



**ISSUE 01 Oct 2019**



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## What is happening at New Ebenezer?

This may have been a question that has passed through your mind for those of you who perhaps live further out from the centre of Halifax. May be you are aware of the 'Food Saturday Drop-In' that takes place here and perhaps that is all. The purpose of this newsletter is to update you on the exciting activities that take place here and how lives change through your continuing support. We are looking to develop the facilities further so we can improve the service we offer, which I will expand upon within the newsletter. So first **what do we do here and who is involved?**

The New Ebenezer (NE) formally Ebenezer Methodist Church is located on the edge of Halifax town and is therefore a centre for a number of outreach and community projects, these include Food Saturday Drop -In, Barnardo's Youth work, Daytime courses, and is the base for Halifax Central Church since its development in 2012. The building is currently managed by a Team of Methodist Ministers, Lay Workers, and representatives from the charities that use the building.

***'Our purpose is to provide facilities and premises to serve the local communities and as a Centre for Mission to the town of Halifax and surrounding localities'.***



**Rev Terry Keen: Chair**



**Angie Ross: Administrator**

## What Goes on.... Community Outreach

### Food Saturday Drop In- Saturday (FSDI) :

*'We aim to provide support to the homeless and vulnerable that is in need of a food parcel, and guidance to help them improve their current situations',* says Team leader Hazel Murgatroyd.



The F.S.D.I. has used New Ebenezer (NE) for over ten years and finds it the perfect venue for this ministry to those who need help. N E provides facilities for storing food and a place for distribution as well as quiet spaces for prayer and ministry, coffee and chat . The Foodbank operates on Saturday mornings from 10am.'til 11.45am and works closely with the Gathering Place next door. Anyone can come & have a chat about their situation with a volunteer who will explain about the criteria for receiving a parcel. Should anyone be in desperate need during the week, they can go to 'the Gathering Place' next door and receive an emergency food parcel to help until the guest can attend on Saturday.

The food and household provisions and funds are donated by individuals and food retailers. Other charities and organisations provide additional services to alleviate the burden of poverty and accompanying health or social issues; for example, the Cats Protection League volunteer officer attended with vouchers for neutering cats. In recent weeks, there has been an increase in the number of guests using the foodbank. There is a good, friendly atmosphere on Saturdays, where we issue between 110-120 food parcels. Thursdays are a pleasure, with around 12-15 volunteers who come and prepare the goods for Saturdays. *'Do come and see what we do one Saturday morning!'*

### A life transformed

An account of one man's story of how the different groups that meet in the building work together and are used by God. We shall call him Arthur for the sake of anonymity.

Arthur became unemployed and lost everything, including his home and didn't know what to do. He was desperate, hungry and felt so 'down' that he went to the FSDI one Saturday. He happened to bump into a volunteer he had known from the past, Joe Sutcliffe; who helps at FSDI on a regular basis; to talk and pray with the men that attend. Joe shared with Arthur how Jesus had changed his life and encouraged Arthur to attend the Friday 6pm bible study that meets at NE. Joe prayed for him and he felt his spirits lift and thought he would give this bible study a 'go'. Arthur then went a couple of times to the bible study group and people would pray and each time he would feel more at ease and a sense of peace being around Christians, so he attended HCC on the Sunday morning at New Ebenezer. After



a couple of weeks at the bible study, Arthur shared his fear of dying young as he had an inherited heart disease problem that had caused his grandfather and father to die young. He was due to attend a hospital appointment the following Monday to arrange an urgent arterial stent if not a heart bypass. The bible study group then prayed for his healing. He knew that God was working on his heart. When he got to the hospital, and was rescanned they told him he didn't need any surgery and that they will just

monitor him in case. Arthur has since attended Alpha course at HCC (NE), committed his life to the Lord, and has been baptised. He continues to attend HCC Sunday worship and is now working.

