

## 1 Welcome and Opening worship

Pastor Ade Ajayi, standing in for Rev Keith Jackson for the first part of the meeting, welcomed all and invited David Gilbey to open in prayer. This was followed by the team from Skylark leading the opening worship.

## 2 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Sue Gibson, Ruth Hughes, Jean McAslan, Joyce Robb, Alan Sayles and Margaret Watchorn.

36 were present from the following 24 churches and organisations:

All Saints, Springfield; Nigel Bolitho Evangelism Consultancy; Broomfield Road Evangelical Church; Central Baptist Church; Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer; Chelmsford Cathedral; Chelmsford CHESS; Chelmsford Foodbank; Chelmsford Street Pastors; Christ Church URC; Christian Vision for Men; Howe Green URC; Life Church; North Avenue URC; Oasis; Redeemed Christian Church of God; RCCG Word Alive Boreham; Schools Youth Ministry; Skylark; Society of Friends; St Andrew's, Sandon; St Mary's, Broomfield; Trinity Methodists.

## 3 Voting Rights.

To avoid any possible confusion a green card had been given to those who could vote. As it turned out this included all those present.

## 4 Minutes of 2017 AGM

After some moments reading them, Robin Stevens proposed and Keith Jackson seconded that that be adopted. Agreed unanimously.

## 5 Reports

In general the reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and were not read out but formed a backdrop to the proceedings noted below.

### a Chairman

Revd Keith Jackson's report was noted. Contained at the end.

### b Treasurer's report

Robin Stevens referred to his report (again reproduced at the end) and urged that churches respond to his correspondence.

### c Adoption of accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

The accounts were adopted 'nem con'.

### d Approval of subscriptions – Robin proposed that subscriptions for both 2019 remain the same as 2018. This was agreed 'nem con'.

### e Independent Examiner

Caroline Robinson (Chelmsford Cathedral) was thanked for examining the CTiC accounts and reappointed as Independent Examiner.

## 6 Feedback from Member Organisations

Robin Stevens spoke about Christian Aid week which was just finishing and their focus on Haiti which had suffered from an earthquake 6 years ago and a hurricane 2 years ago. He said they had had a speaker from there.

Robb Saggs, speaking for Chelmsford CHESS, expressed appreciation for all the support, in prayer, finance and other ways for the new building which is now open and to have an opening ceremony 6<sup>th</sup> June by invitation. He anticipated a challenging year ahead financially. The Winter Project had helped 62 persons and had been 75% full. CHESS are taking on a contract for Epping Forest as well. Robb sought ongoing prayer support for these plans.

Tony Leas spoke of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations for Street Pastors on 8<sup>th</sup> April thanking Judy Cecil for her work on their organisation and expressing a hope for the next 10 years.

Rev Phil Marsden introduced himself as the new leader of Central Baptist Church.

7 There were no further **Questions, Observations or Contributions**

Adrian Smith of the Friends, or Quakers, spoke of the 'Stanstead 15', 15 young activists who, in opposition to forced deportations, had chained themselves to an aircraft at Stanstead resulting in the plane being unable to take off and frustrating some deportations. They have been charged for trespass and terrorism and the evening before their trial at Chelmsford Crown Court there had been a prayer meeting at the Quakers Meeting Hall which had attracted some demonstrators. Adrian wanted to say how those there felt a deep presence of God. The trial was postponed. Churches Together in Essex and East London had raised the profile. Keith offered prayer in support and Adrian asked for ongoing support. The secretary, later, asked Adrian to advise him of further developments so that they could be circulated.

