



Review of year's activities October 2021 - September 2022.

This is a record of some of the activities and projects undertaken and supported by the churches in King's Lynn between September 2021 and August 2022. Many other activities were undertaken by churches during this period.

Christian Aid: On Saturday 20th November the local Christian Aid group launched their 48-page recipe book called 'Taste and See', thanks to the hard work of Joy Smith. The book was sold for £4.50 per copy and proceeds went to Christian Aid. In January the group organised a fundraising film show 'Thanks for the Rain'. The film was shot in Kenya and focused on climate change. For Christian Aid Week in May the group organised the Christian Aid Quiz which raised £174.40; the street collection which raised £267.37 and the 5000 envelopes which were distributed to houses in King's Lynn and surrounded villages like Dersingham and raised over £2000.

East Africa Famine Appeal: Following the failure of 4 successive rainy seasons and the worst drought for 40 years in East Africa, caused by climate change, animals and crops have died and the lives of millions of poor people are threatened by famine. Christian Aid have launched an emergency appeal <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/east-africa-hunger-crisis-appeal> For more information, please contact Revd Heather Berry revberry2019@gmail.com

The King's Lynn Foodbank marked 10 years since it was started and fed 4300 people in 2021. Peak demand was in January, February, and December 2021. Due to the huge generosity of local people the Foodbank were able to give surplus food supplies to Sheffield Foodbank in the autumn of 2021. Staff at the King's Lynn Foodbank worked with Citizen's Advice staff to provide signposting to the correct services, supportive advice, and fuel vouchers for eligible clients. Only 10% of clients who were referred to the Citizen's Advice service subsequently returned to Foodbank. In 2022, March and April were exceptionally busy and there was a great increase in people needing help with energy costs. Noel McGivern became the new treasurer of the Foodbank, and the team was also joined by a new administrator. For more information contact Helen Gilbert, King's Lynn Foodbank Project Manager. Tel: 07582558143. Email: helen@kingslynn.foodbank.org.uk

The CAP Debt Centre worked with the King's Centre Church to make up Christmas food hampers for indebted families. The 2 debt coaches, Emily and Laura, are now seeing more people become debt free after several years on a debt repayment scheme. However, the amount of debt in this region is increasing in the current financial environment and with it there is an increase in mental health problems.

There are 2 teams of volunteers, those that come to meetings with the client to support and befriend them and those that support the courses which the charity runs. These courses include the wellbeing journey, the Alpha Course and the Jesus is ___ course. Prayer meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month between 12 midday and 1pm at the King's Centre Church. The Debt Centre will be holding their AGM on Monday 12th September starting at 6.30pm at the King's Centre Church. For more information, please contact Emily Hart: emilyhart@capuk.org

The Night Shelter for the Homeless, based at St John's House next to the station, is a project co-ordinated by Lucy McKitterick. Lucy had increased the number of individual rooms from 6 to 9 by partitioning two of the larger rooms over the summer of 2021. The shelter reopened on 7th October 2021 and stayed open until 30th June 2022. Because of Covid restrictions guests at the shelter occupied individual rooms and the shelter was open 24/7 with 16 staff, (some of whom were bank staff), and 73 volunteers supporting the service. 39 separate individuals were guests over this period, and 59% of these were able to move on to further accommodation. In addition, the shelter helped 197 homeless people who came to the door but could not be accommodated. They were given food, drink, equipment and support. Homeless people have experienced trauma in their lives and those who are associated with the work of the shelter aspire to treating the guests with care and compassion. The project was supported by many local agencies and charities and the shelter worked in partnership with the local Council and other community services to support the guests. Representatives of the national charity 'Housing Justice' inspected the shelter during this season and awarded an excellent rating as part of the Quality Mark Accreditation Scheme'.

In January 2022 a fundraising evening with the writer of 'Call the Midwife', Heidi Thomas, raised £4493 for the shelter. An open garden event at the Bishop's Garden in Norwich was held in May 2022. The income of the night shelter over the past year was made up with donations from individuals or groups including Gift Aid: 39%, Grants (from UK Government): 27%, Grants (from other organisations): 22%, Local authority contribution: 10% and Housing Benefit: 2%. For more information about the night shelter please contact Lucy McKitterick, Co-ordinator, the King's Lynn Night Shelter nightshelter.steering@gmail.com telephone 01553 776109 or look at the website www.klnightshelter.org.uk

