



CHURCHES
TOGETHER

Weston-super-Mare & District

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 15th May 2019

7.30pm

at

Locking Castle Church
Weston-super-Mare

Reflecting God's Heart through
United Work, Worship & Witness

www.ctwd.org.uk





Weston-super-Mare & District

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

AGENDA

Opening Worship – Salv & Noelle Lomanto

Welcome and Opening Prayer – Gary Hoare

Apologies

Minutes of Last Meeting

Matters Arising

Financial Reports & Accounts to 03/18 and 03/19

Election of Officers

President | President-Elect | Treasurer

Secretary | Assistant-Secretary

Update on Church Nominations

President's Oath / Bible

Prayer for the President & President-Elect

Presidents Presentation -

Reflecting God's Heart through United Work, Worship & Witness

Worship

Prayer of Dedication & Blessing

Time to continue visiting the Community Showcase Exhibitors



This is the statement of belief for Churches Together in England and is applicable at all levels, from CTE Presidents to local groups of Churches Together.

Churches Together in England unites in pilgrimage those Churches in England which, acknowledging God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves:

- * to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and
- * to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world
 - * to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For more info about Churches Together England, see:
www.cte.org.uk



MEMBER CHURCHES

All Saints with St Saviours
Boulevard URC
Christ Church, Montpelier
Church of Nazarene
Church Road Methodist Church
Clarence Park Baptist Church
Corpus Christi
Destiny Church
Emmanuel
Holy Trinity
Hope Church
Locking Castle
Mead Vale Church
Milton Baptist
Milton Methodist Church
Our Lady of Lourdes
Prime Time Christian Fellowship

Seventh Day Adventist
Society of Friends
St Andrews
St Augustines Locking
St John the Baptist
St Joseph's
St Marks Worle
St Martins Worle
St Mary's Hutton
St Nicholas with St Barnabus
St Pauls
St Peters Milton
St Peters with St Pauls - Bleadon
The Salvation Army
Uphill Methodist
Victoria Methodist
Worle Baptist

CTWD Executive Committee - Officers 2017-2019

President:
President-Elect:
Secretary:
Assistant Secretary:
Treasurer:
Treasurer:
Members:

Deacon Gary Hoare
Late Rev Gill Putnam
Emily Cumberbatch
Donna Pilgrim
Kevin Bale (to 09/18)
Sue Baldwin (from 10/18)
Rev John Simons, Andy Page,
Caroline Jones, Myrtle Wyatt, Meg Hill,



President's Report

'Reflecting God's Heart through United Work, Worship & Witness'.

At the 2018 Annual General Meeting of Churches Together, we asked different groups from around WSM to come and tell us a little bit about what was happening with their organisations. You will see many of them included again in this report. It is just a small part of what is happening - not a full picture.

Many people who attended the meeting remarked on just how much was happening, in the name of Jesus in one way or another. We could have gone all night with other groups as well, but this to me was one of the amazing things about WSM and district - the scope and scale of work that is going on.

This in itself is worth giving thanks to God for, because we are able to show in worship and in action, the kingdom of God in its many dimensions. We create opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with the people we meet along the way and with the many people we help.

As you read through this report and as you visit the exhibitors here tonight, it will no doubt give you much to give thanks for and also things to pray for in your churches and other gatherings.

The theme of tonight's meeting, and our adopted motto for the coming year is '**Reflecting God's Heart through United Work, Worship & Witness**'. My prayer is that we will continue to be like a mirror reflecting God's goodness and mercy as it is being shown to the people of Weston. May we also be catalysts as we respond individually and corporately to the needs and the many opportunities to serve the people of our town, living God's love every step of the way.

This year has been particularly amazing as Churches Together has been actively working with the team who have set up the Night Assessment Centre at Somewhere to Go. This is something that has been needed for a very long time.





It is a shame that the churches don't always get a mention when publicity is released, not that we are looking for recognition or glory! However, it is Christ who makes our lights shine, and the opportunities will arise for us to be there helping practically with the needs of the community and taking a lead when and where it is necessary.

I believe that we as church also need to learn how to speak prophetically to a world that is deeply in need. Last Summer, we proclaimed God's glory and prayed prayers of blessing over Weston-super-Mare during Prayer on the Hill. It was a significant moment for many who were there. We continue to contend for transformation, healing of the land, prosperity and all things good for our town.

I welcome our new President-Elect - Rev Julie Birkett, who is already serving the community as an Associate Priest, Chaplain to Weston College and a Trustee of Weston's Foodbank and Somewhere to Go. We are looking forward to serving with Julie and introducing her to the role of President from 2020 onwards.

This AGM is in some ways, a re-launch of Churches Together in Weston-super-Mare and District! We are looking to garner strong representation from each of the local churches both from clergy and lay members and are looking forward to welcoming many new members to the Executive Committee over the coming months. If your church has not nominated anyone yet, it isn't too late! – please email us for a nomination form.

Finally, may I thank everyone who has contributed to this evening and to the many projects represented in this report. May we continue to reflect God's heart through the oneness and unity of purpose that Churches Together represents in Weston-super-Mare.

