Jubilee Foodbank Report.

Jubilee Foodbank Market Harborough

Thank you for all your support for the Jubilee Foodbank, Market Harborough. April was an incredibly busy month and stocks are often running low. Please see Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and the website for information about what food need. We also share support for different groups of people on these pages. If you have not already, you can also sign up to our newsletter through the Jubilee Foodbank website.

Due to increased costs (due to inflation and increased referrals), we now have a fundraising trustee, Simon Vickers, who has already secured some funds. We are thankful for his help as we seek to be able to continue to support the local community and the increased demand. Last month, Simon, and other members of the team, were grateful to see the support of the Leicestershire Fire Fighters washing cars too!

If you would like to know more about how to refer, please contact us on jubileefoodbankmh@gmail.com

Liz Mills, Chair Jubilee Foodbank Market Harborough

THE CUBE: REPORT TO CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBOROUGH 2025 – 2026

2025 was a significant year for The Cube as we celebrated 20 years since the establishing of the charity, **Harborough Youth and Community Trust (HYACT)** in June 2005. The Cube, (HYACT's working name), has come a long way in that time, and in many

ways, it is a very different charity to how it was in 2005, especially in the scope of its work, but with its historically rooted values remaining firmly faith based.

Here are some of the opportunities and highlights of 2025:

The building

We have a great building, and we continue to discuss how we can maximise its use to benefit the young people of Market Harborough, alongside the staff and volunteers, (for whom this building is their work base), and for various community groups who hire the building for a variety of activities each week. Plans going forward include a possible extension to the main building, to provide further office and counselling space, with the support of Harborough District Council and other funding streams.

Partnerships with schools

We have continued to build upon the partnerships, successfully established over some years with our local secondary schools, where our youth workers continue to run weekly lunchtime groups, mentoring sessions and meeting young people. We continue to run open access groups after school at The Cube, namely, Oasis on a Wednesday evening and a newly established after school Youth Cafe on a Tuesday, which is proving popular with those in Year 6 as they transition to secondary school, as well as those in Years 7 and 8 at the Robert Smyth and Welland Park Academies.

Counselling and Wellbeing Service

The provision of subsidised access to counselling went from strength to strength in 2025 - a year in which specialist counsellors delivered between March and December, 678 sessions, (339 of which were in schools), to young people. We continue to look at different ways to increase our presence across more schools in Market Harborough, especially in the primary sector.

Governance Review

2025 saw HYACT's Trustee Board reviewing how the charity is governed, and with legal consultation, updating the charity's Articles of Association to reflect more realistically the charity it is today. The Trustee Board has engaged for much of the year in aiming to recruit

more trustees, after recognising the need for a bigger, more diverse Trustee Board, and is slowly recruiting new trustees, who bring with them skills and experience that complement the existing board. The charity also continues to look to appoint a new chair who will take the charity forward.

Working with The Cranfield Trust

Part of this important review in early 2025 included a decision to appoint The Cranfield Trust, (https://www.cranfieldtrust.org/), who provide charities like HYACT with pro-bono support. Overseen by Adam, one of the Trust's Regional Managers, a volunteer consultant was appointed to work with us, on a feasibility study looking at the various options available to us. Part of the support involved us completing a **'Journey to Excellence,'** which measured HYACT's progress, growth and success in four core business areas – namely, **Leadership and Strategic Direction, People Management, Financial Management and Sustainability and Performance and Impact** at the beginning and end of the project. After seven months of working with the Cranfield Trust, a personalised **'Journey to Excellence Client Report'** was produced. Overall, this proved to be a positive experience, enabling the trustees to think critically and strategically about the onward direction of the charity.

The Future

Whilst we remain ever open to new opportunities, it is important to HYACT that the work we do continues to make a difference to and in the lives of local young people, ensuring that they remain at the centre of any decisions made regarding the direction of the charity. New ventures in 2025 have been the establishing of an after school Youth Café, (previously mentioned) and a Youth Forum which meets monthly and where young people's voices are heard loudly and clearly.

Thank you

The end of 2025 saw Dawn O' Connell retiring from the Trustee Board after many years of serving The Cube, which included in the role of Chair from 2017 – 25. We thank Dawn wholeheartedly for her vision, wisdom and guidance. Dawn did not just lead us, she illuminated our path, enabling the charity to understand where we

have come from, where we are today and what future possibilities there are for The Cube. As we move ahead with clarity, we are mindful of the impact Dawn's leadership has had on shaping The Cube.

As always, we thank all those who have supported HYACT in so many imaginative ways during this last year, whether as individuals, churches or as part of organisations like Churches Together in Harborough or local businesses. As we take stock of the last year, we thank God for His many blessings and for the way the charity has transitioned over the past 20 years. We look forward to a future that continues to put young people first, enabling them to thrive in themselves, their relationships and their world.

Prayer Pointers

- Thanksgiving and praise for the way God has blessed the Cube over the last 20 years and for His continued blessing into the future.
- As with all charities we face ongoing challenges in securing funding from various streams to enable us to continue our work. Please pray that new, as well as ongoing funding streams would be available.
- Thanksgiving for the amazing team of staff and volunteers who work in a variety of roles at The Cube and for the privilege of working with our young people, who continue to surprise and amaze us every day.

