

Chair's Report

In the 2015/16 year under report, Churches Together in Chelmsford (CTiC) remains in good heart, as together we have continued to celebrate Jesus' presence in our midst and sought ways of proclaiming Him afresh in our day.

The Good Friday Procession of Witness bringing together church members from all corners of our City and District and culminating in the open-air service at the top of Chelmsford High Street again drew a large collective crowd. This year, we benefited from the word brought to us by Life Church's Pastor, Keith Jackson together with their worship band. This time last year, Chelmsford's first Passion Play (to follow on from the Good Friday open-air service) was just beginning to be talked about so now it is wonderful to be able to claim that as a success as well. Well done Life Church's Andrea Dalton for organising and directing it, and let us all thank her plus everyone who took part! Let us hope and pray that this may be possible again – probably not next year, as it was a very expensive exercise. However, I am sure that if we have enough passion for it between us, CTiC will be able to support another Passion Play, perhaps in 2018?

This is the second annual report I am compiling as Chair. Last year I stated a need to 'raise our game' and this feeling still remains: in fact this will be a major theme at this year's annual meeting on May 15th (Pentecost) 3.00 pm at Moulsham St Luke's, so if you are reading this there is every chance you'll be able to join in the conversation that we'll be seeking to carry forward then.

In case you have ever wondered who belongs to Churches Together in Chelmsford (CTiC), we have included a listing so that everyone can see who's who. It is my hope that as many churches as possible will be represented on May 15th, so that we can meet and chat to others who we might not have met before. The more we can improve our fellowship the greater chance we will have of engaging in meaningful and effective Christian witness in our City and District.

In this respect, the CTiC Prayer Forum continues to draw people from a wide range of church backgrounds into really positive intercessory prayer for our City and surrounding communities. We have continued to benefit from the Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer initiative (*David Gilbey will be speaking at our AGM, so do come along and hear him and encourage your church reps to attend on May 15th – as above*) and in order to acknowledge and affirm that mutual benefit, Chelmsford 24-7 is to be affiliated to CTiC.

Street Pastors, the Foodbank, the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Centre, CHESS, Workplace Chaplains (WPC) and other organisations are an important part of our witness and service, and all are good groups to join if you are thinking of volunteering! (*The various reports follow in the Annual Meeting pack*).

As Christians together in Chelmsford, we have much to celebrate and much to do, to increasingly seek to know Christ better and to make Christ better known in the places where God is pleased to set us.

Thank you for your continuing support of our shared Christian witness and service. Do please let us know if you have any thoughts or ideas as to how we may more effectively witness to Jesus Christ in our communities here in Chelmsford. Be blessed.

Revd Canon Carol Smith

carolrev@gotadsl.co.uk

Tel: 01245 354479

Finance Report for the year to 31st December 2015

I took over as treasurer in September 2015. I am grateful to the Revd Paul Greenland for acting as treasurer until then.

Attached to this report are:

- a list of the subscriptions received from the Churches and associate members
- the receipts and payments account for the year, which have been independently examined.

In 2015 the subscriptions were called in for both 2014 and 2015. In addition there was a welcome contribution to the Procession of Witness of £2,000 from the Rimshot Charitable Trust, which tries to “make it easier for people to encounter Jesus”. This has made the income appear to be larger than usual.

The major expense was the Procession of Witness and the total cost was £2,966.

As a result, the balance in the bank at the end of 2015 was £5,983.88 in the Community Account and £528.76 in the Business Savings Account.

I am grateful to Caroline Robinson, the Chapter Treasurer at Chelmsford Cathedral, for acting as independent examiner once again.

Proposals

Subscriptions

In the light of these accounts, I propose that the subscriptions are kept at the same level for 2016:

Larger Churches (over 100 members)	£95
Medium Churches (50-100 members)	£58
Smaller Churches (less than 50 members)	£19
Associate members	£30

Free Church Funds

At the AGM on 23rd May 2001, the treasurer’s report said, “During the year [2000] we received the balance of funds from the Chelmsford Free Church Committee which has ceased to operate as a separate entity. We have a Free Church Committee which will represent the free churches as and when required.”