**Deacon Gary Hoare – President
Churches Together in Weston-super-Mare & District**



Minutes of CTWD Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 7th November 2017 HOPE Church, Worle.

Welcome, Opening Courtesies

Worship - led by Paul Maxwell and the HOPE church band, Thank you to Paul and the band.

Present: 16 Churches and 12 groups represented. A sign-up sheet was handed round for attendees list and for updating contact details.

HOPE Church, Locking Castle Church, Uphill Methodists, Emmanuel Church, Church Of The Nazarene, St Paul's, Holy Trinity, All Saints With St Saviour's, Quakers, Parklands Community Church, Victoria Methodist, St Andrew's Bournville, Christchurch, Worle Baptist Church.

Apologies: Cliff Dumbell, Jo Neales, Andy Page, Claire Rogers, St Augustine's Locking,
Kevin Hennessey, Mike Cooper.

Gary Hoare spoke on 2 Chronicles 7:14 – If my people who are called by my name... the IF is key, it depends on faithfulness. We all need to pray – and listen. If we are in God's ways He gives us three promises – to hear us, forgive and heal. Prayer is vital.

Prayers for Weston.

Thank you to HOPE church for hosting, for the venue, the hospitality and worship.

Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes from 2016 were handed out to attendees. They were accepted as an accurate record of that meeting.

There was a plea for more reps and representation between churches and CTWD and vice versa. Unity between churches is important.

Treasurer: Kevin will be stepping down. The meeting agreed to give Gary Hoare and Emily Cumberbatch power to cover Treasury duties until a new Treasurer is appointed.



Communication between churches – How can it be improved? Suggestions from attendees included more posters for churches, Newsletter items to be included in churches newsletters, facebook group – one exists but needs to invite people in.

Developing relationships between Churches Together and local churches. Questions about two-way communication were discussed and attendees invited to forward any ideas to CTWD.

Concerns around town – some queries were raised and answered by Gary.

Hospital Chaplaincy – Led by David Grace. Desperate need for prayer, for the chaplaincy, the hospital for the volunteers Dolly Gladwish, Brian Dallimore, and others.

We need to let chaplaincy know if someone from our church is in hospital (as David Grace is not allowed to ask).

AOB:

Minutes of the meeting to go out to member churches before the meeting.

The formal business meeting concluded, followed by short talks from local organisation's representatives:

- Youth work – Andy Pearce and Neil Stokes
- Costa Healing Café and Wetherspoons- Dolly
- Healing on the Streets (HOTS) – Sue McCarthy
- Street Pastors – Pete Maxwell
- Foodbank – Donna Pilgrim and Frederique
- Love Weston / Prayer on the Hill – John Simons
- Somewhere To Go – report by Meg Hill
- New Estates – Tom Yacomeni / Claire Roberts / Fiona Mayne / Ellie Frake

To Close the evening Tim Price, Ecumenical Mission enabler from Bath & Wells Diocese reflected on all the positive good works being done in the area.

The meeting closed in Prayer.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE AND DISTRICT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
	£	£
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Subscriptions	720.00	850.00
Prayer on the Hill Income	0.00	150.00
Prayer Flash Mob Income	112.86	0.00
Sundry	0.00	18.38
Bank Interest	0.32	0.33
 Total Receipts	 <u>833.18</u>	 <u>1018.71</u>
 <u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Insurance	70.56	69.30
Website	245.18	281.56
Easter Events Publicity	0.00	12.00
Prayer on the Hill Expenses	0.00	168.49
Love Weston Expenses	111.66	115.05
Crisis Leaflets	150.00	0.00
Sundry	0.00	0.00
 Total Payments	 <u>577.40</u>	 <u>646.40</u>
 Surplus of Receipts over Payments	 <u>255.78</u>	 <u>372.31</u>
 <u>BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2018</u>		
	2018	2017
	£	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance at 1 April 2017 / 2016	2752.23	2379.92
Add: Surplus for the year	255.78	372.31
Balance at 31 March 2018 / 2017	<u>3008.01</u>	<u>2752.23</u>
 Represented by: CASH FUNDS (Lloyds TSB Bank)		
Bank Current Account	2388.84	2133.38
Bank Deposit Account	619.17	618.85
	<u>3008.01</u>	<u>2752.23</u>

EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

I have examined the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2018 and confirm that it is in accordance with the books of accounts and supporting documents. I have also examined the bank statements and confirm that the Balance Sheet shows a true and accurate position of the Cash Funds as at 31 March 2018

David C. Wilkes ACMA



Churches Together WsM Treasurer's Report – March 2018

23 of our member churches paid subscriptions during the year.

Receipts

Subscriptions are down slightly from last year as renewal notices went out late and we are still awaiting a few subscriptions to come in.

There was no Prayer on the hill within the year and so no income for this.

Payments

There was no prayer on the hill within the year and so no expenses for this.

Crisis leaflets were re-printed this year at a cost of £150 and came out of the restricted funds within the current account. These restricted funds came from the restricted grant within the year to 31 March 2016.

