

AGM CTH REPORTS 2018

Chair's Report - Maureen Douglas

Looking back over my term in office, I thank God for the privilege of serving as Chair of CTH. This has been made possible through the help and support of Sandra Ward Secretary, Stephen Haward Vice Chair, Rose Williams Treasurer, Patricia Neal-Buxton Publicity Officer, and members from CTH; to all my grateful thanks and appreciation.

Over the years, CTH has continued to give support to the work of the various groups and organisations that have strong links to CTH - The Bower House, The Cube, Street Pastors, Justice & Peace, and the Jubilee Foodbank, as well as supporting ecumenical activities such as Holiday @ Home, Peace Vigil, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Lent Study Groups & Lunches, Good Friday Service on the Square, Christian Aid, and recently 24/7 Prayer. CTH has had opportunities to be involved in Town events, some of which were organised by Harborough District Council, such as Christmas Lights Switch On, Christmas Fayre, Classic Cars, and Harborough by the Sea.

At the beginning of my role as Chair in May 2016, I asked for a working group to be set up to look into the problem of Homelessness in the Town. Through CTH, a Homeless coordinator has recently been appointed to help with the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures drawn up by the working party. The working party has sought to forge close links with Harborough District Council Homeless Officer and the local police for their guidance and support. My thanks go to Jane White for volunteering to take on this role as Coordinator and the working party for giving freely of their time to address the complex issue of homelessness in our community.

Last year we welcomed the additional new minister to the Anglican Team, the Rev. Bryony Wood from St Peter & Paul's Great Bowden, and this year to start in September Team Vicar Rev. Alison Illife at St Nicholas and St Hugh's and Rev. Andy Giles Resourcing Church Curate.

Looking back over my tenure as Chair, one of the highlights has been the Good Friday Service on the Square. This year, CTH changed from the usual format and had a more evangelistic outreach with an emphasis to make it as inclusive as possible, involving those with Sight loss, having a Signer for the Deaf, and having a broad range of ages taking part in the event. My grateful thanks go to Rev. Barry Hill and the Anglican Team for planning the Event, Rev. Nick Cook from The Baptist Church for directing the music, Rev. Tristan Styles and his Team from the Community Church, and to all ministers and people from the local churches whose hard work on the day made it a great success - a big thank you.

My final few words are taken from of St. Paul: Phil 3.14 "I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls **us** upwards to receive in Christ Jesus".

God bless you and may the work of CTH continue to flourish in our Town.

Bower House Report

The Bower House, or as some may know it by its current official name, Harborough Christian Counselling Service, offers counselling to the people of Market Harborough and district. Clients are signposted from a number of sources, including churches, friends and families, GP's, psychiatrists and other mental health services. We are blessed with a fantastic team of 80+ volunteers of support workers and counsellors, who share a common faith and a deep concern for the mental wellbeing of our clients.

You can see on our website, the story of this 'house that God has built'. We look to God for his continuing provision of his work and trust that he will put our service on the hearts of those who are able to support us prayerfully, financially, or through serving with us in a support role or as a qualified or trainee counsellor. Many people say what a lovely, restful presence there is in the house as they come in. We believe this is the presence of the Holy Spirit, offering peace at a time of great turmoil in people's lives. So it is our privilege to journey with God in this process of soul and mind healing.

As we seek to meet the needs of actual and potential service users we have been making some changes at the Bower House, due to successful bids that have received generous funding. This has included knocking down an internal wall to create a larger creative space to work with children and other clients who would benefit from creative interventions, including those who have encountered trauma. The Bower House Support Services, our sister charity, is now in the process of developing a high quality, nationally recognised training for therapists to work with children and young people.

Many of our counsellors travel long distances to work at the Bower House. We are becoming recognised as an excellent placement for student counsellors from many different colleges including Derby, Northampton and Nottingham universities and Tresham and South Leicestershire colleges. Besides the opportunity to work with carefully matched clients, extra training, mentoring and an extensive therapeutic library is available to them, plus the opportunity to be a part of a supportive Christian community. Our qualified counsellors are trained in a range of therapeutic models including person centred counselling, cognitive behavioural therapy and psychodynamic therapy and continue to offer excellent therapeutic support. There also continues to be subsidised training, of an excellent quality, available for our trainee and qualified counsellors by local and nationally recognised trainers, through the Bower House Support Services.

Our support workers fill an absolutely vital role. If you phone the Bower House or pop in, chances are that you will be warmly welcomed by one of them. They are also involved in many other areas of work including health and safety of the house and volunteers and data management. We are mindful of supporting our support workers and one of them has developed a process of training and support for the coming year.

The Cube Report - Dawn O'Connell

This report is a summary of the key developments that have happened at The CUBE. The last 12 months have been another year of change for The CUBE. Our staff team has changed and we have new trustees. This has given us some new opportunities to try new things and also some challenges as we have learned to work together.