8 **Talk by John Grayston of SYM**

John began by observing that Christian witness is in so many forms. Last time he was in the auditorium of the meeting he was rocking and hearing a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus. He referred to Psalm 78 quoting verses 1-6, "*O my people, listen to my teaching. Open your ears to what I am saying. For I will show you lessons from our history, stories handed down to us from former generations. I will reveal these truths to you so that you can describe these glorious deeds of Jehovah to your children and tell them about the mighty miracles he did. For he gave his laws to Israel and commanded our fathers to teach them to their children, so that they in turn could teach their children too. Thus his laws pass down from generation to generation.*"

He emphasised the need for us to be teaching and telling the next generation with a piece from Deuteronomy 6 beginning, "*When the Lord your God has brought you into the land he promised your ancestors,*" and concluding, "*In the years to come when your son asks you, 'What is the purpose of these laws which the Lord our God has given us?' you must tell him, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with great power and mighty miracles—with terrible blows against Egypt and Pharaoh and all his people.'*"

John has worked for Scripture Union for 37 years and drew attention to their 95 Campaign to address the 95% of the population who have no connection with church and thence the scriptures. In Chelmsford we are blessed to have many churches with children but there are still many who have no chance to hear the gospel. The project began in 2016 with a desire at Schools Youth Ministry, SYM, which John chairs to think big. They invited Illuminate. But there were problems. One school pulled out before the week began and then Moulsham was closed due to a gas leak on the day the band was due to visit.

What John found remarkable was the impact this had on both students and teachers. Some teachers were moved to tears describing it as the best day of their career. At the first day in school year 11 were not invited because of their focus on exams. But so helpful was the message considered that that school advised the next school to include year 11. And they did. This Christian presence in schools has enhanced the reputation of the faith I schools in the City.

The follow up was on Shrove Tuesday with pancakes at Skylark where 100 came for pancakes. Further follow up is in Emerge groups in schools. God is doing things in the

City and John thanked the meeting for their prayer and support and asked for it to continue. Glory to God.

### 9 **Nominations and Elections of Officers**

The secretary first thanked the outgoing Chairman and Vice Chairman, Keith Jackson and Ade Ajayi for their contribution to CTiC over the previous years. He also advised the meeting that Janet Gandy of Writtle had died in the preceding week.

He had received one nomination for Chairman, namely David Gilbey, proposed by Pastor Ade Ajayi of the Redeemed Christian Church of God and seconded by Mr Pete Bardwell of Oasis Church. Keith Jackson sought a vote of support for the election of David Gilbey as chair and this was unanimous.

Keith also proposed Richard Cecil as secretary, seconded by Ade Ajayi and voted for unanimously.

Keith then proposed Robin Stevens as treasurer, seconded by Libby Hill and voted for unanimously.

### 10 **Standing Committee members**

Alert that the Constitution indicates 6 be appointed to the Standing Committee by the AGM but that 7 had indicated a willingness and to avoid an asymmetry with the co-option of one, proposed that 7 be elected to the Standing Committee. This was seconded by Pete Bardwell and voted for unanimously.

Accordingly Keith proposed that Pete Bardwell, Roy Brackley, Macdonald Chandi, Trevor Fisher, Ben Gardiner, Sue Gibson and Ivor Moody be elected to the Standing Committee. This was seconded by John Grayston and voted for unanimously.

In view of there being a change of Chairman which would necessitate a change of cheque signatories, Robin Stevens, as treasurer, asked the meeting if the change of name to Christians Together in Chelmsford, from Churches Together in Chelmsford, should be incorporated into the Barclays Bank account details. This proposal was seconded by Dan Glading and adopted unanimously by the meeting.

### **David Gilbey, as the newly elected chairman, then gave a brief outline of his journey to this point.**

David has lived in Chelmsford and been part of the church family here for all his life. In 1980, at age 18 he came to Christ, a year later becoming a constable with Essex Police, much of his service being in Chelmsford. During this period David was very involved in inter-church prayer and evangelistic activities here. In 2011, after 30 years police service, he 'retired', believing that The Lord would reveal to him a 'new path of service' for the gospel. Three years later, in 2014, he felt God tell him to start and run full-time, Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer, which has since sought to unite through prayer, the churches and Christian organisations in our City.