***These are one of many stories we get to hear about at New Ebenezer as a result of the different services that work together here.***

## What Goes on.... Town- Centre Mission

### Halifax Central Church (HCC)

HCC has been based at the New Ebenezer since October 2004. The church is led By Pastors Graham and Heather Smith. Since its conception in November 2000 HCC is a growing mission church that works in partnership with the local churches and the community. *'Our Mission is to go into all the world preaching and teaching the gospel, baptising and making disciples and sending out to impact our town, our region and the nations .....*'



Heather and Graham

The facilities at New Ebenezer provide an excellent place for Worship, Kids zone on a Sunday morning, Alpha on a Tuesday evening, an inter church bible study on Friday evenings and as a base for town-centre street evangelism. Our Alpha course re-started this September and 25 people are regularly attending! Also, we hold monthly church-wide Ladies Sunday evening events. Over the last year a growing number of people have been attending these activities at NE, in particular Sunday worship and Friday bible studies where we are seeing men from the winter shelter next door, and alpha house committing their lives to Jesus and being baptised. Also, at our last Sunday Ladies Pamper Event in August we hosted over 60 women! At HCC we offer prayer ministry and have access to other ministries to support the discipleship courses, for example, we have links with Project Colt, Barry Woodward ministries, Noah's Ark, and work in partnership with Mercy UK with Keys to Freedom Courses. We are now starting up a weekly Monday prayer hour held at NE.

### Churches working together to demonstrate Gods kingdom

Many of our members volunteer at The Gathering, Alpha House, The Samaritans, FSDI and more. In so doing they have been a vital link bringing people to faith as well as providing after care.

Also, HCC plays a key role in working with other churches and ministries. Our leaders are often invited to speak at other churches, they attend the monthly Pastors/leaders prayer meetings, developed and supported the successful town wide bi-monthly 'Worship rooms' initiative (Praise and worship hour), which was launched at NE in September 2018 and is due again here at NE this November 2019. In addition, HCC actively works in collaboration with the Calderdale Chaplains, supporting the prayer meetings held at the Piece Hall, monthly prayer walks and co-ordinated 'The Choose Life' prayer events on North Bridge.

*' To find out more contact us via Angie or visit our Facebook page Halifax Central Church...'*



# For Your Attention

## Ways to get involved....

### 1. Funds for a new kitchen



For the past year we have invested time and money repairing the roof, and replacing the failing heating system in the building. **Our next big project** would be to refurbish the kitchen. We can offer so much more here if we replace our kitchen to an industrial kitchen. For example, the Barnardo's Youth group, would be able to provide catering experience for their young people and there would be the potential to attract other day- time college courses.

Please pray with us. Any guidance on raising funds for this new kitchen is welcome.

### 2. A new person required for New Ebenezer Management Group

With the retirement of Roy Sykes we are seeking a new person to help us steer the activities and upkeep of NE.

### 3. Invitation to visit the Food Saturday drop-in

We always need volunteers. Please get in touch and arrange to visit us on a Saturday- you will be inspired!

## Forthcoming Events at NE

### 1. Monthly Sunday Ladies Supper

- Sunday 15th December 6pm  
Visiting Speaker April-Joy Serrant

### 2. Worship Rooms Calderdale

- Friday 15th November 7pm

### 3. Prayer Power Hour

- Every Monday 7-8 pm

### 4. Alpha Courses

- Every Tuesday 7pm– New course starting 11th February 2020

### 5. Friday Bible Study 6-7pm

## Introducing our Care-takers

These guys have faithfully served us in the last year ensuring that the place is clean for those who use it.



Michael and Patrick



Daemon Wade has been our Handy man for all those little jobs that are not so little, like cleaning the blocked drains, tiling and sorting out our lighting.

### Our next issue featuring....

- Barnardo's Youth group
- The Winter Shelter and  
The Gathering Place
- Day time courses—Getting back into work

For further information contact our administrator

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