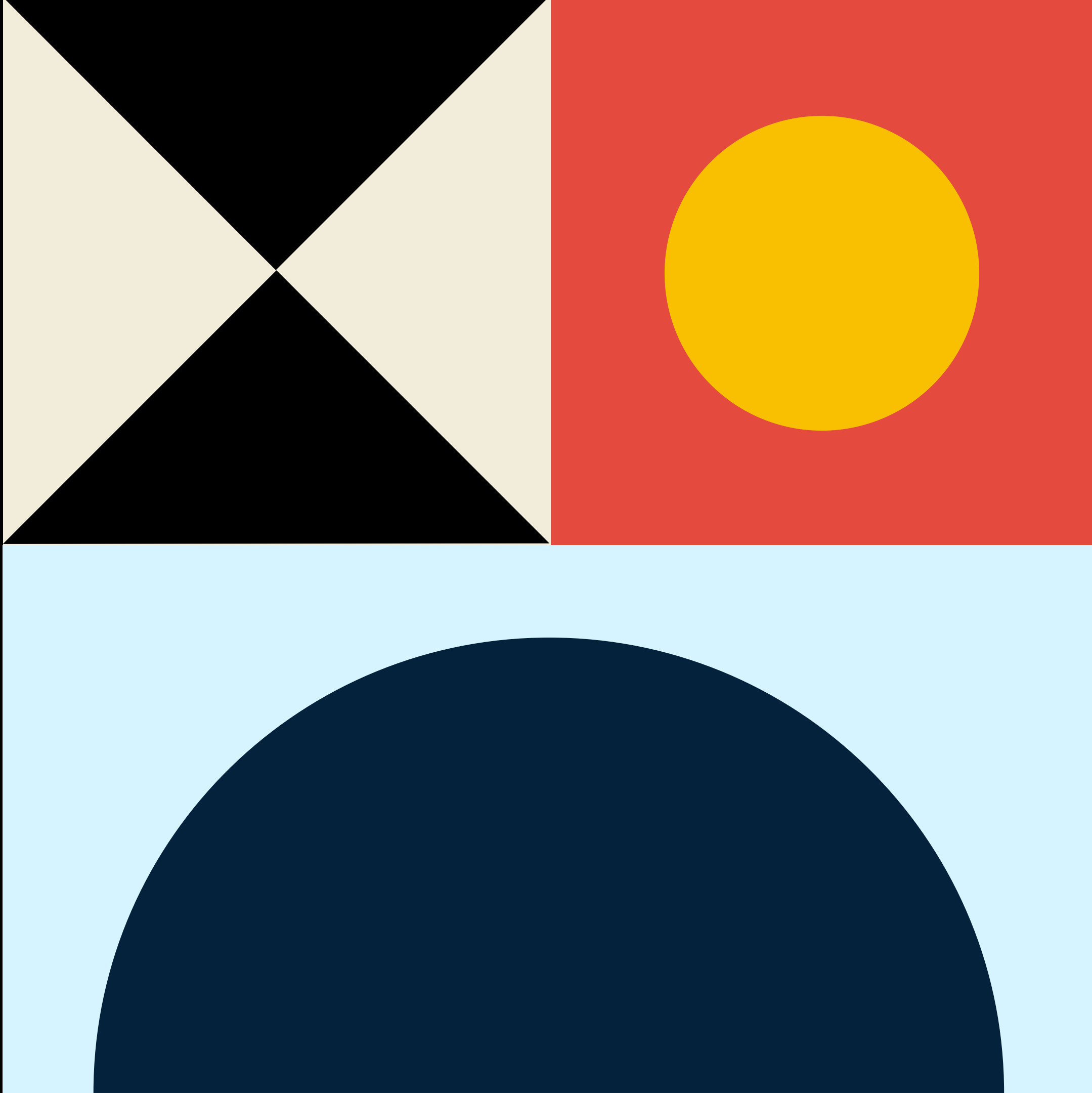




Leeds  
Church  
Institute

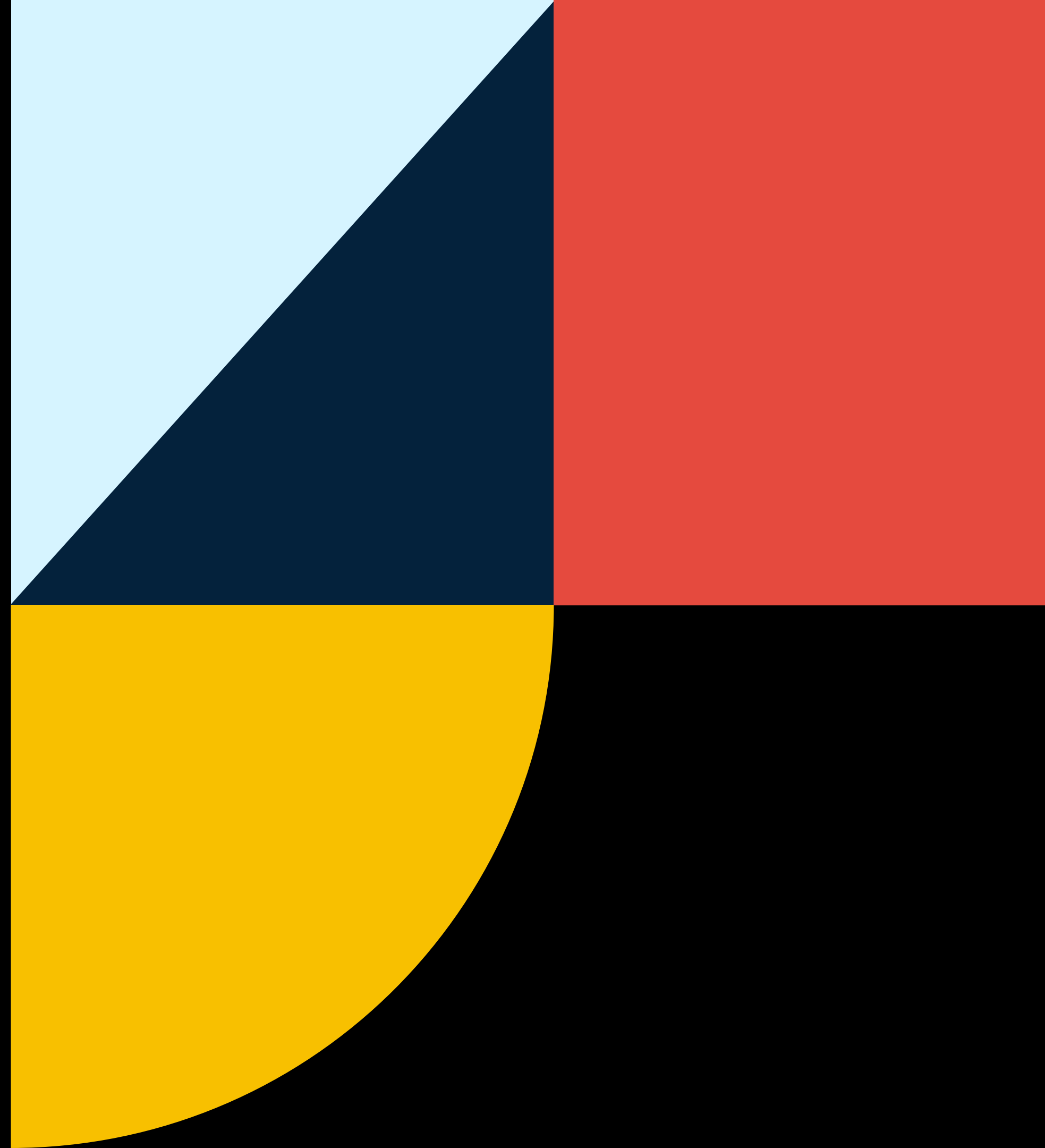
Annual  
Impact Report  
2020



# Chair's Report

2020 was the **most extraordinary year** in every sense. It was costly. Of course, the Covid-19 pandemic had severe implications for our income but it was the restrictions on our usual activities that we felt most grievously. **Through the decades we have adapted, refocussed and reenergised our approach.** The pandemic has given us the opportunity to do all that afresh, with diligence and creativity, and we are now beginning to **move forward into the next phase in Leeds Church Institute's history with hope and with confidence** as we continue in faithful learning and in effective engagement with the **vibrant and diverse communities that make up our City**

The Reverend Canon  
Sam Corley



## Report on Activities

2020 got off to a strong start with the **publication of our poetry anthology**, a well-attended launch event for the Leeds Lent Prayer Diary, several smaller book-based events, the completion of the second phase of research into ecumenical mission and the start of the 2020 Arts and Theology Bursary.

With the start of the national Lockdown on 23 March 2020, all work and planning for the charity changed effectively overnight. The initial response was to adapt to home working for staff and to transfer all events and media online. Leeds Church Institute also began **new