Over the last few weeks, David has felt that Chelmsford 24-7 should more closely partnered with CTiC. He even had reflected whether a time would come, when The Lord would bring a 'melding' of the two organisations and bring about something new? However, he felt it right to stand for CTiC Chair on the basis that any change should be carefully built on the firm foundations of what is already in place. He observed that in the last year or so, internally, CTiC has become more 'relational', with a monthly Christian leader's breakfast meeting and also in its relations with the City, hosting in January, a very successful Civic prayer breakfast. The 2018 Procession of Witness had also been particularly good.



## Minutes of **Christians Together in Chelmsford**

**Annual General Meeting**  
**held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 3:00 pm**  
**at Skylark Church, Hanbury Road**

David believes that as the Christians of Chelmsford work ever closer, our hearts 'as one', and with a 'Christ-inspired' love for not only each other but for all across our City, the life-changing message of Jesus will have a City changing impact. Key, he believes, is unified prayer, leading to ever greater practical expressions of God's love and justice into our communities. He also posed this question to the Christians of Chelmsford, should 'Love Chelmsford' be both the goal and a working title for what is ahead?

11 There followed a time of **Singing and Worship** also led by Skylark.

12 The meeting then adjourned for: –

**a Refreshments**

**b Fellowship**

**c Viewing of displays**

Thanks go to **Skylark** for their hospitality and for others who had contributed towards serving the tea, coffee and cakes following the meeting, and the opportunity for fellowship and discussion of current activities and projects.



*Chairman*  
Revd Keith  
Jackson

*Secretary*  
Richard Cecil

*Treasurer*  
Robin  
Stevens

## Chairman's Report

It has been an exciting year in the life of Christians Together in Chelmsford. We have been more active and have reached out to those in our community.

The March of Witness on Good Friday continues to be an excellent witness. This year the Salvation Army blessed us with their musical talents leading the music for the worship. Nigel Bolitho brought a stirring message. The feedback has been very good. Our thanks go to Steve Roberts of 1159 Productions for his liaison with the City Centre Management and to Vice Chair Pastor Ade Ajayi for chairing the March of Witness sub committee and for being an excellent Master of Ceremonies at the event.

We have also instigated some new events in the last year. Our first Civic prayer Breakfast, held at Hylands House in January, was well received and in attendance were the Mayor, the local MP, the Deputy Chief Inspector and others. Prayers were said for the city, our civic leaders and volunteers, the police, education and healthcare providers. It was an excellent morning and the consensus was that this should become an annual event.

Also a monthly fellowship breakfast has commenced, normally held on the second Wednesday of each month the Toby Carvery, for those who serve in the local church as clergy or in lay leadership across the church community. This has been an excellent way of building bridges between the churches and for the strengthening of relationships.

We have also commenced work on the CTiC constitution which was raised at last year's AGM. This has proved to be more challenging than originally thought and so there will be no proposals concerning this at this year's meeting. However, work continues in this regard and when the proposals are finalised we shall be informing the members for their approval.

You may already be aware that I shall not be standing again for the position of Chair of CTiC. My wife and I shall be leaving Chelmsford this summer to take up the role of Elim Missionaries in Southern Africa.

I would like to thank those members on the Standing Committee for their support over the this last year, particularly Vice Chair Pastor Ade Ajayi, Honorary Secretary Richard Cecil, Honorary Treasurer Robin Stevens, and Sue Gibson. Their tireless work and commitment has been exemplary and they have been responsible for the success of much of what we have enjoyed this year.

With Christ's Richest blessings.