Restricted funds

The current amount of restricted funds within the bank accounts is £750 and is restricted as follows:

- £350 Design and provision of CTWD ambassador uniform/kit including signposters bag for leaflets.
- £200 Signposting training workshops
- £200 Development and printing of signposting packs

The closing balance of our current and savings accounts at the end of 31 March 2018 was £3008.01

I would like to thank Dave Wilkes for inspecting the CTWD accounts.

Kevin Bale
Treasurer



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE AND DISTRICT
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	£	£
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Subscriptions	30.00	720.00
Prayer on the Hill Income	184.62	0.00
Prayer Flash Mob Income	0.00	112.86
Sundry	236.00	0.00
Bank Interest	0.33	0.32
 Total Receipts	 <u>450.95</u>	 <u>833.18</u>
 <u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Insurance	0.00	70.56
Website	48.38	245.18
Easter Events Publicity	0.00	0.00
Prayer on the Hill Expenses	870.80	0.00
Love Weston Expenses	0.00	111.66
Crisis Leaflets	0.00	150.00
Sundry	261.00	0.00
 Total Payments	 <u>1180.18</u>	 <u>577.40</u>
 Deficit of Receipts over Payments	 <u>-729.23</u>	 <u>255.78</u>
 <u>BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2019</u>	 <u>2019</u>	 <u>2018</u>
	£	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance at 1 April 2018 / 2017	3008.01	2752.23
Less Deficit (-)	<u>-729.23</u>	<u>255.78</u>
Balance at 31 March 2019 / 2018	<u>2278.78</u>	<u>3008.01</u>
 Represented by: CASH FUNDS (Lloyds TSB Bank)		
Bank Current Account	1659.28	2388.84
Bank Deposit Account	<u>619.50</u>	<u>619.17</u>
	<u>2278.78</u>	<u>3008.01</u>

EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

I have examined the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2019 and confirm that it is in accordance with the books of accounts and supporting documents. I have also examined the bank statements and confirm that the Balance Sheet shows a true and accurate position of the Cash Funds as at 31 March 2019

David C. Wilkes ACMA



Churches Together WsM Treasurer's Report – March 2019

Receipts

Prayer on the Hill income - £184.62

Churches Together WsM
Treasurer's Report – March 2019

Receipts

Prayer on the Hill income - £184.62

Payments

Prayer on the Hill expenditure - £870.80

Restricted Funds

The current amount of restricted funds within the bank accounts is £750 and is restricted as follows:

£350 Design and provision of CTWD ambassador uniform/kit including signposters bag for leaflets.

£200 Signposting training workshops

£200 Development and printing of signposting packs

The closing balance of our current and savings accounts at the end of 31 March 2019 was £2278.78

Once again, we would thank Dave Wilkes for kindly inspecting and signing off our accounts for the year.

**Sue Baldwin
Treasurer**



Partner Organisation Reports

The Beacon at Emmanuel Church

The Beacon was started nearly 10 years ago as the result of 2 volunteers at Somewhere To Go feeling frustrated that there was never time, nor the opportunity, of talking with vulnerable people about their spiritual needs. One of those volunteers had had a life changing encounter with Jesus in his prison cell where, on and off, he had spent a number of years of his life. He longed for others to have this experience too, and so after much prayer and discussion we decided to offer a meal at Emmanuel and invite people to stay on if they would like to, for some form of spiritual discussion over tea and cake.

STG is closed on a Tuesday so the Beacon gave an opportunity of a hot meal where none had been offered before. We open the doors at 12o/c for hot drinks and serve a main meal at 12.30. for which 50p. is charged so that people don't feel they are always dependent on handouts, although if they don't have the 50p they still have a meal.

When the meal is finished 3 tables are put together for anyone who would like to stay for our 'chat' time with tea and cake. A Reader from Christ Church starts the time off with a story, sometimes a bible story sometimes not. We are always able to weave Jesus into the discussion and it can be very rewarding for us all.

We cook for 40 which includes about 5 volunteers and we usually get 30+ guests with anything from 2 to 8 or 9 staying for the chat. We plan to have 2 or 3 people as volunteers who have been through treatment and needing something to do to rebuild their self-confidence as they work towards getting a job etc.

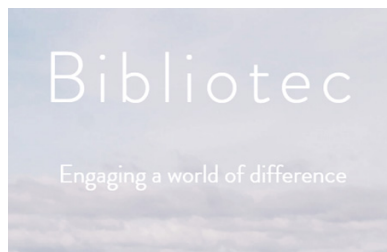
At present the other volunteers are from Emmanuel and Christ Church and we do have close links with some folk from St. Paul's. Through the course of the morning we do get to know people and it's not unusual for someone to come in early asking for prayer.

If someone has died in the week a friend may well ask if they can say a prayer when we ask for a blessing on the food before we dish it up, or ask us to say a prayer for them.



Bibliotec

Bibliotec was established in 2018 as the Bible College for Weston-super-Mare initiative in response to a word from God given to David Knight. Bibliotec is governed by Woodspring Christian Trust, a charity of 30 years good standing. A website has been created that explains more about the initiative (see www.thebibliotec.co.uk).