initiatives addressing the Covid-19 situation** in terms of beginning research into Church Leaders' responses to the pandemic and appointing a Poet Theologian in Virtual Residence to write weekly blogs for the website commenting on the impact of Lockdown on the communities of Leeds using poetry as a medium for reflection.

As the year rolled on it became apparent that things would not be returning to 'normal' in either the short or medium term. During the second half of 2020, therefore, Leeds Church Institute began to reflect on its mission and ways of working at a deeper level acknowledging both the losses that Covid-19 has brought but also the innovation and opportunities too.

**In 2020 Leeds Church Institute ran 20 events attended by 432 people**, and these figures are significantly lower than in 2019. The loss is clear in terms of quantity of learning engagement, but we progressed online learning to a great degree thereby utilising advances in technology that had become available, and in such a way that would not have happened if we could have continued as normal. For example, the planned Open Day on 'Matters of Life and Death' planned for up to 75 people at the end of March was instead offered as a series of four online events in the Autumn involving 89 people, several of whom became members of Leeds Church Institute as a result. In this way, there were gains associated with imposed changes and new ways of working.

Our **commitment to furthering learning around climate change** began with events on ethical fashion and Carbon Conversations, and developed into our own real time learning about the environmental impact of Lockdown and sustainability for the future. **This learning has impacted our understandings of mission and its practical implementation in terms of property management.**

Our work around Seeking Refuge began with 'Musicultural Conversations' at a local community centre for those learning English as a second language which then became online sessions. We **hosted the Asylum in Art Exhibition** on a reduced scale at Leeds Church Institute but also virtually on the website. We published a booklet by a local writer, Refugee Realities and Church Art, held a virtual launch, and sold and distributed 250 copies.

**CITYtheology, the Leeds Church Institute magazine, was published four times.** The first two editions of 2020 were published in electronic format only due to the impact of staff homeworking. The second two were in printed format and sent to members and local libraries. All four editions are lodged with the British Library. In these ways, Leeds Church Institute developed a hybrid approach combining online and in situ events, digital and printed media, real and virtual exhibitions that will be continued in the future as a way to reach a wider range of people, be more environmentally aware and be sustainable in varying and sometimes adverse conditions.