Rev Keith Jackson

## Churches Together in Chelmsford Receipts and Payments Account for 2017

Receipts	2017 £	2016 £
Subscriptions from Churches for 2014	—	19.00
Subscriptions from Churches for 2015	95.00	232.00
Subscriptions from Churches for 2016	764.00	1,516.00
Subscriptions from Churches for 2017	2,257.00	—
Refund from Riding Lights – ‘Simeon’s Watch’	229.08	—
Donations for the Procession of Witness	12.00	84.50
Donations for CHESS	77.00	278.01
Donation	—	100.00
Civic prayer breakfast	270.00	—
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>3,704.08</b>	<b>2,229.51</b>
 <b>Payments</b>		
Procession of Witness expenses	£	£
Insurance	71.50	71.18
Staging and audio etc.	2,623.20	2,689.20
Service sheet printing	43.35	43.35
St John Ambulance	204.00	192.00
	2,942.05	2,995.73
Civic Prayer breakfast		
Deposit to Hylands House	180.00	—
Administration		
Payment to Riding Lights – ‘Simeon’s Watch’	—	300.00
Return of money paid in error from 2015	—	198.22
Payments to CHESS	278.01	290.72
Gift for charring election hustings	20.00	
Gift for independent examiner	—	15.05
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>3,420.06</b>	<b>3,799.72</b>
Surplus / (deficit) on year	284.02	(1,570.21)
 <b>Community Account</b>		
Balance at 1 January	4,413.67	5,983.88
Surplus for the year	284.02	(1,570.21)
Balance at 31 December 2017	4,697.69	4,413.67
 <b>Business Savings Account</b>		
Balance at 1 January	529.04	528.76
Interest	0.09	0.28
Balance at 31 December 2017	529.13	529.04

*Examined by Mrs AC Robinson  
2 May 2018*  
*Notes – in 2018*

*Mr Robin Stevens (treasurer) 2 May 2018*

1. A further £184 of receipts for the breakfast were received and the breakfast bill of £420 was paid. Hence the breakfast cost 270+184-180-420 = £146
2. £77 was passed on to CHESS

## Churches Together in Chelmsford – *Contributions received*

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Large Churches</b>					
All Saints', Springfield	95	95	95	95	95
All Saints, Writtle	95	95	95	95	95
Blessed Sacrament	30	30		95	95
Central Baptist Church	95	95	95	100	100
Chelmsford Cathedral	95	95	95	95	95
Christ Church URC	95	95	95	95	95
Skylark Church	–	95	95	95	95
Church of the Holy Name	–	95	95	–	–
Holy Name Moulsham Lodge	95	?	?	–	–
Holy Trinity, Springfield	95	95	95	95	95
Life Church	–	95	95	95	95
Meadgate Church	95	95	95	–	–
Moulsham Lodge Methodist Church	95	95	95	95	95
Our Lady Immaculate	95	95	95	–	–
St Augustine's Springfield RC Community	–	95	95	95	95
St Mary, Great Baddow	95	95	95	95	95
St Michael & All Angels Galleywood	95	95	95	–	–
The Salvation Army	95	95	95	–	–
Trinity Methodist Church	95	95	95	95	95
<b>Medium Churches</b>					
Ascension with All Saints Kings Road	58	58	58	95	58
Broomfield Methodist	19	19	58	58	–
Broomfield Road Evangelical Church	–	–	58	58	58
Chelmsford Community Church	58	58	58	–	–
Church of Our Saviour	58	58	58	58	58
Oasis Church Chelmsford	58	58	58	58	58
Redeemed Christian Church of God	58	19	19	58	–
Springfield Park Baptist	58	58		58	58
St Andrew's Chelmsford	58	58	58	58	58
St Andrew's Sandon	19	58	58	58	58
St Augustine's North Springfield	–	–	–	–	–
St John's Moulsham	58	58	58	58	58
St Luke's Moulsham	58	58	58	58	58
St Mary & St Leonard Broomfield	58	58	58	58	58
St Paul's Great Baddow	58	58	58	58	58
St Michael & All Angels, Roxwell	58	58	58	–	–
Widford St Mary	58	58	58	58	58
<b>Small Churches</b>					
Danbury URC	19	19	19	19	19
Great Baddow URC	19	19	19	19	19
Hall Street Methodist Church	19	19	19	19	19
Howe Green URC	19	19	19	19	19
Little Baddow URC	19	19	19	–	–
Little Waltham URC	19	19	19	19	19
North Avenue URC	19	19	19	19	19
North Springfield Baptist Church	19	19	19	19	19
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	19	19	19	19	19
Writtle URC	19	19	19	19	19
<b>Associate members</b>					
Renew Counselling	30	30	30	30	30
The Diocesan House of Retreat	30	30	30	30	30
YMCA Chelmsford	30	30	30	30	30
24/7 Prayer				30	30
SYM					30
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£2,432</b>	<b>£2,717</b>	<b>£2,726</b>	<b>£2,380</b>	<b>£2,257</b>