The balance of these funds – £165.02 – is included in the Community Account and, in order to tidy this matter up, I propose that they be amalgamated into the general funds of CTiC.

Robin Stevens – Treasurer – 7th April 2016

Churches Together in Chelmsford – *Contributions received*

	2013	2014	2015
Large Churches			
All Saints', Springfield	95	95	95
All Saints, Writtle	95	95	95
Central Baptist Church	95	95	95
Chelmsford Cathedral	95	95	95
Christ Church URC	95	95	95
Christian Growth Centre (now Skylark)	–	95	95
Church of the Holy Name	–	95	95
Holy Name Moulsham Lodge	95		
Holy Trinity, Springfield	95	95	95
Life Church	–	95	95
Meadgate Church	95	95	95
Moulsham Lodge Methodist Church	95	95	
Our Lady Immaculate	95	95	95
St Augustine's Springfield Roman Catholic Community	–	95	95
St Mary, Great Baddow	95	95	95
St Michael & All Angels Galleywood	95	95	95
The Salvation Army	95	95	95
Trinity Methodist Church	95	95	95
Medium Churches			
Ascension with All Saints Kings Road, Chelmsford	58	58	58*
Blessed Sacrament	30	30	
Broomfield Methodist	19	19	58
Broomfield Road Evangelical Church	–	–	58
Chelmsford Community Church	58	58	58
Church of Our Saviour	58	58	58
Oasis Church Chelmsford	58	58	58
Springfield Park Baptist	58	58	
St Andrew's Chelmsford	58	58	58
St Andrew's Sandon	19	58	58
St Augustine's North Springfield	–		
St John's Moulsham	58	58	58*
St Luke's Moulsham	58	58	58
St Mary & St Leonard Broomfield	58	58	58
St Paul's Great Baddow	58	58	58
St Michael & All Angels, Roxwell	58	58	58
Widford St Mary	58	58	58
Small Churches			
Danbury URC	19	19	19
Great Baddow URC	19	19	19
Hall Street Methodist Church	19	19	19*
Howe Green URC	19	19	19*
Little Baddow URC	19	19	19*
Little Waltham URC	19	19	19
North Avenue URC	19		
North Springfield Baptist Church	19	19	19
Redeemed Christian Church of God	58	19	19
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	19	19	19
Writtle URC	19	19	19
Associate members			
Renew Counselling	30	30	30
The Diocesan House of Retreat	30	30	30
YMCA Chelmsford	30	30	30*
Totals	£2,432	£2,698	£2,612

*received in 2016

Robin Stevens 7 April 2016

Examined by Mrs A. Johnson
A. Johnson 6/4/16

Churches Together in Chelmsford

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2015

Receipts	2015	2014
	£	£
Subscriptions from Churches for 2013	-.-	309.00
Subscriptions from Churches for 2014	2,698.00	-.-
Subscriptions from Churches for 2015	2,409.00	-.-
Donations for the Procession of Witness	2,116.00	300.00
Donations for CHESS	290.72	61.00
Donation	100.00	125.00
BACS transfer made in error	198.22	-.-
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TOTAL RECEIPTS	7,811.94	795.00
Payments		
Procession of Witness expenses		
Insurance	68.90	68.90
Staging and audio etc.	2,680.20	2,662.20
Service sheet printing	43.35	43.35
St John Ambulance	174.00	-.-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,966.45	2,867.55
Administration		
Payments to CHESS	—	244.27
Printing of papers for AGM	43.00	-.-
Gift for retiring secretary	50.00	-.-
Treasurer's postal expenses	54.88	-.-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	147.88	244.27
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	3,114.33	3,018.72
Surplus for the year	4,697.61	(2,223.72)
Community Account		
Balance at 1 January	1,286.27	3,509.99
Surplus for the year	4,697.61	(2,223.72)
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Balance at 31 December	5,983.88	1,286.27
Business Savings Account		
Balance at 1 January	528.49	528.21
Interest	0.27	0.28
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 December	528.76	528.49