Bibliotec will be a Bible College unlike others, but complementary to more academic colleges that provide Higher Education. Bibliotec aims to educate people with respect to the Bible. In time, the intention is for there to be a specific Bibliotec development in the town with educational buildings, social hub, meeting space, café, book shop and there is even talk of a Bible Museum. Bibliotec is currently led by David Knight (Leader of Woodspring Church), Andrew Williams (Life Bookshop) and Paul Gill (Haywood Village Church Plant).

A first year curriculum was devised in prayer and discussion and has been running from September 2018 to May 2019 with a break in December 2018. Each month a subject has been dealt with through an Evening Event followed by two 'Open Bible' sessions held at Life Bookshop. The monthly subjects have tackled the key aspects of the Christian Faith covering The Bible, Humanity, God, Jesus Christ, Salvation, The Holy Spirit, Discipleship and The Church.

The Events have been held at different church venues and we express our appreciation of Locking Castle Church, Clarence Park Baptist Church and Christ Church for their support. Highlights from these events have included Dr Clive Colledge's lecture and Meet the Authors with Neil Laing and Jon Air. The final event of the academic year in May will be an event that will showcase some research that has been done into the history of the church in Weston-super-Mare.

Open book has brought adults together to study the Bible and discuss the passages being shared. This group study started somewhat chaotically, but has developed into deep and meaningful times for those involved. Open Book is now also established in Woodspring Church.



Bibliotec has made a low key start and the adopted approach has been supported by others involved in Bible Colleges. We have been encouraged by feedback of those who have attended, those who support the initiative and those who have said they have been praying for a Bible College. We have appreciated the prayers of Church Leaders.

From September 2019 Bibliotec intends to run the Bible Society's 8 session Bible Course to give Christians and non-Christians, who are interested, an overview of the world's greatest book and its big narrative.

The vision for Bibliotec has become clearer over the last year and an updated Plan document is currently being written. Indeed, Bibliotec is not short on an expansive vision. However for the full vision to become a reality will take time, prayer, wisdom and a group of Christian people who have caught the vision. Bibliotec will continue to develop over the coming year. We are looking towards the following:

1. The establishment of a Steering Group whose members have the different skills necessary to take the initiative forward;
2. The realisation of an ongoing funding stream; and
3. Growth in the support, encouragement and prayers of the Churches in Weston-super-Mare.

David Knight
16th April 2019

Weston Area CAP Centre

Through the work of the Weston Area CAP Debt Centre over the last two years, there are now eleven people that are debt-free and six more are on repayment plans. Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has been helping people become debt-free for over twenty years, bringing hope where there once was despair.



Since opening in June 2016, the Centre has already had 50 new client enquiries. These have come through referrals from housing associations, word of mouth, existing clients and church members. Each client is visited in their home and receives a minimum of three visits - an initial visit, a fact-find visit and a budget



visit. The Centre Manager, Paul Larcombe, underwent extensive training by CAP and has been approved as an Agent. Paul always visits with a volunteer from the support team, and prayer is offered during the visit.

If anyone needs to be visited, they call 0800 328 0006, where their call is handled professionally and, if appropriate, an appointment is made. There isn't a physical Centre, as Paul works from home and visits people in their homes. Many of the clients require emotional support.

Over the last two years, there has been a Centre Launch event as well as two Anniversary Celebrations. The most recent of these was on Sunday 15 July at Priory School, where praise, worship and thanksgiving were given to God for the fruit and provision for this ministry.

The Facebook page is at: [Facebook.com/WestonAreaCAP](https://www.facebook.com/WestonAreaCAP) and gives news and details about events.

The Centre is funded and supported by a number of churches, but more funding is needed. Local churches are giving regularly to the Centre and some grants have been received. Destiny Church is the Partner Church with CAP, and there are 12 Link Churches. Link Churches commit to give a regular monthly payment and enable the Centre Manager to be employed for three days a week as well as paying for resources from CAP Head Office. Other churches and individuals are making one-off gifts and regular donations, which are much appreciated. The Annual Report and Financial Statements are available on request.

If you want to find out any more details, please phone me on 07563 880577 or email me at paullarcombe@capuk.org

Paul Larcombe
Weston Area CAP Centre Manager

CLIF – CHURCH LEADERS IN FELLOWSHIP

'At CLIF (Church Leaders In Fellowship) we have continued to develop trust and build unity as church leaders over the last year. It's been so good to welcome many new church leaders to





the group as they have moved to the area and to see many attending the monthly meetings.

Our meeting format has changed over the last few years and we now pray, worship and share with one another. As leaders, we very much appreciate the time we have each month to catch up, learn from one another, encourage each other, support one another and of course eat together!

We continue to work together on our multi-church Weston Area CAP Debt Centre and have been pleased to receive such inspiring reports from our centre manager Paul Larcombe who is doing a fantastic job. It was so good to bless our CAP Clients with special gifts at Christmas and Easter where many of them were overwhelmed with the generosity shown.



We celebrated our 2nd Anniversary on Sunday 15th July 2018 @ Priory School where we thanked God for all that has been done through our local CAP Centre in releasing so many people from debt and helping many to manage their money better.

CLIF continues to believe the church is #StrongerTogether.