Another local charity which supports homeless people is **the Purfleet Trust**. Kevan Crane has been building up a new service called **Purfleet Pathways** as part of this charity. This project, which is based in a warehouse on the North Lynn Industrial Estate, helps homeless people towards employment and helps provide furniture to furnish the independent accommodation which is being provided for

homeless people. If you would like to volunteer for this project, restoring or moving furniture, driving a van, or donating, or providing jobs at your local business, please ring 01553 871375 or 07534816377 or email donations@purfleettrust.org.uk

In the autumn of 2021, the ecumenical **‘Open the Book’** team was re-established after Covid and started fortnightly visits to St Michael’s School in the New Year. ‘Open the Book’ takes the stories of the Bible into primary schools. See the Bible Society website. Other local schools are wanting ‘Open the Book’ - but more volunteers are needed. If you think you may be interested, contact Heather Berry, email revberry2019@gmail.com to find out more.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity lasted from Tuesday 18th to Tuesday 25th January 2022 and was celebrated with prayer meetings hosted by different churches over Zoom. The theme was ‘We Saw His Star in the East’ and resources had been written by the Churches of the Middle East.

In March, Bill Vyse organised a series of meetings at different churches to give churches a chance to demonstrate their strengths in worship. One of the meetings was hosted by Oladapo Adegoke at the **Church of the King’s Glory** on the North Lynn Estate: Oladapo Adegoke has completed a long project to convert a building at 27 Bryggen Road, North Lynn Industrial Estate, PE30 2HZ into a lovely church which is now fully functional, inspiring people in the love of God. For more information look at the website <http://www.thekingsglory.org.uk/> or contact Ola by email oladapo.adegoke@gmail.com

On 15th April, Good Friday, 12 people set out from St Faith’s Church at 10am to start the annual **Good Friday Walk of Witness**. The walk, which follows the cross, picked up more people at each stop at Highgate Methodist Church, St John’s, and the Minster. After a reading and a hymn at each stop the group of about 100 left the Minster and walked through the town centre, stopping 3 times, before returning to the finish at the Minster.

Julie Chaplin from the **Hanseatic Union charity** in King’s Lynn came to talk to the Churches Together executive committee at their meeting in April 2022. The Hanseatic Union charity was set up 10 years ago to support migrant families over the long-term. Following the start of the war in Ukraine, migrant families started to arrive, and Julie worked with the Council to set up a Welcome Centre in the Council Offices in Chapel St. By the end of April over 100 Ukrainian women, children and elderly people had arrived to be hosted in the King’s Lynn area. By August over 120 families were looking for their own accommodation locally and they needed financial help for this. Church parishioners helped by donating and supporting migrants in their churches or in the community. For more information contact Julie Chaplin, Hanseatic Union julie@hanseaticunion.co.uk

The Access Migrant Support charity is also based in King’s Lynn and provides a support service for migrants. In 2022 a new chief executive, Philip Walker, was

appointed to run this charity. For more information email philip@accessmigrantsupport.org.uk or look at the website at www.accessmigrantsupport.org.uk

On Saturday 23rd July local churches supported a hugely successful **Celebrate King's Lynn event** on the Walks. The event was free and attended by families whose children enjoyed free entertainments including a Bouncy Castle, a drumming workshop, Sumo Wrestling, Crazy Bananas the clown and many games. Individual churches organised stalls and tents, including a prayer tent, which gave them a chance to meet the public and talk about their faith. Throughout the afternoon there was live music and entertainment for the children on a specially constructed stage. The free refreshment tent had a queue of customers from 12 midday almost until the event ended at 5pm. Congratulations to organisers Olivia and Paul O'Neill and church members who volunteered in support.

CAFOD Fix the Food System campaign: <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Fix-the-food-system> Famine is threatening the poor in parts of East Africa including Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia. Cattle are dying in the drought and the land is barren. This is one example of food insecurity round the world. The food production system is stressed due to climate change, the Ukraine crisis, and the release of carbon by industrial farming which uses fossil fuels to produce fertiliser and over produces animals which release carbon dioxide. CAFOD are asking us to consider that the world food system must change to become more sustainable and resilient. Small sustainable organic farmers round the world are being supported by CAFOD so that their local communities can be fed in a resilient way.

The 'Stopping the Spiral' report from the Children's Society was published in July 2022 <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/our-work-and-impact/policy-work-campaigns-and-research/policy-reports/stopping-the-spiral/> The report shows a £1.9 billion funding reduction in early intervention services for children and young people since 2010. Research shows that correct care in the early years of life is essential if a child is to reach their full potential. Our children are the future and the Children's Society are asking us to write to our MPs to ask them to read the report and improve funding for early intervention services for children.

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