Notes – since the year end

- Further subscriptions have been received for 2015 totalling £184
- £290.72 donated to CHESS has been passed on and grateful thanks received
- £198.22 paid in error has been returned to the Church involved

The Revd Canon Carol Smith (chairman) Mr Robin Stevens (treasurer) 29 March 2016

CHESSTrustees Report

Premises

The search continues for better premises into which we can expand much needed services for the homeless. Our efforts received a massive boost as a result of a bequest from the estates of two long standing CHESSTrustees during the year, but despite this the increase in property prices in Chelmsford has so far thwarted efforts to secure a new CHESSTrustees centre. We are however continuing to pursue every possible opportunity. We are now looking at suitable properties which can be re-designed or extended. The Trustees feel that financially CHESSTrustees has never been in a better position to acquire its new centre and are hopefully that a suitable opportunity will arise soon.

Outcomes

CHESSTrustees staff and volunteers have coped with over 1100 visits from rough sleepers during the year. 1600 Meals and over £2000 cups of tea were provided for those we cannot accommodate and a large number of tents and sleeping bags were collected by volunteers at the 'V' festival. They have been well used. Bed occupancy rates were over 96% and staff work hard to make sure that waiting lists are kept up to date to maximise the use of rooms. There were 43 people who were found more settled accommodation during the year. 271 sessions of Counselling were provided for those traumatised by personal problems which resulted in them becoming homeless. We worked closely with outside agencies and 9 of our residents obtained employment which enabled them to move on in their lives.

Fundraising

The Trustees want to thank the huge number of people and organisations who have helped end the year with a surplus of income over expenditure. This has given the Trustees confidence to maintain all its services. The Winter project was full to capacity during its three months of operation at the Meadgate Church this winter. It provided over 700 nights in a bed. The main fund raising event of the year raised over £6000 which was a little disappointing. Our thanks nevertheless go to the many folk who braved the elements to raise money for CHESSTrustees. We are also especially grateful to the individuals, companies and organisations whose continued support helps us deliver our services to the homeless of Chelmsford and Essex.

Trustees and staff

The Trustees and staff work hard to make sure that CHESSTrustees can continue operating in the current financial climate. Staff in particular give many extra hours voluntarily to make sure things run smoothly. The client group with whom they work can be challenging at times but they always are welcoming to visitors and rightly proud of what they manage to achieve. There was an average of 85 active volunteers throughout the year and it should not be forgotten that without their support none of this would be possible. Our thanks go to all of them

The future

What of the future? We continue to look for fresh opportunities to help the homeless and we hope and pray that new premises can be found enabling us to provide better services for the Homeless. In the face of hostels closing down in Harlow and Clacton, our services are ever more important. Churches and individuals in Chelmsford continued to support CHESSTrustees to the tune of over £90,000 during the year and without this financial support CHESSTrustees would have to reduce its services. These are challenging times and we are investigating ways of diversifying our funding sources so that we are less dependent upon Government and Local Authority support.

David Hodgkinson
Chairman

Christian Aid Committee

The Christian Aid committee's financial year ends on 30th September and so this report covers the year ending in September 2015.



Christian Aid Week 2015

Our thanks are due once again to Peter Batey for the energy and enthusiasm that he puts into masterminding the Chelmsford door to door collection. The sum was up slightly on the previous year. Churches still report that it is difficult to find collectors.

2012: £39,741 2013: £40,894 2014: £33,250 **2015: £33,884**

Events

A concert by Aquila was held at Christ Church URC and a coffee morning was held by North End URC. These raised:

2015: £330

Lunches

These continue to provide useful funds and thanks are due to Christ Church URC and Trinity Methodist Church for arranging regular lunches and to Great and Little Leighs for their Lenten soup lunches.

2012: £1,643 2013: £1,492 2014: £1,106 **2015: £1,305**

Donations

Churches and individuals respond from time to time with funds raised or given. In particular, we were grateful to receive £137 in memory of the Ernest Swinnerton and £407 in memory of Ethel Auger.