Mike and Lois Radcliffe
Facilitators - CLIF | Lead Pastors, Destiny

Easter Walk of witness/Easter Sunrise service

On Good Friday, 80 members of local churches took part in a march of witness, bearing three crosses and walking in a quiet procession from Emmanuel Church, along the sea front and back along Weston's High Street.



The march was followed by an open air worship service with worship led by Salv Lomanto and an Easter Message shared by our President, Gary Hoare.



Once again, the Worle Churches also met for a joint service.

Many took part in an Easter Sunday early morning Sunrise Service on Weston Sea Front followed by breakfast at the Salvation Army in Carlton Street.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE WORSHIP

Friday Night Live Worship was started in October 2014 by Phil and April Brown, after a chance meeting with an old friend at Soul Survivor and a great deal of encouragement from God. Its aim was to bring local Christians together in a neutral environment, to worship, encourage and to connect. Our hope was to have inspiring speakers from outside the area who would bring something fresh.



The event is run completely by faith, we take an offering on the evening to cover our costs and to generously bless our guests.

The event is held in St George's Community Centre on the third Friday evening of the month. We do not meet in July, August and December. We start with doughnuts and coffee or tea at 7.00pm and the worship starts at 7.30pm.

We have several worship leaders and bands who lead the worship, each bringing their own flavour. The guests we have welcomed include Nancy Goudie, Dave Hopwood, Noel and Tricia Richards, Godfrey Birtill, Colin Elliott, Wayne Drain, John Noble, Dave Day, Sheridan Voysey, Open Doors, Bob Hartman, Tom and Suzie Brock, Charles and Sue Whitehead, Tony Pullin, Ian Long, Carl Wills and Gerald Coates.

We have experienced some amazing evenings and have seen connections between members of different churches grow. We recently held an evening signposting local initiative including Cross Winds Prayer, Kenya Hope and Bible College for Weston. This was inspiring and exciting, and we intend to do another this coming year.

Our programme is being advertised now on handy bookmark style cards that have been distributed to local churches and are available at Life Bookshop. We are



inspired by tales of lives changing and healing brought through the ministry of FNLW. Our prayer is that it will continue to grow and bless so that many more people can benefit.

We and the team look forward to seeing you.

Phil and April Brown
Find us on Facebook

Haywood Village Community Pastor

I became a Christian 6 years ago which completely transformed every area of my life and now I am a pioneer minister in training for Ordination. When I came to know God I immediately felt compelled to tell others. I went on Alpha to find out more and a year later was running Alpha and then a home group made up of new believers from Alpha.

I felt called to Haywood Village which is a new housing estate in Weston super mare when it started to be built. I gathered a team and set up a pop-up community café called take 5 once a week with crafts in the school in 2016. This was a way to meet people and build relationships and community.

From that in 2017 we launched tea and Toast Church which is a monthly café style church on a Sunday afternoon, also in the school hall. We also have a mid-week home Church called rooted and there are 12 people who come regularly to that for teaching about Jesus and discipleship at my home so that I can grow leaders for the future. These are people I met at take 5 and tea and toast church who were open to hearing about Jesus and becoming Christians.

I also have open house every Sunday afternoon for people to drop in to my home for coffee and a chat. We are also starting to do some detached youth work at the end of April starting by talking to the teenagers in the area and finding out their needs and what we can provide for them. We will go out for five weeks and talk to them in parks and places where they congregate.

Of the people I meet many are just finding out a little about Jesus and some are fully on their journey of faith as a result and some are now committed Christians and we have our first adult baptism at the end of April. I am so excited to see all



that God is doing at Haywood Village. There are also community pastors at Westwick and Locking Parklands but we don't work as a team although we meet up regularly and share ideas.

Parklands Community Pastor

Parklands Community Church exists to bless and serve those living in Locking Parklands, Flowerdown and Locking Grove. These three estates form part of the old RAF Locking camp and the church meets in the refurbished RAF Chapel which is now a community centre.

Weekly services began in April 2017 and two years on we're happy to say we're growing! It's been great to welcome new people into the church and see God work in their lives. We're especially excited to have our first Baptism planned for April 2019.

A big focus for us this past year has been on building more links and relationships with members of the community. In August 2018 the church helped organise a community fun day on a local park. This was a great day in itself and also helped us develop good relationships with some key leaders in the community.

In October 2018 we launched a monthly Pop Up Café to provide a space for residents to get to know each other. The café has proved very popular with local families, not least because of the free craft activities we provide for the children. The café provides a regular contact space for us to get to know people and we're praying for more relationships to grow from this.

In December, we organised two 'Advent Window' trails and it was great to have so many people from the community keen to be involved. We also had over 90 people at our Carol and Christingle Service which meant we ran out of chairs! We organised an Easter window trail for Holy Week and had a busy Easter event for families.

A new primary school opened in September 2018 and continues to grow. Claire Roberts, our Community Pastor is now volunteering in the school regularly and we're praying for more opportunities as this relationship develops.



Members of the church continue to prayer walk around all 3 housing estates and we pray for a residents of a nominated street each week as a church, delivering prayer request cards through their doors. As we pray, we're in faith that God will continue to guide us as a church and we're expectant for more good things to come.