Janet Smith
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Bower House CTH report – May 2026

It's been a busy time at the Bower House with regard to students. A new wave of enquiries has resulted in us welcoming three new counsellors to the team. As we are always mindful of those waiting to be seen for counselling, it's wonderful when we can make allocations to new counsellors.

Our volunteers continue to show unwavering commitment to the service and we are particularly grateful to our support workers who have covered shifts at short notice because of support worker illness. We would like to bolster our support worker team and are currently advertising for potential new volunteers.

Continued professional development is a commitment that all our counsellors make to keep abreast of counselling developments and to meet the requirements of professional bodies. We have recently offered two face to face CPD events – one on 'The Mother Wound' and the other on the use of sand-trays in therapy. Both were well attended by the Bower House team and external participants. These events were held at Harborough Community Church and we are thankful to them for allowing us to make use of their function rooms.

We also organised online specialist Safeguarding training via ZOOM where our counsellors were updated on legislation changes and had an opportunity to explore safeguarding scenarios.

On Saturday April 25th we had a team Away Day, with approximately 25 of our volunteers in attendance. This year we held the meeting at St Mary's Church, Brampton Ash and invited two guest speakers to shape the day: Jo Giles, who is serving her curacy in the benefice of Desborough, Brampton

Ash, Dingley and Braybrooke led the morning and Roo MacRae, the Reverend from Market Harborough Congregational Church led the afternoon. The theme of the day was 'Rest'. It was wonderful to enjoy the sunny weather and picturesque surroundings whilst taking time to reflect and listen to the Lord, both collectively and individually. Away Days are always such a special opportunity to connect, relax and enjoy being together again.

Our governing body recently agreed that there was a need to create a new Bower House position. The role of 'Assistant Service Coordinator' is now being advertised and we hope that you will join us in praying for suitable potential applicants.

Once again, we participated in the Harborough Rotary Club Swimarathon. Six of the team swam a total of 86 lengths and had great fun on the day. We applied and were awarded a small grant to purchase collection buckets/boxes, as well as clothing (with the Bower House logo) for fundraising and promotional events.

We also had another well attended fundraiser fashion show. This time held at the Congregational Church. A glass of bubbles was offered to all ticket holders along with finger food and nibbles. Our next fundraising event for 2026 will be in June – we have a stall at the Market Harborough carnival. Please pay us a visit if you are around – it would be great to say hello!

Finally, may we take the opportunity to say that we are so grateful for the support that you all afford us. Thank you for the way you continue to undergird the work, both financially and in prayer.

Every Blessing,

Cara and Loraine

Co-Chair of Churches Together in Harborough 2025-26

Following the resignation of Andy Murphy as Churches Together Chair, I had the privilege of becoming joint Chair with Maureen Douglas.
Over the last year I have attended Forum meetings at which Forum participants were able to inform those present about their church issues. I also regularly attend Exec meetings where we plan forthcoming Forums.
We held a preparation day for the World Day of Prayer which is organised by various countries throughout the world. The Day of Prayer was a time of great blessing.
On Good Friday the Minister from the Baptist Church Rev Christopher Brown led a very moving time of Worship which concentrated on what Jesus has done for us in his sacrifice on the cross.
Next year I am hoping that more churches will become part of Churches Together in Harborough, so that all participating churches may learn from each other and take the Christian message throughout Harborough and beyond.

Jan Turner

CTH Co-Chair Report 2025-26

I begin my report by thanking God for another year in Office serving Christ and His Kingdom in answer to St John's Gospel 17;v.21. "may they all be one". My prayer has been for Unity in the body of Christ.

And so I continue to give thanks to God for Churches Together in Harborough and to all those who have worked

with me and Co- Chair Jan Turner to realise this vision - 'to unite member churches in common witness and service'.

Looking back over the past year's events; The United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, Lenten Lunches and Easter Live on the Square have provided wonderful opportunities to join together in Unity with our fellow brothers & sisters from across the churches in the town- "For their the Lord gives his blessing," Psalm 133;v3. Leading up to the Easter Live event we had two worship evenings where as christians we gather together in praise and worship to pray especially for Easter Live and for God's blessing on the town of Market Harborough.

This prayer was wonderfully answered on Good Friday when as CTH we gathered on the Square to lift high the name of Jesus. Many people from across the churches and the unchurched came and were blessed to hear the Apostolic Gospel Choir, children were treated to an excellent array of activities provided by Harborough Community Church, The Bower House and Jubilee Foodbank.

On behalf of CTH our grateful thanks goes to the Rev Christopher Brown and the hardworking planning team leading up to Easter Live and to our church members who made this event possible on the day.

Finally my heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes to the continued support from the Ministers Fellowship, the Executive Committee- Co-Chair Jan Turner, Treasurer Jackie Melhuish, Minute Secretary Janet Smith and Jeannie Brightwell who with out their support we would not be where we are today with Churches Together in Harborough.

Maureen Douglas