2012: £379 2013: £1,202 2014: £850 **2015: £634**

Collections

Churches hold special collections during crises and collections at All Saints' Springfield for the Nepal earthquake and for the refugee crisis have been reported to me.

2015: £1,433

The total raised, therefore, during the year up to 30 September 2015, to help relieve poverty, was **£37,586**.

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
rms@ukgateway.net



Christian Aid Week 2016
Sunday 15 May to
Saturday 21 May

Report from Chelmsford Foodbank

Foodbank consists of five distribution centres and a warehouse. The distribution centres are placed around Chelmsford, namely at: Trinity Methodists Church, Rainsford Road; St Andrews, Chignal Road; Bell Street, Great Baddow; Evangelical Church, Grove Road; United Reformed Church, North Avenue. The warehouse is at Vicarage Hall, Beehive Lane.

Since its commencement in July 2012, the Foodbank has fed 9360, of whom 6250 are adults and 3110 children. The equivalent figures for the period April 2015 - March 2016 are 2704 total, 1706 adults and 998 children.

In terms of where these came from St Andrews ward had the highest numbers fed last year at 347. Other wards were Galleywood 259, Marconi 219, Patching Hall Lane 214, Waterhouse Lane 179, Moulsham Farm 174. However people also came into Chelmsford from surrounding areas to get food, i.e. Billericay, South Woodham Ferrers and the Hanningfields.

We can now announce that in the near future a new distribution centre will be opening up in South Woodham Ferrers.

*Kevin Butler
Chelmsford Food Bank*

Good Friday Procession of Witness Report

In 2016 we had decided on a theme of 'Cross-Examination', with the Revd Keith Jackson from Life Church as our main speaker who gave an inspiring talk.

The marches set off from the five points around the town, and the March script and March service script was prepared for CTIC by myself, Chelmsford. I started the service and we were led in worship by the musicians from Life Church. Pastor Ade Ajayi gave us the bible reading from Mark 15:27 - 39 and then Keith Jackson spoke. Dave Gilbey of Chelmsford 24-7 prayer led our prayers. Revd Canon Carol Smith gave the blessing then concluded the service with a blessing and an invitation was given for anyone who wanted prayer.

I would estimate that 900 people were present for the service in the town centre. All in all, it was a very inspiring event and a great witness to the unity of Christians across Chelmsford.

Thanks are due to Steve Roberts for amazing professionalism with the staging, the Cathedral School for the loan of chairs, St John's ambulance for their services, the team of stewards, the band organised by Life Church, the signers for the service, Richard Cecil for able secretarial assistance, to Revd Keith Jackson for his talk.

If there is any feedback from the March, please do let the members of the committee know, so that any improvements can be made. We continued our policy of deliberately keeping the time of the service to 45 minutes and this seemed to be appreciated by the people who spoke to me after the event.

*Revd Paul Greenland
Vice Chair CTIC and March Organiser 2016*

"City Passion" Report, April 2016.

"City Passion" started after an introductory meeting to passion plays in January 2015. Since then, many meetings, negotiations and discussions took place. Auditions were held in September, rehearsals commenced in November with the performance being held on Good Friday, 25th March 2016.

The cast and crew for this event were great team players and all supported each other through the process, now carrying on with a regular bible study and fellowship. We had representatives from at least 10 churches across mid Essex, and one with no personal faith.

Finances were raised by donations, a quiz night, a grant from the Passion Trust, and schools pantomime and workshops tour. Our total expenditure was £2151 and proceeds eventually totalled £4730. This gave us an unexpected profit of £2579. This may be put towards future projects arising from "City Passion." (Discussions still to take place).

The event itself went without a hitch. The weather was beautiful, which brought out more people, and was easier for the cast and crew too. It is estimated there were around 1000 watching, many that had come to see the event itself and some that chanced upon it and stopped. The crucifixion scene also had many passers-by stop and look. This was exactly what we wanted. The event completely fulfilled our aims and objectives to present the events of Holy Week, in a modern, vibrant way; To use music and visual bright colours to attract the attention of passers-by; To

challenge the audience to consider what the events may mean to them, utilising the role of a narrator protagonist. The cast and crew were over-awed by the day and really felt that they had been part of something special.