Weston Foodbank

Weston Foodbank is one of the agencies that engages with people at a crisis point in their lives. We want to provide more than food - bringing hope into circumstances that seem hopeless. There is a wonderful "Sharing Community" of people who enable our work to proceed as people share food, their time and their money to enable us to continue our work.



Our "front line" is providing emergency food to individuals and families referred to us as experiencing food poverty. Last year we gave away food for about 5,000 people – up from 3,600 in 2015. This represents between 15,000 and 20,000 days of food donated through the local community. We seek to extend our work beyond emergency food by providing meals for children in need through school holidays, cookery classes, opportunities to Citizens Advice drop in sessions and independent housing and tenancy advice.

Hear a little of Maria's story (not her real name) who starts: "I would have starved or turned to shoplifting."

"I had a head full of dreams, a great job, a wonderful man and I was due to have a beautiful baby. We both worked full-time."

That was before Maria's life "imploded". Illness of close family members removed the expected support; costs of childcare almost matched income. The landlord's sale of the rented family home forced moves into increasingly unsuitable accommodation, financial pressures grew and food in the home became scarce.

Maria's life circumstances deteriorated, and it was a health visitor who noticed



there was no food in the house and issued a Foodbank voucher. Maria recognised the family had been “living in crisis”, but she arrived outside the Foodbank feeling “terrified, alone and ashamed.”

“Walking inside was like the warmest hug; lovely people smiling and welcoming... I felt lighter than I had in years.”

Maria had food in the house, her children engaged with the Foodbank holiday club. “Following this, I met more and more people connected via the Foodbank, a huge community opened up to us and I no longer felt alone.” Maria says “I will always be forever grateful to all of the people of Weston Foodbank. Yes, I received food parcels, but I also received so much more! Friends, a community, a feeling of self-worth and my dignity.”

Maria concludes her story, “You have brought my family back from a very dark place with your cooking workshops, summer holiday club, Christmas club, Easter event and now again your school holiday events. My story isn't unique, many are suffering in these times. I look forward to the future when one day I will be volunteering alongside you.”

Weston-super-Mare Foodbank, North Street, Weston-s-Mare, BS23 1QF. Tel:01934 708906

Facebook: WsM Foodbank : Twitter: @wsmfoodbank
www.westonsupermare.foodbank.org.uk

The Weston-super-Mare Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust Network of foodbanks. Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered in England and Wales No 1177071

In-Crisis Street Sheet

Working with this wonderful Christian ministry we are blessed to have in Weston, KeySteps, (Formally WDGB) who help some of the most vulnerable people in our community find and secure housing, a few years ago, we put together a “Street Sheet”





that offers emergency signposting support to those who hit crisis point in our community.

Thanks to a joint funding application to the Church Urban Fund we have managed to design and print a couple of print-runs of these tri-fold sheets which are available for all the churches and statutory agencies in the area to use.



These have been very well received by many churches, prayer walking teams, support workers and front-line ministries who come across the vulnerable in our community.

LIFE

Andrew & Lydia continue to live their lives at The Centre Weston super mare. With the help of staff and volunteers, open to unknown trials and blessings which God allows in order that he may display his glory and express his love in the mess, beauty and brokenness that is LIFE.



BOOKSHOP

We continue to provide Bibles books cards gifts children's books CD/DVD to all those who want to come to a physical place to see and touch what they are going to purchase, in particular for Bibles to see the size of text and range of translations that are available. Through Facebook/webpage we are increasingly asked to obtain products for people who do not live in Weston.

From a recent survey of customers 60% of our trade comes from people more than 10 miles away and much further! Locally less than 10% of the local churches buy regularly from us. This is totally known by God who has not failed to put food on the table and give clothing as promised, sometimes in the most surprising of ways.



He is so true to His word.

We are faced with daily challenges, as many new books are beginning more openly to deny the deity of Christ. God is big enough to fight his own corner but we continue to pray for wisdom as we do not want to lead anyone astray.

“For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.”

MARK 13 v 22-23 ESVUK

“And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.”

LUKE 21 v8-9 ESV UK

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

MATHEW 18 v 5-6 ESV UK

God is clearly on the move as we have seen people who have no existing relationship with God suddenly arrive in the shop in search of a Bible. Young and old have come in expressing a call toward God.

THE LIVING ROOM

As we have from day one nearly 7 years ago placed an open Bible with a highlighted verse in the window every day and have testimony of God's use of His word to impact passers-by through their reading of the day's passage. Daily as we read when we open in the morning and after lunch we never know who will join us but of course God is always here. It is wonderful to see God's living Word totally relevant to a real moment of need also to see a maturing of faith in an individual. You are welcome to join us.



Our offer of “Coffee & conversation” is frequently taken up and we have the privilege of sharing moments and seasons in people's lives it is humbling to hear stories of joy and sorrow. As moments of prayer take place we have seen many answers. Thank you Father.

As we continue to walk by faith taking steps and listening for the confirming word from God that this is the way walk in it, we are grateful for your prayer, patronage and presence on this journey.