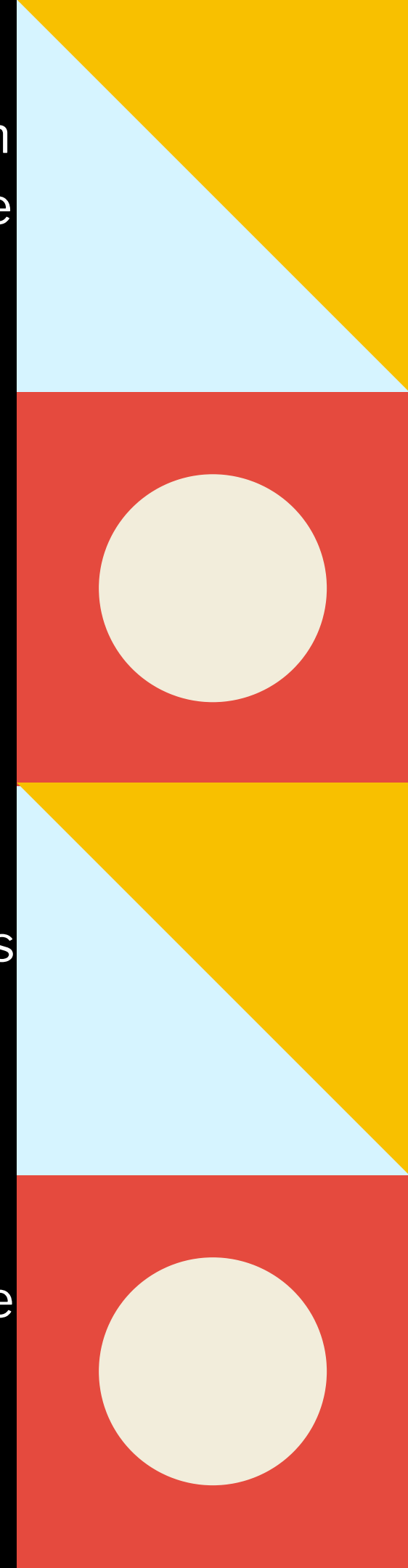
## City Engagement

Leeds Church Institute entered the fourth year of its partnership with Leeds Citizens with a focus on building leadership in faith communities and reflecting on economic, spiritual, religious and social life in Leeds. Work was carried out city-wide around mental health action and in the South Leeds area around developing community voice and action. The Community Organiser, Becky Howcroft, has written a series of reflections on the work of Citizens for the Leeds Church Institute website and CITYtheology.

Leeds Church Institute continues to be a levy-paying member of Leeds Business Improvement District and a partner in Leeds Lit Fest.

## Learning Centre

From January to mid March 2020, the Learning Centre and Study Centre enabled Leeds Church Institute to sustain a culture of hospitality, support various learning activities in the city, ensure Leeds Church Institute had a profile in the city and a source of contacts for city engagement. Due to Covid-19 restrictions these closed in mid-March and did not re-open in 2020. Leeds Church Institute Council decided in November 2020, not to seek to re-open the Learning Centre judging it to be too great a risk to the current and future charitable work of the Charity. Council began to look at varying options for restructuring the work and premises of Leeds Church Institute, with decisions to be made in 2021. The process is guided by sustainability, being responsive to change and the wider environment, and re-invigorating commitment to the promotion of religion and education as in our charity objectives.



# Achievements

Produced 6 publications

on

Educational themes and topics

covering

Environment and theology

Seeking Refuge

Responses to the Pandemic

Matters of Life and Death

Ecumenical mission

with

262 members

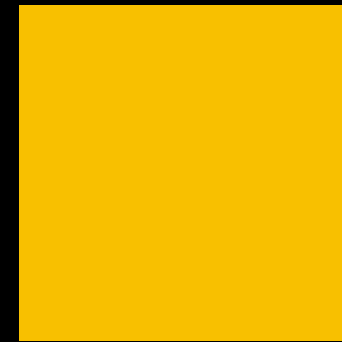
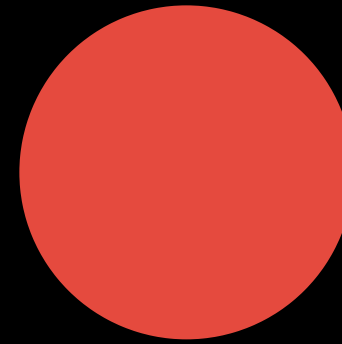
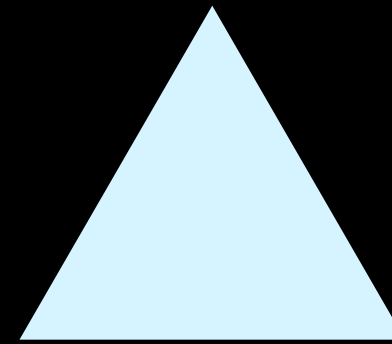
and