There are, of course, lessons to be learnt from such an event, and things that can be improved. One of the biggest challenges was ensuring that the audience could see. This was always going to be a problem, and without moving to a different venue or having a higher stage, it was tricky. We also needed to help our stewarding team out by marking out the viewing area and performing area, perhaps using barriers, and ensuring that the seating was used by the people who needed it, not who wanted it! These are all valuable lessons to apply in the future.

There was some negativity arising from a Facebook post by the Essex Chronicle. The majority of comments were from people who had not even attended the event and just wanted to rage at "religion." The council also received 2 phone calls but the callers never took their complaints any further; we heard nothing.

Overall, it was very well received and have had many favourable comments: liked the modern music, the role of the narrator was good, dancers were amazing. Cast and crew have reported fabulous feedback from friends and family, and there have been reports of new comers attending Easter church services.

"City Passion" would like to thank everyone who helped to make this production possible in any way, financially, practically and prayerfully.

Thank you, Andrea Dalton, Producer.

Chelmsford Street Pastors Report

Plenty happened this year for the Chelmsford Street pastors. We made contact with about 2000 folk, slightly more males than females. Of those about 1 in ten required our physical help. We disposed of over 3000 bottles, a staggering number of potential weapons.

There have been changes on the Steering committee. Mary Unwin, Phil Couch and Karen Dixon have stood down due to other commitments. Ann Dixon has also stepped down as prayer co-ordinator and Gail Butler and Di Hodgkinson met Ann for a coffee where they presented her with a small gift, on behalf of the Street Pastors, to thank her for her faithful service to this ministry since its initiation 8 years ago. We are delighted that three new members have joined the committee; Suzanne Killin and Gerry and Julian Wilkinson, with Gerry taking on the role of minutes' secretary. The Steering Committee members, who served as trustees are Gail Butler, Richard Cecil, Dianne Hodgkinson, Tom Jenkins, Suzanne Killin, Tony Lees, Susie Nankivell and Gerry and Julian Wilkinson. More recently Susie Nankivell has stood down too.

Richard and Mary continue to manage the rota and the new system now seems to be "bedded" in and working well. Our thanks to Mary and Richard for the hard work they put in to making sure that everything runs smoothly and that we have enough people power to put out regular patrols.

Gail and Di organised training sessions for five new trainees; Kate Dash, Greg Degnan, Yvonne Falowo, Tim Fitt and Christine Smith. All of these are now on regular patrols as fully fledged street pastors and we have been delighted with the contributions they have made, and to the way they have fitted "seamlessly" into the team. For the first time this year the training included two supervised patrols and our thanks go to those team leaders and others who acted as mentors and completed the inevitable paperwork!!

A commissioning service was held in September to welcome these newly trained Street Pastors. It was a delight to welcome the mayor of Chelmsford and a representative from the police to this service. We were also pleased to welcome the family and friends of our newly commissioned pastors as we all know how valuable their support is to our ministry. Richard has suggested that we need to recruit 5-6 new recruits each year for training to make sure that we can put out as many patrols as possible as inevitable some of our existing pastors will feel the need to step down for a whole variety of reasons. So, if you know of anyone who is interested in becoming either a Prayer Pastor or a Street Pastor please contact either Di or Gail, so that we can contact them and make the necessary arrangements. We currently have six people who are undergoing some initial training and Di and Gail have organised further training in the Spring in Chelmsford. Being a part of the Street pastor team is a great commitment in terms of physical, emotional and spiritual energy, not to mention time, and we are grateful to everyone who feels called to this ministry either as a prayer or street pastor.

We have continued to raise our awareness in Chelmsford by giving talks to church groups and other organisations and, again, we say a huge "Thank you" to those who give their time and energy to undertake this vital work. We have held one Team Leaders training meeting this year, where we revisited the Roles and Responsibilities of being a team leader. The steering team are now working on a training package for team leaders in line with the new guidelines from Ascension Trust.