And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it”, when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Isaiah 30 v 21 ESV UK

Lighthouse

The last eighteen months have been a significant period for Lighthouse as following a strategic review the Trustees felt that after over seven very successful years the charity had served its purpose.

The Weston Foodbank which was born out of Lighthouse had become over 60% of the charity's expenditure and activity and it was felt to be appropriate to encourage new homes for the remaining projects to ensure their continued growth. King's Table has moved to the Victoria Methodist Church and renamed Victoria's Kitchen with set up funds provided by Lighthouse. Finally the three projects centred on St. Paul's Church, Vision4skills, Conversational English and the Lighthouse Choir have been integrated back into the church management function.

We are very grateful to those two bodies who have embraced the projects and have been able to provide both management and direction. The charity will now be wound up and any remaining funds distributed amongst the former projects.

We are very grateful for the support provided by our volunteers, benefactors and managers that have enabled the projects to grow and continue to provide for the needy of our town.

Denys Rayner - Chairman



LOVE WESTON

LOVE WESTON's aim is to encourage each of us to pray and show practical care and concern for the communities around where we live, work, relax or study.

We believe that prayer changes things and that we can all be agents for positive change in our town.

Our target is to recruit 1000+ Christians to be praying and caring for Weston-super-Mare. Participants receive a weekly email from our partners at Neighbourhood Prayer Network with testimonies to answered prayer and encouraging teaching and articles. To sign up: Text FLQNP + your name, email address and postcode to 60777.

LOVE WESTON's 2018 Prayer on the Hill event included Prayer, Praise and Proclamation over our Town, and refreshments. The event on Sat 7 July at Uphill Hill welcomed Special guests - Rob Parker from Wings Prayer House and Rev Keith Powell, the Diocesan Renewal Advisor.

The 90-minute gathering was led by our President, Gary Hoare, and other local church leaders. Worship was led by Salv Lomanto, prayers, songs and worship from Rob Parker (Wings Prayer House - Bridlington), Rev Keith Powell gave a short talk and led prayers of blessing over the town and district.

Rob Parker is a gifted preacher with a heart for prayer who runs Wings Prayer House, based in Bridlington. He is also an inspirational songwriter and musician. He recently released 'Awakening the Coastlands' a moving album that reflects the growing hope for revival across our nation. See www.wingsprayerhouse.com

Rev Keith Powell recently retired from parish ministry, but continues his work in the Diocese of Bath and Wells where he is advisor to the Bishop on Renewal. His work takes him abroad regularly on missions and ministry trips.

We illuminated a beacon as a visual representation of our prayers and our wish to see many good things, prosperity and success emanating from our streets and





neighbourhoods.

The next Prayer on the Hill Event will be held in July 2020. In the meantime, we have made available supplies of a brilliant Prayer-Walking resource from Neighbourhood Prayer Network called 'A Mile with Jesus' - it is in stock with our friends at Life, 13 The Centre.

Rev John Simons
www.loveston.org.uk

SOMEWHERE TO GO

The Somewhere to Go day centre continues to give support and help to those who are sleeping rough, along with those who are living in temporary accommodation, poor accommodation or are in danger of becoming homeless.



We provide food, warmth, showers and a change of clothing in addition to offering help with benefits queries and housing issues. We are only able to continue this work because of the amazing support that the people of Weston-super-Mare give us, both in financial terms and in other kinds of useful donations. The churches in the town and surrounding areas have been really generous and on behalf of everyone who attends the day centre, I would like to offer our thanks to all who make the decision to support people who are so often marginalized.

The number of people who find themselves sleeping rough has increased significantly in the last couple of years and this increase is reflected in the number of rough sleepers who attend the day centre. Our daily figures for attendance are regularly in the region of 60 and last week 68 people attended on one of the days that we opened.

We welcome representatives from a number of organizations to spend time at the day centre working with those who attend. I would like to express my thanks to the NSCP for funding two nurses who provide much needed medical help for our members. I would like to thank the YMCA for providing their outreach worker and



St. Mungos, Bristol, for also providing outreach workers who specialize in working with rough sleepers. Support Alliance provides workers who can engage in longer term one-to-one support and Addaction supports those with addiction problems. The Samaritans attend on a regular basis and the Carlton Centre offer training, so far in IT which is essential these days as Universal Credit applications can only be done on line. Since the early days of Stg a weekly drop in was provided by the CAB, offering benefits advice and legal advice to our members, but unfortunately this service had to be withdrawn but we hope that money will be found to reinstate it as it is desperately missed.

We now have the Night Assessment Centre open here in the Somewhere to Go building which is a wonderful support for those who have nowhere to live.

Of course, we always have specific needs and would like to make a brief appeal for sleeping bags, which we need in the winter months. We are also looking for volunteer cooks/kitchen workers and would love to hear from anyone who would be interested to join our team.