*Robin Stevens*

# Christians Together in Chelmsford – Christian Aid Committee



## Report to the Annual Meeting 20 May 2018



The Christian Aid committee's financial year ends on 30th September and so this report covers the year ending in September 2017.

### Christian Aid Week 2017

Our thanks are due as ever to Peter Batey for the energy and enthusiasm that he puts into masterminding the Chelmsford house to house collection. Some churches which are unable to collect house to house (perhaps because they find it difficult to find collectors) organise other fund-raising events. The following totals include all sums raised in Christian Aid Week.

2013: £40,894      2014: £33,250      2015: £33,884      2016: £30,650      2017: £27,369

### Events

Trinity Methodist Church held a stall at the Cathedral market in December 2016:

2015: £330      2016: £557      2017: £580

### Lunches

These continue to provide useful funds and thanks are due to Christ Church URC and Trinity Methodist Church for arranging regular lunches.

2013: £1,492      2014: £1,106      2015: £1,305      2016: £417      2017: £520

### Donations

Churches and individuals respond from time to time with funds raised or given. Sometimes they are given in memory at a funeral but no such funds were received during the year.

2013: £1,202      2014: £850      2015: £634      2016: £71      2017: £70

### Tesco

From time to time Tescos allow us to collect outside one of their stores on a Saturday. No such events were held during the year of this report.

2015: £1,433      2016: £337

The total raised, therefore, during the year up to 30 September 2017, to help relieve poverty, was **£28,539**.

Other sums may have been raised by churches or individuals that were paid straight to Christian Aid. It's helpful if I can be informed of all sums raised so that this annual report reflects a true picture of the Chelmsford's support for the vital work of Christian Aid.

Robin Stevens - *Chairman and Treasurer*  
rmsrobin@icloud.com



April 2018

## **Chess homeless CTIC report for the year of 2017 – 2018**

### **Chess' new home 'The Hub'**

Chess has made one of its biggest moves in the last year. We have officially started our night shelter operation at the new facility located at 200 New London Road. At this new 'Hub' it will house up to 9 service users at any one time and has 3 private consultation areas, 1 of these being a fully compliant DDA room, a therapeutic green space as well as housing all our administration under one roof. We still have works that need to be carried out on the facility (including a £15,000 spend on phase 3 of the roof) but we are open for business, housing 7 service users, but this will increase to 9 over the coming month or so. We recently closed and said a fond farewell to the old night shelter (23-24 George Street) which has served the homeless well over the years it has been in operation.

This year has marked a huge milestone in the history of Chess since its existence as the 'Churches Homeless Emergency Support Scheme'.

We are excited about the opportunities the new facility will offer the Service users, staff and volunteers in going forward.

It cannot go without saying that without the Churches, individuals, companies and grant making bodies giving towards this project, this amazing new facility would have never been feasible – our heartfelt thanks go out to you all.

### **Spare change or Real change**

We embarked on a campaign with Chelmsford City Council raise awareness to the public as to what help is available to rough sleepers who area visible on the streets.

This was met with both positive and negative results, but certainly highlighted the need for more provision to help those that are genuinely homeless.

### **Winter project 2017 / 18**

This year's winter weather was the worst that I have experienced since my time of leading Chess, and for those that are street homeless it was horrific. We also sadly saw the death of a homeless man on the streets of Chelmsford which was deeply upsetting for all of us in our community.