The biggest change for the night time economy in Chelmsford has been the launch of the Purple Tent or as some of us like to call it, the Purple Place, which is located in the High Street outside Debenhams and is financed by the City Council. The Purple Place has certainly been well used on many nights and is staffed by paramedics and security staff. We are impressed by the facilities there which include beds, basic medical equipment, water and heat!! We are anticipating visiting more often when the colder weather comes!! The Street Pastor teams visit the Purple Place whenever they are on duty and we developed positive and supportive relationships between the two teams. The Purple Place is a safe place for us to take the vulnerable folk we meet to receive medical care and keep warm. We also use the Purple Place to store water and flip flops which helps our bags from becoming too heavy. The Purple Flag award was re awarded to Chelmsford after a visit from a review committee and the City Council expressed their thanks to the Street Pastors for their positive and valuable input into the reaccreditation process.

A new area for patrol is now the railway station. We have been asked by the City Council and rail authorities to include the platforms into our patrols.

Thanks to Mary, we have now purchased two new mobile phones, with the prayer team phone having "speak a phone" on it so that both partners at base, and indeed home prayers, can hear the messages as they come in from the street team. We are also the proud owners of a mobile phone charger so that when we meet someone whose phone battery has run down we can put enough charge into it to make essential phone calls. It also looks pretty as flashing coloured lights show that the mobile phone is charging!

In the autumn we were pleased to welcome Les Isaacs, (founder of Street Pastors) to the Christian Growth Centre in Chelmsford. Street Pastors from all around mid-Essex gathered to take part in a service and hear encouraging and uplifting words from Les.

We have held our usual round of Fellowship gatherings this year at Christmas, Easter and in the late summer. These are always uplifting occasions where we can share, laugh and pray together. In addition to these gatherings there have also been other social events planned by Suzanne. These have included afternoon tea, a BBQ and an evening at the bowling alley.

Our thanks are offered to all who are part of the Chelmsford Street Pastors. We are humbled by the variety of gifts God has given us, so that we may be a significant presence on the streets of Chelmsford.

May God continue to richly bless the City and the work we do with Him, to make a difference in this great city of ours.

*Richard Cecil
edited from the December 2015 Annual Report
for the Steering Committee.*

Workplace Chaplaincy Report

WPC is the operating name for ECCIC (Essex Churches Council for Industry and Commerce) and is funded by contributions from member churches. ECCIC is a registered charity with a written constitution, agreed aims and objectives, and chaplains are registered with and insured by the IMA (Industrial Mission Association). However, for the purpose of this report, the role of the Workplace Chaplain can be summarised as follows:



- to be a non-anxious presence in the workplace
- to bridge the Church and the world of work
- to respond in the light of the Christian faith

As part of the Essex & East London-wide Workplace Chaplaincy, the Chelmsford Voluntary Workplace Chaplaincy Team members continue their ministry to the High Chelmer and Meadows Shopping Centres, the Dukes Park Industrial Estate, Asda's in Chelmer Village and in County Hall, where I serve Essex County Council and am also Chaplain to the Chairman of Council. Our experience is that that our service is very much valued by management and staff, who in the cut and thrust of business often don't take time to stop and think, let alone share their deepest thoughts and concerns with others. Hence, the chaplain is often the only person who makes time to be there for anybody they meet in the workplace, and is there to listen and to offer appropriate support. I have my sights set on the new John Lewis store when it opens as it would be good to be able to offer them a chaplain.

Simply being there (as a disciple of Christ and as a sign and symbol of God's love) is at the heart of what we do and I am always looking out for more Volunteer Workplace Chaplains. Training and ongoing support is provided. People of any Christian denomination, both lay people and clergy are welcome: if you are in the Chelmsford area and are interested, please drop me an e-mail or give me a call!