Joan Eales - Day Centre Manager
joaneales@aol.com

TRANSEND SKATEPARK and SKATECLUB

For some time a group from Holy Trinity Church had been borrowing an unused mobile skatepark led by Andy Skyrme taking it to Soul Survivor and New Wine with a vision of making it available to all Weston Skaters. In 2017 they



had the opportunity to buy the skatepark which they did. Another team from Locking Castle Church had been doing detached youth work and met with a lot of youth in the area, they mostly consisted of skaters and their friends. This all led to a small group of Christians from 3 different churches, all sharing a similar vision, met up in November 2017. The vision was to have a permanent indoor skatepark and youth hub, skateboard centre of excellence for Olympic hopefuls in Weston. We held our first meeting, named and set a date for Transend Skatepark at the Tropicana. With a plan to hopefully do a few throughout the year to raise funds and become known, still with prayer for the permanent vision. Through our contact with



the skater youth in Weston village during the detached youth work from LCC over the previous year, the youth expressed a like for an indoor skatepark and would love to raise funds and help.

February's Transend was a wonderful start we welcomed over 650 children onto the skatepark and also many parents and other adults who came with their children or to view what was happening. The lords presence was so apparent all week in the Tropicana it was a wonderful environment to be in. The skaters had an amazing time with a team of skaters available to help and coach them. We also added a free craft area, making it all a very welcoming environment. In May, Transend popped up again in the Tropicana for the whole week. It was slightly quieter but God was still with us and the Transend team bonding became stronger. The public still feeling gods presence, and thankful for Transend Skatepark. Transend has now hosted another 3 events at the Tropicana with a 6th happening in October 19. The craft, headed up by Sandie Skyrme from LCC, is so popular for all families of all ages, we pray for more help on the craft team as it's popularity is growing along with the conversations had during the sessions which are amazing. It's a great team to serve on.

We have so much ongoing also, with a team from HT and Transend young volunteer skaters taking their skills to local skateparks and competitions.

A team from LCC, headed up by Andy Pearce and Cathy Bond, started a satellite club in 2018 at the campus skatepark followed by a leadership training hub funded by WESPORT and the Campus, this ran for 20 weeks and has funding for another 20 weeks in 2019. One of our team qualified in level 1 skateboard coaching skills last year and has membership to skateboard England.

Skateclub is well attended with Christian and non Christian children and youth. It is now entering its second year after continuing through the winter in the campus sports halls and now meeting every Wednesday evening with over 60 members. Skateclub have bought more ramps and have 2 more leaders attending a level 1 skateboard coaching





course in June 2019. It has membership and insurance through Skateboard England.

We welcome more churches to join us on these journeys with God for the children and youth of Weston-super-Mare.

We continue to pray for Gods guidance and wisdom for Transend, Skate Club, the teams and especially the children, youth and families who attend.

For any information on all that is happening with Transend and Skateclub or if you would like to volunteer, support financially, prayerfully or if you have a venue where you could host a skatepark event (hard floor, no pews & high ceiling?) please contact Cathy Bond LCC or James Wigmore HT.

Weston Street Pastors - Annual Report 2019

Weston Street Pastors have had another good year, and again we have so much to give thanks for. This time last year we had been blessed with a group of new volunteers, who had just begun to join the teams on Saturday nights. Since then 2 more have trained, and another lady is nearly finished her training. We are so thankful for all our volunteers, some have been with us since the outset in 2006.



In January this year we shared a social meal together, for volunteers and their partners, and more recently we organised a breakfast for all. In May we had a day of Refresher training, which is required every 3 years for all walking Street Pastors. This is to remind us of our initial training and advise us of new requirements etc. When we are out on a Saturday night we are in a team of 4 or 5 other people, but we can go months without seeing everyone, so it is good to catch up with each other when we can.

In March some of our trustees went to Cheltenham to hear Les Isaac (Founder of Ascension trust (our umbrella body) and Street Pastors. He talked about vision, and how important that is to all organisations. He was, as usual, inspirational and we



came away thinking hard about our vision. Since then we have been praying, discussing and searching Gods will for Weston Street Pastors.

We continue to chat and help people on the streets on Saturday nights, and we are delighted to see the MAVIS BUS back out on Saturday nights. This is a multi-action vehicle in service specifically for community use. On Saturday nights it is manned by some St. Johns ambulance paramedic volunteers & often a PCSO, as security. We are encouraged, and pleased to use their services, and find them very helpful. For instance, if someone is unwell & unable to travel immediately, they can rest on the bus, those with small injuries can be dealt with, others who are vulnerable, alone, waiting for parents will be safe. It is another example of how those who are working in the night time economy; Police, Door Staff, | Street Pastors, MAVIS and others, work together to keep people safe. So much to give thanks for and to praise to God.

We could not manage without support, and we are blessed with amazing, prayerful, practical and financial support received in so many ways, and we thank those who support us in our work. We are currently very keen to have more Prayer Pastors.

We have a small team who pray on a Wednesday lunchtime, we have others who pray throughout the night in their own homes, and we also insist that our teams are supported by a Prayer Pastor at our base on a Saturday nights, as we know the importance of asking God to be with us in all we do in His name and to guide and protect us.

If you are interested in becoming a Prayer | pastor or a Street Pastor, please do contact us.

Chair: Pete Maxwell petemax48@gmail.com

Co-ordinator: Jane Milsom janemilsom@hotmail.co.uk