Chess continued to offer the winter project throughout this winter to rough sleepers lasting for 4 months (minus 4 days). The take up for this year's project was one of the highest to

date. We helped over 62 individuals, moved 9 of them into the main operation of Chess and saw an average occupancy of over 75%.

Thanks, must be expressed to the staff, volunteers, churches and Chelmsford city council for their assistance in this project.

### **NSNO Services**

Chess has begun to spread its wings outside of the Chelmsford area. We have been successfully delivering the No second night out service to Maldon District Council, and Chelmsford City Council. We have also now secured an agreement with Epping Forest District Council for delivering it for them.

The NSNO is an outreach service to rough sleepers, specifically designed to liaise with them so that they know what services are available to them.

### **Wingspan**

Wingspan continues to operate offering the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance to an independent life for those that have been long term unemployed or have been through the judicial system. This year saw Wingspan expand the number of private works it carried out and saw the introduction of us working for a neighbouring council, Brentwood. We are now happy to report that Wingspan works is carrying out contracted works for the council and can increase this at the new year proceeds. Our aim for this coming year will be to increase the teams so that we are able to help more people in need of the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance. We are also seeking to develop a training arm, by training our operations manager we will be able to certificate employees during their time at Wingspan. We will also be able to offer training out to other services, thus increasing the opportunity for Wingspan to increase its turnover and result in helping more people in need of employment.

### **Stats**

Chess was able to help 51 people this year through the main service, there was an additional 62 that were helped on the winter project. In the main operation 35% of them moved on in a planned way. Sadly this is a decrease from previous years due to the number of places that Chess clients can move onto being forced to close due to central funding cuts.

We saw an increase in the number of hours that volunteers contribute from 5008 (2016/17) to 5560 (2017/18) a word of appreciation needs to be said to all that have volunteered for us this year. We also need to say how proud we are of Janette Tadman who was 'Volunteer of the year' this year.

Since having been operating in the new facility we have seen the number of support meeting increase from 726 (2016/17) to 745 (2017/18) as well as the number of counselling and EMDR sessions increasing.

**Thanks**

Please let me say a personal note of thanks to God for his goodness to us as a charity and his grace in getting us through some of the tougher times this year. I would also like to thank the faithful churches for their support, the individuals that have helped in so many different ways, the trustees of Chess, the staff and volunteers for all that they do in helping us achieve our mission in helping the homeless.

## **Chelmsford Street Pastors - Annual report for 2017**

The Street Pastors in Chelmsford continue to care for and pray for people who are out in the city on Saturday nights, some Fridays and some Wednesdays and special patrols for 'A' level results night and the City Christmas lights switch-on.

In many ways nothing has changed. We have still been able to put out patrols - but there are subtle differences. We now find we can only find one person to 'man' the prayer base and sometimes there is no home pray-er. So we are looking for new recruits.

Several older pastors have had to move to praying at home rather than at base and we are sorry that Sarah Farnham has moved to Canterbury, Sarah Bell has left us, and Carol Kellingray and Hugh Dibbens still support us in prayer but are not on the streets or in base any more. We are pleased that Nikki Scarlioli has joined us from Havering pastors after moving house to Chelmsford. We also have several potential pastors observing and form filling, so hopefully we will be arranging for some training in 2018.

The Steering Committee has been joined by Kevin Killin and Judy Cecil. Gail has stood down from the committee but continues on the street and in base, and Di has moved sideways to be our 'Care Support'. Thank you to Gail and Di for their leadership and guidance over the years, and to Di for taking on this new role.

We now see the Open Road SOS bus in the High Street on Saturday nights, offering paramedic assistance so that in many cases an ambulance call out is not needed. They also offer a safe, warm place to which we can take people to sit and rest before getting a taxi home. Open Road also offer help with drug and alcohol addiction problems – at night and during the daytime. We are getting to know the SOS bus volunteers and learning to work with them. Their approach to the situation is slightly different from ours: some of them are Christians but not all, they expect donations for water and flip flops and they take names and information from all the folk they help.