Trustees

Rev Stephen Haward, Jean Molcher, Pam Mackensie, Dawn O'Connell and Rose Williams

Staff

Melissa Mander – Charity Support Officer
Adrian White – Student Youth Worker

Tony Cadwallader – Development Officer
Jo Cail - Housekeeping

Training

We aim to equip our staff and volunteers to deliver a professional approach to working with young people and with each other. To facilitate this we are developing a programme of training 'The CUBE Way' to encourage and equip. So far we have delivered *Essential Volunteering The CUBE Way* and *Managing Groups The CUBE Way* and we are working to develop a package *Mentoring The CUBE Way* starting in September. We are also working with Leicester Diocese to help us deliver training around empowerment and participation.

Friday evening youth club

The Friday Evening youth club is aimed at 14-18 year olds. After a break the club re-opened in February with a new worker and new volunteers from the September training. We are currently seeing about 50 young people each week.

Wednesday evening youth club

The Wednesday evening club is aimed at 11-13 year olds; school years 7 and 8. It is a smaller group but challenging. Work this term is on recruitment for those moving up from primary school.

Counselling

The CUBE counselling work continues to support local young people. A £30000 grant from Children in Need will enable this to be developed further over the next 3 years.

Schools

We are working towards a closer relationship with Welland Park and to build opportunities for young people in the school. Mentoring will be a key skill required in this work, hence the new *Mentoring The CUBE Way* training that is being developed. It is hoped that we will also be able to support Robert Smyth at some point in the future.

CT4Youth

The Churches Together youth group meet on alternative Sunday evenings. There is a sense from many people in the town that a town wide group for young people is important. Those churches particular involved at the moment are Anglican Team, Baptist Church and Community Church.

Finances

Our aim is for our required income to come from 3 sources in equal measure; fund raising and donations, hirings, and grants. Income from hirings are now an encouraging third of our income. Fund raising and donations are a challenge for the next financial year.

Homeless and Asking for Help Report - Jane White

16 forms received since 2nd June 2017 of which:

- 15 from Street Pastors
- 1 from the Baptist Church
- 1 notification from the Bower House

- 20 food vouchers issued
- 2 shower vouchers issued
- 4 sleeping bags issued

A total of 8 people supported and a further 2 did not receive vouchers.

The most vouchers issued to 1 person was 6, but 4 of those were issued at the same time. We have since asked that people only issue 1 voucher at a time and refer clients on to the council or other agencies for more help.

No record of food bags issued except from the Foodbank. Several bags have been given out to other agencies to be used for homeless people.

Shower vouchers are to remain as they are for the moment, but I am in the process of getting small bags of toiletries made up to go with them. If required these can be distributed to people keeping the food bags to be stored in the same way.

Sleeping bags storage and distribution seems to be the most problematic issue, but we are working on it!

Many thanks to the Foodbank and MORS bags for their help and support of this project and thanks to everyone holding the vouchers.

JUSTICE & PEACE REPORT - Alison Tomlin

The Group continues to meet 3 or 4 times a year. During this year Janet Smith has chaired our meetings, while Maureen Douglas has again taken on being our link with the National Justice and Peace Network, since after illness, Maria and Peter Malson have had to leave us.

Our concern regarding poverty and need in our community means we continue to raise awareness about the damage caused by the Government's policies. The time in the Square on Good Friday this year was a very good occasion, but we believe CTH needs to re-think what it is aiming for. With very little notice, it was not possible for us to have a well equipped stall, but it may be right to focus on the Day itself, rather than our Justice and Peace work. The ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team continues to provide helpful facts and information (since the Government cannot be relied on for the truth) particularly about increasing child poverty. The Team also offers ongoing discussion documents and updates at <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk>

The Candlelit Peace Vigil in January was again at the slightly later time which seemed to work well. We will keep reviewing this event, and want to thank CTH again for their help.

We have continued to be involved in the various events regarding Climate Change, and are grateful for all those who continue to offer both eco-tips and events to help us all move forward.

Child Labour and Related Issues

We are kept up to date with all the global issues relating to children, and our thanks go to Janet Smith for all the information and for reminding us of possible action in these areas, as well as of local events.

Of particular concern recently has been the fashion industry, supporting "Labour Behind the Label" so that our cheap clothing does not come at the cost of someone else in extreme poverty or danger. The documentary "The True Cost" is available on Netflix, and a new documentary "Riverblue" has just been released – see <http://riverbluethemovie.eco/the-film/>

Child labour; forced marriages; education issues – particularly for girls; sexual violence; trafficking and modern slavery; lack of schooling for Syrian and other refugee children; and abduction and abuse have sadly not gone away; while female genital mutilation seems to be increasing.

Fairtrade Town

There continues to be a great deal of work done by the relevant group within the town, and we are very glad to support it, especially their exciting events. We have also continued to support both the Food Forum and the Food Bank, but find it distressing that there are so many in need, so that 40 or more vouchers are used each month.