9 council members:

and

Completed the 2020 Arts and Theology Bursary and Awarded the 2021 Arts and Theology Bursary

# City Engagement and Partnerships



- Leeds Citizens
- Leeds Lit Fest
- LCCT
- LMM
- Spacious Places
- Leeds BID
- Leeds Minster
- Schools of Sanctuary
- Network Leeds

Educational Programmes

held

20 events

with

432 Attendees

our

most attended event

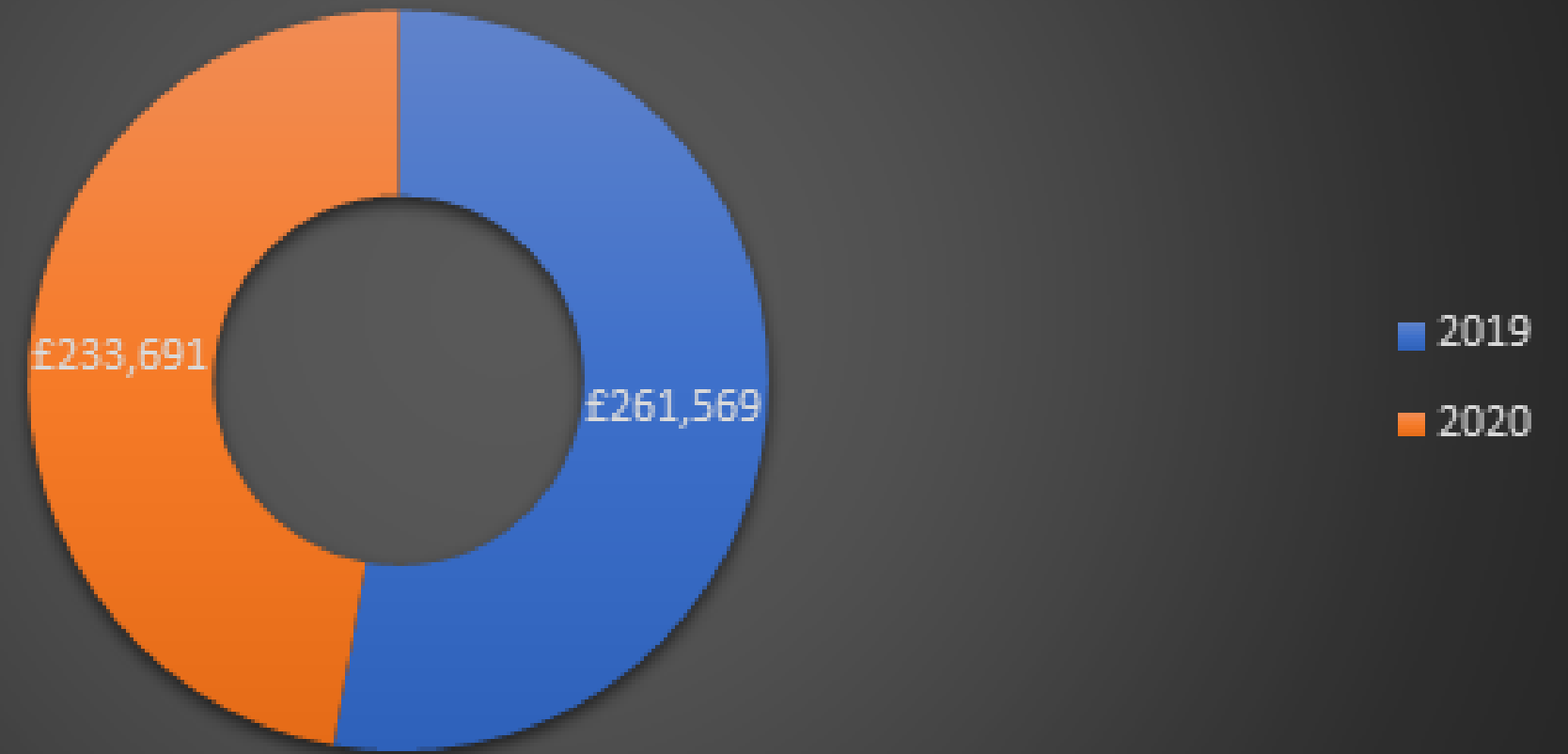
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Leeds Lent Day Prayer Diary Launch