We have seen many more 'homeless' people on the streets begging. The city council have adopted a new strategy – 'Spare change or Real change?' to help to prevent vulnerable people from being groomed by

## **Chelmsford Street Pastors - Annual report for 2017**

gangs, by encouraging the public to stop giving to beggars but to give to CHESS or Open Road.

We continue our partnership with the police and the City Council through the Safer Chelmsford Partnership and the City Centre Liaison Group. Chelmsford City Council was successful in retaining the Purple Flag Award again, which is given to towns and cities that provide high quality evening and night time cultural activities. Street Pastors were invited to a celebration event.

A group of us met Vicky Ford, the MP for Chelmsford and had a good discussion. Hopefully she will come on patrol with us. Tom, sometimes with Richard, Judy and Julian, have attended City council briefings around safety and homelessness.

Di and Tony have completed training and carry out assessments for the 'Best Bar None' scheme. Tom continues to collate data and send patrol reports to the council. Thank you to them all.

We have had several social gatherings. Sunday afternoons seem to be more popular than Saturdays so we will continue that trend. The Christmas meeting and AGM will be in January, hopefully when we all have more time. 14<sup>th</sup> January 1.30pm at Trinity Methodist.

2018 brings the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chelmsford SPs in April and we are planning an event at Life Church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30pm. Please put the date in your diaries and invite anyone you think appropriate. We are looking at involvement with the CAMRA 2018 winter beer festival and possibly with the new management at the V festival in August 2018.

We thank God for the good links we have with the City Council, CCTV, Police, SOS bus and door staff and for new contacts made. In God's strength, may we continue this ministry in Chelmsford, being open to his leading towards any new and relevant developments.

Adopted by Chelmsford Street Pastor steering committee 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

## **Foodbank Report to CTiC May 2018**

The objectives of Chelmsford Foodbank are to provide food to people by making sure there is good accessibility to vouchers through a wide range of referral agencies and distribution centres across our area, and to tackle underlying issues through signposting to other agencies and through developing and consolidating 'More than Food' programmes.

Chelmsford Foodbank was pioneered through the Oasis Church and launched in July 2012 but is very much a cross-church project for the benefit of the community. We now have volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, including those who come from many of the churches across the city. Our particular need in terms of volunteers at the moment is for those who are Christians and able to pray with clients in our centres.

Over the last year, we saw 34 tonnes of food donated by the general public in Chelmsford. Just over 9 tonnes of this came in over the harvest period. We have seen such incredible generosity as people donate not just food but toiletries, household goods such as toilet roll and nappies, and seasonal gifts. This has all been received, sorted, dated and organised into food parcels by our amazing warehouse team of volunteers.

Sadly last year we gave out more food parcels than ever before, 3,495 in total, with 1,335 of these going to children.

We continue to meet with clients in our six centres across the centre, and in November we made the move from Trinity Methodist to the YMCA which provided us with a more accessible space on the ground floor. We are really grateful for the generosity of these venues, allowing us to use the spaces free of charge. Clients are valued, listened to, encouraged and treated with dignity and respect in these contexts. We offer to pray with clients, as we feel is appropriate, and this is generally accepted, as people are touched that we care enough to want to pray for them.

We are excited to have recently signed a five year lease on our current warehouse at the Vicarage Hall on Beehive Lane and are now beginning to raise the money to renovate the space to make it more workable for our purposes.

With this in mind, our financial needs are now greater than they have been before as we look to refurbish the warehouse, replace our aging van and continue to meet the ongoing costs of bills and utilities. We would appreciate any financial support, particularly regular giving,

from individuals or churches – please visit our website for details of how to give: [www.chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk)

In the last year we ran two complete courses of a Trussell Trust 'More than Food' project, Eat Well Spend Less. This is a very practical basic cookery and budgeting course covering topics such as menu planning, budgeting, supermarket psychology and healthy eating. Clients get to try two recipes within a session and take the meals made home to share with the family at the end. We are currently in need of volunteers to lead and assist in these sessions.

