



A. G. M

To be held at 7pm, 13th July 2021 via Zoom



JULY 13, 2021
NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Old Lane, Halfway.

Foodbank

Since the foodbank opened in December 2012 we have delivered 237,098 meals. From January to December 2020 32,004 meals were delivered to local clients in crisis, and so far to date in 2021 we have delivered 13,965 meals averaging 600 meals per week.

The impact of coronavirus on the foodbank was quite extraordinary, the amount of donations especially in the first lockdown were quite overwhelming. Members of the public and local businesses and supermarkets were very generous, Morrison's at both Halfway and Catcliffe having been allocated an amount of money to donate food to local foodbanks which we were one of the recipients of this food. Aldi Killamarsh have also been supporting the foodbank with bread and fresh produce as and when it is available.

For many individuals and families the pandemic has had devastating consequences leaving many people in both short and long term crisis due to furlough and job losses. The foodbank due to our wonderful volunteers continued to carry on throughout the pandemic emptying the food donation bins, sorting food into date order, packing food parcels and delivering to client's homes.

We continue to work with our partner churches, Dronfield Oaks, Eckington Lighthouse, Spa View Community and Swallownest Baptist who deliver to clients in their area connecting people to the local churches.

The foodbank has a quarterly newsletter 4000/5000 of which goes out to the local community raising awareness of all the different ministries. The newsletters also advertise the church services, bible study, Alpha and Grow.

Furniture Project

The furniture project operated for most of the pandemic in 2020 only stopping for a short period of time. Funding became available and we were able to pay 2 staff for 2 days a week which made picking up donations and delivering furniture packs more structured. The arc was dismantled at the foodbank and put back together with a roof on in the furniture warehouse in readiness of starting a more sustainable project manufacturing and upcycling small pieces of furniture. Another smaller pot of funding became available in June 2021 enabling us to re-employ the 2 members of paid staff. We are at the moment doing around 5 furniture packs per month to both clients who have fled domestic violence and/or having been registered homeless, referrers include Sheffield and Derbyshire county councils and Pathways of Chesterfield. Furniture donations are also picked up from members of the public and local businesses on a more regular basis.

Freedom Programme

“The Freedom Programme” which is a recognised 12 step domestic violence course started on Thursday 3rd September 2020. There is just the one session operating at the present time with a view to 2 sessions if demand was high enough. A follow on course called Freedom plus has been formulated to support women who still need on-going support after they have exhausted the Freedom Programme, so far there has been no demand for this as quite a few ladies have stayed on the Freedom Programme or have felt that they no longer need support.

We had a small pot of seed funding to start up a new project which enabled both myself and Kristel to go into Heritage High School in Clowne to speak to year 10 girls about domestic abuse and coercive behaviour. We are hoping to be invited into Wales High School after interest was shown by the head teacher then we anticipate likely in September being invited to other secondary schools.

Grow

Due to the pandemic the Grow meetings had to be suspended for a season, but as soon as safely possible they resumed. The church was awarded funding which enabled part-time staff to run and further develop the separate groups. Special thanks to Susan, Katherine and Kirsty for taking on these responsibilities. The funding came to an end and the groups have now been amended to a Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evenings.

Grow continues to provide much needed mental health support for those who are attending and many positive testimonies are regularly voiced.

Charity Shop

The shop reopened on the 12th April after government ruling closed all non-essential shops.

The various lockdowns in the past year and the subsequent closing of non-essential shops including the Coffee Shop has of course impacted the Church Finances greatly.

I am pleased to say that since our reopening in April old and new customers have gradually returned and it has been great to reconnect with familiar faces. Our distribution of over 8,000 Newsletters has brought new customers and consequently the income stream is steadily increasing.

Post lockdown donations were initially overwhelming but are now coming in at a more manageable level.

The Charity Shop could not function without the reliability and commitment of its volunteers and paid staff.

The leadership team would like to thank everyone for all their hard work in these Challenging times.

Kickstart

The Government introduced the Kickstart scheme to create high quality 6 month work placements. The scheme is aimed at those aged 16-24 who are on Universal Credit and are deemed to be at risk of being long term unemployed. After several months' negotiations, New Hope Community Church was accepted to be a potential employer to employ young people off the Kickstart Scheme.

In April of this year we took on our first two Kickstarters Jack (Digital Marketing) and Kristel (Customer Service Practitioner).

Both Jack and Kristel have fed back that they are enjoying their new roles and both are embracing learning new skills. In addition to their on the job training, fortnightly they benefit from external training where again they are being exposed to new enriching situations, meeting new people learning team building skills and are able gain fresh insight into the working environment from motivational business speakers.

The benefits of the Kickstart scheme are of course two fold, New Hope Community Church has benefitted from both placements Jack's role has been significant in providing digital support and has enabled Alan Jacqui and myself to concentrate on other jobs. Kristel's role has provided much needed stability and continuity in the Charity Shop to enable Kirsty and myself to concentrate on putting into place a more functional system to process and push through new stock in to the shop to maintain sales. It should be noted that the benefit of having our Kickstarters comes at no expense to the Church and is completely government funded.

In 2020 we were approached by Lynn Patrick to see if New Hope Community Church could facilitate a one year placement, a requirement of her B A University Degree in Contextual Ministry.

The placement involves being part of any group based program the Church runs to support the community and its needs.

In September 2020 we took Lynn on placement for nine hours a week to help facilitate Grow and the Freedom Course, her placement will cease at the end of July.

Lynn's feedback has been that she has very much enjoyed her time at New Hope in particular the diversity of the different people groups and having been able to share in and support the attendees when sharing their often traumatic stories.