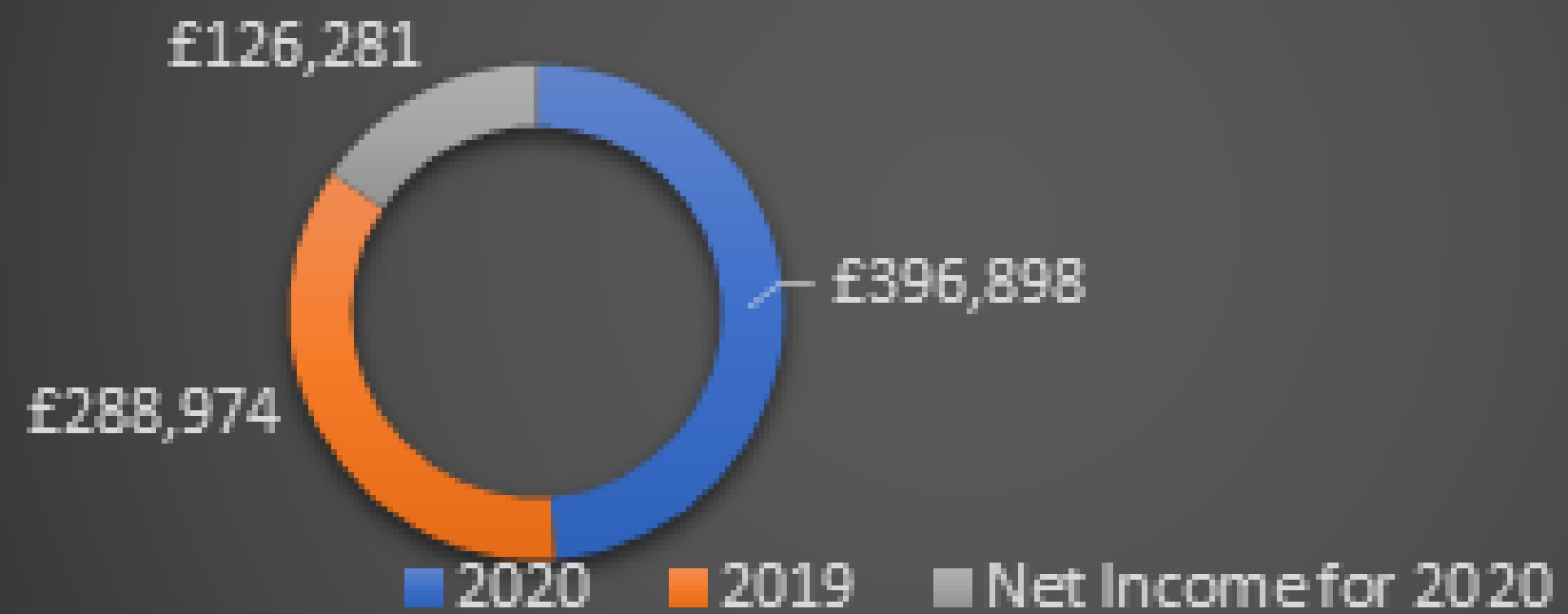
# Financials



## Income

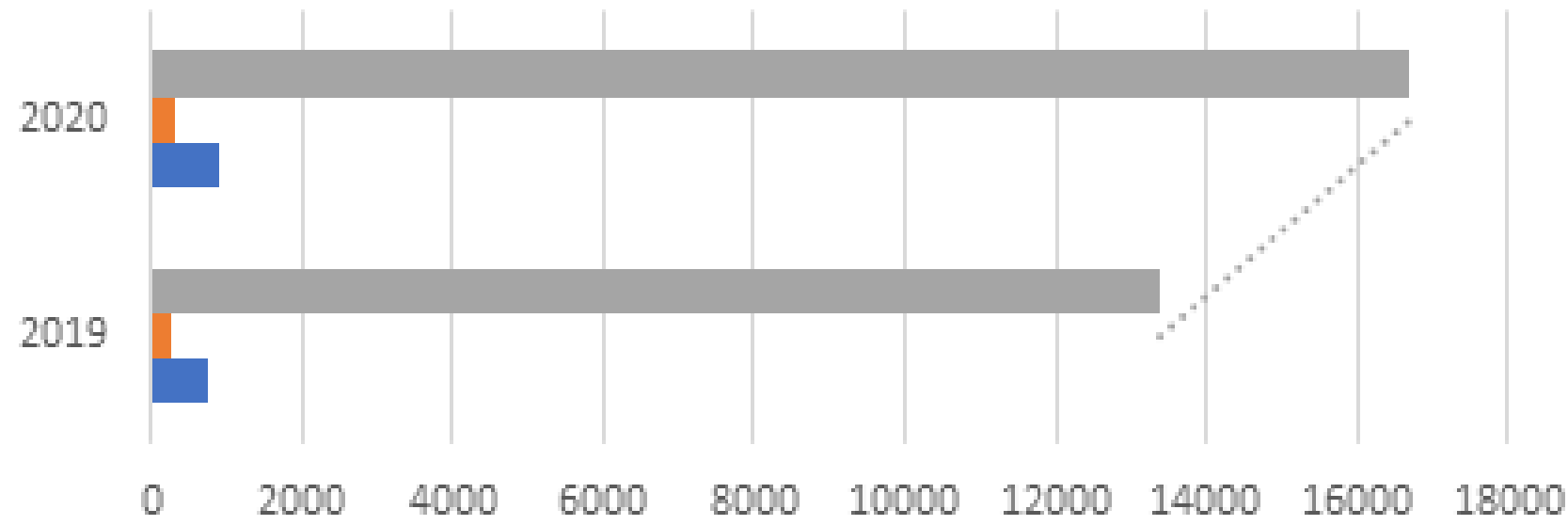


## 2020 Expenditure



# Digital Engagement (comparison 2019 to 2020)

## Digital engagement comparison



	2019	2020
Website views	13,369	16,676
Facebook followers	264	319
Twitter followers	754	889

Website views
  Facebook followers  
 Twitter followers
  Linear (Website views)

# Most viewed Facebook post



# Most read article



## Silence is no longer an option: Black Lives Matter

Church leaders from across our city, including Leeds Church Institute Director Dr Helen Reid, have written an open letter that says 'Silence is no longer an option: Black Lives Matter' following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, America. "As...