We also ran a total of eight sessions of 4Families in two venues during the school summer holidays, two sessions during the Christmas holidays and two at Easter. 4Families is a holiday meals project that provides a hot healthy meal and fun activities to those who would otherwise struggle during the school holidays because of the lack of free school meals. These sessions have been really well received, one client commented, 'these events are a life saver not just for me but for my children, helping them socialise and experiences grow. I don't know what I would do without your help and support, not only by helping me feed my girls but also myself.'

Looking forward, we would love to not be needed in this city. Success for us looks like us no longer being required. We believe as the Kingdom of God progresses this will be the case. However, in the short term we are unfortunately expecting to see an increase in people accessing our service as Universal Credit is rolled out in Chelmsford from December 2018. We will be here for those needing us as long as there is a need and our desire is to see permanent life change come, which began as a conversation in one of our Foodbank centres.

Ruth Leverett  
Project Manager  
May 2018

## Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer, Annual Report for 2018 CTiC AGM

It is amazing to reflect that for over three years, Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer has been working alongside the Christians in our City, as a catalyst for unity and love across denominations and traditions, through the vehicle of prayer.

As well as prayer, many conversations and cups of coffee have been consumed, as relationships continue to build with leaders and others involved in our local churches and Christian organisations.

Each month, our portable 'Prayer Spaces' have continued at various churches and our Cathedral. Plastic crates containing interactive resources and a 'prayer wall' board are transported and set up for between three and four hours at a time. People drop-in and pray for our City, Nation and World and many other issues on their hearts. Two churches even run their own Prayer Spaces once a month on a sort of franchise basis!

We are sometimes to be seen 'Prayer Walking' wearing blue reflective jackets, emblazoned, 'Praying for our City'. A monthly Saturday walk has taken place in the City Centre and several times we have been out early Friday evenings, praying over the night-economy, when our street Pastors cannot be on duty. During 2017, we also had a monthly Prayer Walk on the Melbourne Estate.

Our Prayer Support Team, drawn from members of various churches has continued to meet each month to strategically pray and listen to God for our City.

November 2017, we hosted a highly successful regional gathering at Life Church, where a speaker from national organisation, Passion for the Nation, spoke on the theme of declarative prayer. Well over one-hundred people attended.

Our leader David Gilbey, has had the opportunity to speak at several breakfast and other meetings in the City, also visiting churches outside of the Chelmsford area to speak on the subject of prayer. He even facilitated a Baptist church prayer away-day, at a retreat centre in Suffolk.

February 2018, we were most excited to support in prayer, both before and during, the week-long Illuminate Chelmsford senior schools mission organised by Chelmsford's SYM, (Schools and Youth Ministries). We posted an on-line prayer calendar where people signed up to pray whilst their team and group LZ7 were in our schools, and opened an 'upper room' for prayer during two evening concerts at Skylark Church, where hundreds of young people heard and responded to the gospel message.

Easter, we provided stewards for the Service of Witness in the High Street. Our Prayer Tent saw an outing on a wonderfully hot May Bank holiday, to the Diocesan House of Retreat, Pleshey.

During the 'Thy Kingdom Come' Global prayer initiative, 10<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018, we were again invited by the Christian Police Association to Prayer Walk around Essex Police HQ and we joined a parish prayer walk held by St. Andrew's, Melbourne. A day-long Prayer Space from early morning to late at night was also opened by Meadgate Church.

We firmly believe God hears every prayer and that equally each receives an answer. There have been many stories and encouragements throughout the last twelve months from people who have experienced the results taking even short moments to pray. We know that our prayers are impacting and blessing the people of Chelmsford.

We know that The Lord has some new things ahead for us as an organisation during the coming months and He wants to do even greater things in our City, so that the name of Jesus Christ is lifted high! The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 'Pray without ceasing'. Will you continue to lift your voice to heaven to see The Kingdom of God come down in even greater measure upon Chelmsford?

*David Gilbey*

*Leader Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer*

*<https://:chelmsford24-7.org>*