acorn we desire to first dedicate ourselves fully to the Lord. By His grace we are able to serve with abundant joy and be generous towards others in ministry. Because of your gracious generosity we are able to walk with individuals and communities in their crisis and hardships, while also equipping others to do the same. We are seeing hope restored in people's lives, physical healings take place, and people feeling confident and equipped to minister healing to others in Jesus' name.

You may not be able to support Acorn financially this Christmas, and that is okay!

2 Corinthians 8 draws us into a joyful understanding of giving and generosity, especially in times like this, and it has helped us as a team sail the new waters with a little more ease. There's two life giving nuggets that are highlighted in this passage, let's take a quick look (we are going to go backwards!).

1. Dedicate ourselves fully to the Lord (8:5-7)

The Macedonians **first** dedicated themselves fully to the Lord, and then to the ministry. Generosity came from the overflow of their joy in the Lord; and where the generosity is distributed to came second.

2. Out of crisis, joy and generosity prevailed (8:3-5)

How were they able to give with "extravagant generosity" in a time of crisis? They knew the grace unto them by God and in an act of worship to Him desired to extend this to others - "super-abundant joy overflowed into an act of extravagant generosity". The circumstances didn't stop their generosity because the joy of the Lord was greater. The amount was not necessary, for "if the intention and desire are there, the size of the gift doesn't matter". (vs 12). Maybe this enabled them to give so joyfully?

Our prayer for you and for Acorn this Christmas is that in first dedicating ourselves fully to the Lord we may know His joy; and may that joy overflow into generosity! Generosity that reveals the goodness of God to others and draws them into His presence.

How Can I Help?

The affects of COVID-19 were unexpected and have been long lasting for us at Acorn, like they have been for many. We are continually adapting and developing as a charity based on new Government and medical advice, as well as to the needs of those that we interact with. However, in the difficulties that we have faced, we have been amazed and humbled by the grace of God.

We thought that it would be helpful to share with you how COVID-19 has affected Acorn, and how your support can enable us to continue being generous to others.

- **Unable to hold events in person since mid March 2020.** For many, our regular ministry events are a source of **community and fellowship**. Many who attend fall into the vulnerable people group and became very isolated. It is important to us to make sure that the regular ministry events and resources are available online so that individuals feel connected again. Your financial support means that we can provide accessible events and resources online.

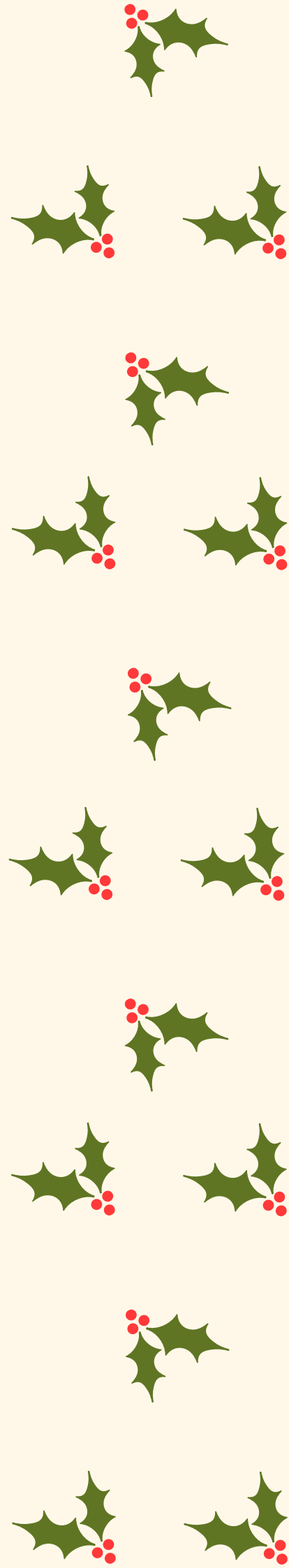
- **Did you know that to produce and provide online resources, almost each resource requires it's own software subscription?** As well as these costs, there are new licensing and equipment costs that we didn't have before. When you attend a paid event or make a donation to Acorn it helps pay towards the running costs of our resources.

- **Additional staff.** As mentioned in our Annual Report, to be able to provide quality digital events and resources, and to be able to develop moving forward, we have hired a freelance Photographer who has the knowledge and expertise to help us become more accessible. Without Chris being on the team during this season and as we move into the New Year, we would have struggled to deliver ministry and skills for the journey of Christian healing. Thanks to Chris being on the team, and your support, we are able to improve our presence and ministry in response to the current climate.

- **Some Charitable Trusts have reduced their financial support.** COVID-19 has effected everyone financially, and in response to this some of the regular Charitable Trusts that support us had to reduce their giving. This meant that we have had to find other ways of producing the income that we had originally budgeted. As a charity, we do not make profit, so we have not increased the price of our events or resources. Instead we have aimed to provide more events in a short amount of time, and this takes its toll on the team. We have had to look at the calendar for 2021 and only schedule in what we can realistically achieve. The generosity that you share with us will mean that we don't need to try and function on overdrive, and potentially cause burn out among the team.

- **Bookings prior to lockdown were cancelled.** Thankfully not all, but some! Not all groups want to run their training event via Zoom and would rather wait until it's safe to meet in person, resulting in cancelled bookings. Unfortunately this means that the forecast income for Acorn has been affected. When you choose to donate to Acorn, you are helping these occurances hit us a little lighter.

- **Expenditure will increase.** As we head into 2021 and hopefully able to meet in person, our expenditure will increase. We will have venue hire, travel, and equipment costs (plus others!), in addition to our current operational costs. It is important to us to continue both digitally as well as face to face. The new costs that we have incurred this year will not go when we can meet face to face. The donations that you make to Acorn will enable us to provide **multiple access points** to Acorn's ministry - Digital, Face to Face, and Multisite. We believe that this will make our ministry accessible to more people across the world.



Ways to Support



You can support Acorn by making an electronic bank transfer, online via our giving page, or by cheque. Details for each of these giving platforms are listed below. Thank you.

Giving via Acorn's Online Giving Page - Give.net

This is the easiest way for you to support Acorn financially and for us to receive the funds. Don't forget to tick the Gift Aid box if you are eligible, it really does make a difference!

Head to www.give.net/AcornCF and donate your desired amount.

Giving via Electronic Bank Transfer

You can make a donation to Acorn by bank transfer. Please include reference '2020Appeal' in your donation and let us know whether Gift Aid can be claimed. Simply complete the enclosed Gift Aid declaration form and return it to us at the address at the bottom of the page.

Bank Account Name: Acorn Christian Foundation
Account number: 00007115
Sort Code: 40-52-40

Giving via Cheque

Cheques made out to 'Acorn Christian Foundation ' can be posted to:

Acorn Christian c/o Emmaus Chartered Accountants
Westmead House
Farnborough
GU14 7LP

Please complete the enclosed Gift Aid form and include it with your donation if you are eligible to claim.

Thank you for your generosity.
Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!