# Most listened to podcast

## Jason Allen-Paisant reads his poem 'Black Walking'

6 Jul, 2020

[Read More](#)

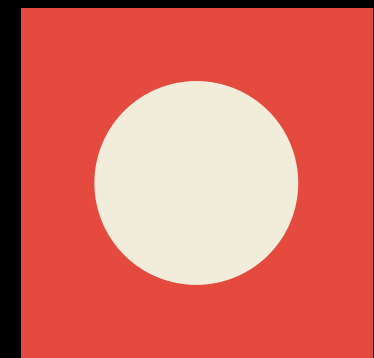
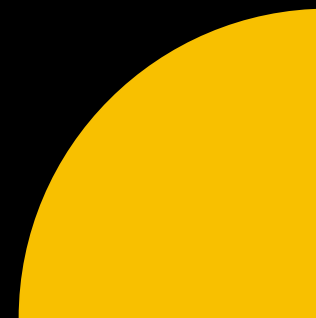
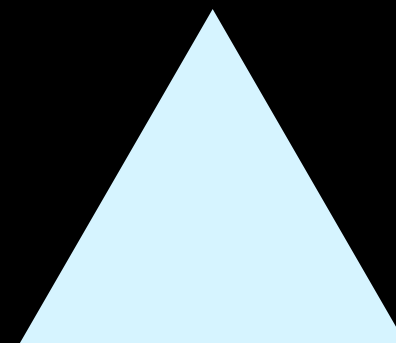
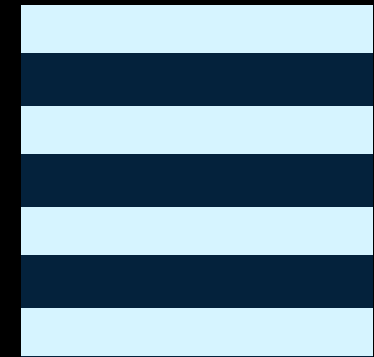
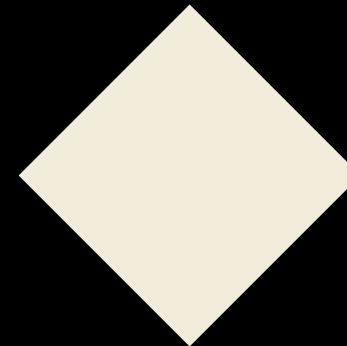
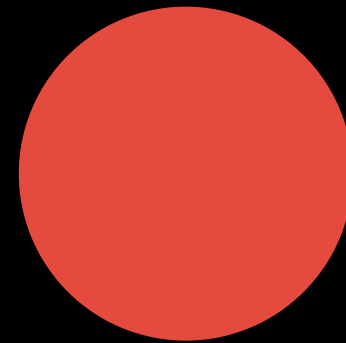
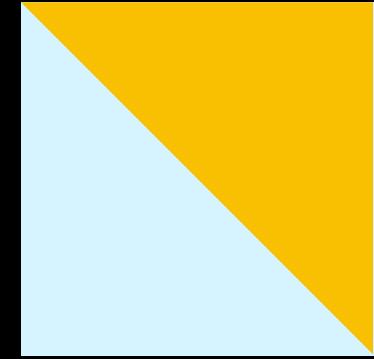
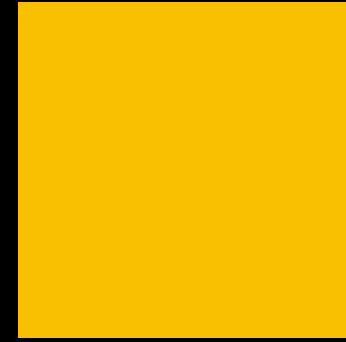
# Most viewed tweet

Book Club 28th July, we explore @malcolmguite "Mariner: a voyage with Samuel Taylor Coleridge", a new biography of Samuel Taylor Coleridge shaped & structured around the story he himself tells in his most famous poem, 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' [buff.ly/368FDs8](https://buff.ly/368FDs8) [pic.twitter.com/uVBgzLWX8A](https://pic.twitter.com/uVBgzLWX8A)





# Leeds Church Institute



[www.lcileeds.org](http://www.lcileeds.org)

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