Revd Canon Carol Smith
Team Leader, WPC, Essex & East London
E-mail: carolrev@gotadsl.co.uk

YMCA Chelmsford Annual Report

A Background

YMCA Chelmsford is one of over 110 local YMCAs throughout England with the challenging remit to serve children and young people within their local context. Our geographical reach is throughout the Chelmsford City Council area, and we estimate that we impact about 10,000 young lives a year through the work of over 50 staff and volunteers. The Christian values that underpin our work are of central importance, and we place particular emphasis on exemplifying the love of Christ through our holistic approach (mind, body and spirit) to the care of those in our charge. In addition, the CEO and many of the trustees are professing and practising Christians, and bring to the leadership of YMCA Chelmsford a broad background of churchmanship and Christian witness.

Current Activity

The work at YMCA Chelmsford is split between Childcare (nursery, out of school club, holiday clubs) and Youth Work (youth groups, schools work, and information advice and guidance) which means we deliver a 3 months – 18 year old provision.

Our Childcare work across the area is well known for its professional and loving approach, and where OFSTED inspections are relevant, we typically achieve equal or greater results than the school our groups are associated with. Our nursery is the only one in the region to take Social Services referrals and referrals from the Domestic Abuse Shelter (for other nurseries this simply isn't profitable) and this reflects our commitment to our mission and the fact that we run our childcare like a social enterprise (so it produces surplus whilst benefitting the community).

Our Youth Work engages with young people who often find themselves in difficult niches (Young Carers, for example) and we work with many schools drawing alongside young people at risk of exclusion. Funding by Comic Relief has enabled us to be present at local festivals, and also engage in detached youth work, helping young people to be 'safe and sociable' with alcohol.

In addition to our core work we have partnered with other like-minded ventures, including offering Parent's Aid training space for free, and being a once-a-month base for the 24/7 prayer initiative in Chelmsford.

The Future

We are very excited as we look to the future, and some of our plans include the possibility of opening a pupil referral unit, and growing our core Childcare and Youth Services in the region. We are in talks with the Cathedral about staff there being integrated with our existing youth work, as well as hosting a cathedral group on a midweek evening. We are also looking to host a new training venture called 'DJ Academy' which will give free training to Young People in the art of music production and DJing at events.

Of particular note is the planned merger with YMCA Colchester, which means we will be known as the joint entity 'YMCA Essex' from October 1st (if all goes to plan!), although we will still retain the local names of 'YMCA Chelmsford' and 'YMCA Colchester' when speaking parochially. The main purpose of the merger is to enjoy the synergies that come from such a move, and to more easily rollout what we have found to work so well locally further afield across the local authority area (Essex County Council)

Conclusion

We continue to be excited about our place in the region, and are grateful to be a part of the wider church community in Chelmsford. We are always open to ways in which we might partner with this community and serve the wider needs of the Kingdom, and ultimately we will always listen if there is a way in which we might serve the needs of children or young people better!

Andy Drake

Chelmsford 24/7 Prayer

Chelmsford 24/7 is broadly aligned with 24/7 Prayer, an interdenominational Christian movement of prayer, mission and justice.

It is led by David Gilbey and a steering group from different churches.

We have a vision to open a 24/7 Christian Prayer Centre in the city of Chelmsford.

We are a catalyst for greater unity between Christians within the 100 or so churches and other Christian groups/organisations in the Chelmsford District, to encourage the pursuit of 24/7 and other prayer initiatives.

We had a week of prayer 4th – 10th October 2015. The theme of the week was reconciliation, renewal and revival based on the river from Ezekiel 47.

There are a growing number of weekly prayer spaces at venues around the city where Christians and non-Christians alike are invited to encounter God and pray over our city, our nation and world. There are different prayer stations set up to encourage prayer and people can come and go when they like.

There was specific prayer in various prayer spaces for the procession of witness and passion play the week before Good Friday.

A Prayer Support Team meets on the last Thursday of every month at Skylark Church (formally CGC) led by Sue Gibson, a member of the steering committee. This provides consistent prayer support for the ongoing vision and development.

For updates and information visit Chelmsford24-7.org

Prayer is powerful and united prayer is changing our city! We are excited about what God has done this year and believing more is yet to come as we continue to unite and pray for revival in our City!

Sue Gibson