New Project

We are currently seeking to work in partnership with South Leicester Community Sponsorship in helping to settle Syrian Refugee families in our area. We have offered gifts and help to the one family currently here, and are very grateful indeed to Mary Ann Lund of Market Harborough Helping Refugees for all her information and hard work.

JUBILEE FOODBANK REPORT - Margaret Nash

The Jubilee Foodbank AGM was held on the 13th March and we were very pleased to welcome 27 people who had given their time to hear about the work of the Jubilee Foodbank over the previous year.

Sadly the need for support for individuals and families from the Jubilee Foodbank continues to increase with sufficient food to provide for over 10,000 meals given out during the year.

The Foodbank continues to be very well supported by individuals and groups within the local community. Donations of food and money are given regularly, for which we are very grateful. Harvest and Christmas were the times when we received most donations and our store room volunteers had to work hard to cope with sorting and stacking the shelves with the deliveries which came in so fast. At the present time our food stocks are good and we are able to supplement any shortfalls with the money donated.

We continue to provide vouchers for people to exchange for fresh fruit and vegetables from the market and we are able to provide longer term support for a small group of people whose difficulties are ongoing.

Over the year we have been able to increase the number of collection points in the town which has helped to increase our food stocks.

In closing this short report I would like to extend sincere thanks on behalf of the management committee of the Jubilee Foodbank to all who support the Foodbank in any way either by giving food, money or time. Without the generosity of these people there would be no Jubilee Foodbank to support people through their times of need.

STREET PASTOR REPORT - Angela Zemlak

During 2017, we patrolled **50** times only cancelling twice because of the bad weather towards the end of the year. We continue to patrol from 7.30 pm on Fridays and 10.00 pm on Saturdays and Bank Holiday Sundays.

Statistics for 2017:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|---|-----|
| Hours of patrols by Street Pastors | 709.5 | First Aid given | 8 |
| Hours of Prayer Support | 174 | Supporting vulnerable | 51 |
| Contact with people | 1241 | Anti Social behaviour | 80 |
| Pairs of flip flops handed out | 37 | Glass (broken), glass & bottles removed | |
| Bottles of water handed out | 51 | | 371 |
| Space blanket used | 1 | | |

During 2017 income included:

| | | | |
|---|---------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Donations from Churches and CTH | £684.86 | Rotary SwiMarathon | £500.00 |
| Collecting Boxes (in pubs, hotels, f&c shops) | | Quiz night | £266.00 |
| | £932.51 | Coffee Mornings (SP, Methodist) | £605.00 |
| Grant from HDC | £300.00 | Individual donations | £540.00 |
| Gift Aid | £477.79 | | plus donations of lollipops! |

During 2017 expenditure included:

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| License Fee | £717.53 | Donation to Bower House | |
| Insurance | £140.74 | for use of their premises | £275.00 |
| DBS costs | £114.50 | Equipment | £323.66 |
| | | | plus Administrator's salary |

This has resulted in a small deficit for 2017.

Thanks to all our supporters but particularly CTH and the individual churches who have been very generous this year in ensuring the Initiative continues to be viable and active; and who remember our volunteers and the people we meet and help in their prayers.

- We continue to maintain a good working relationship with the District Council and the Police
- We continue to seek regular donations and funding to ensure the stability of our finances
- We are planning training to enable Street Pastors to become Response Pastors who will be on call to support people involved in an incident, such as Hinckley Road, Manchester Arena, Grenfell Tower.

Volunteers come from CTH churches:

St Dionysius Church
St Peter and St Paul Church, Great Bowden
St Hugh's Church
MH Baptist Church
MH Methodist Church
Harborough Community Church
Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church
Fullness of Life Church

as well as churches outside CTH:

Pathway Community Church,
Lutterworth
All Saints Church, Dingley
The Church at the Cross, Great Glen

NB: We have lost volunteers during the early part of 2018, so are looking for new people to consider becoming either a member of the Prayer Support Team or to train as a Street Pastors.

TREASURER'S REPORT - 2017 - 2018 - Rose Williams

The accounts for the year up to 31st March 2018 have been examined and signed by Mrs Katherine Bentley (of E.T. Peirson & Sons, Accountants) who has agreed to examine the accounts again for next year.

As you can see from the Reconciliation Sheet the three separate funds have been split to show the opening B/F figures.

The closing C/F balances are:-

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|------|-----------------|
| CTH Own Funds | £2095.43 | | |
| Holiday at Home | £1401.74 | | |
| Homeless Account | £ 219.53 | BANK | £3716.70 |

As can be seen from the Summary sheet there has been **£263.60** excess of income over expenditure. At the end of March there was **£253.89** unpresented cheques. This gives a total excess of **£9.71**

The membership subscriptions were increased by 5% this year which amounted to approximately £75 otherwise we would have been running at a loss.

It is requested that if any spend is required that it be checked against the budget beforehand as we are running very close to not having any excess at all otherwise we would need to be taking out of the savings. The tendency is to spend and then present invoices, receipts, etc. to pay. This is very difficult to keep on our budgeted targets.

The full accounts are on the CTH website