



To Worship God To Know Jesus To Serve Others

**HALL GREEN UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH**

# **Annual Report September 2016- August 2017**

Charity number 1162079

## Letter from the Chair of Trustees

Preparing for change seems to sum up much of 2016-17.

We welcomed David Howarth back for one year as our Moravian minister. That was a welcome change but we knew another change would follow. During the year we learnt that Lorraine Shorten would come in September 2018 as our new Moravian minister. As she was to be the first female minister for HGUCC and its founding churches her arrival promised a change that many other churches have adapted to some years ago. I am pleased to say, writing in 2017/18, that change has gone well for both the church and Lorraine.

During the year many people were working hard towards our 2020 Vision – a major modernisation of the premises to serve the community more effectively. A lot of members were involved in both direct giving and much fund raising. A fundraiser was working on our behalf and we are very appreciative of the grants we have received from trusts and grant making bodies. The work was spearheaded for us by the Building Strategy Group, who have put in many hours. Writing this in 2017/18, we now know we have raised the £800,000 to enable the builders to move in and cause major upheaval! We are truly thankful to God for amazing generosity from many people (including former church members) and organisations.

Alongside the preparations for change, the church has continued to live up to its name as a community church. The week in and week out commitment of members and friends of the church have made this possible - thank you. For the church, Jesus' life is our example. He said, "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as ransom for many." His example inspires our worship and service as we seek to follow our mission:

To worship God, To know Jesus, To serve others

By the end of next year we will have lived through most (hopefully all) of the building changes and be focusing on serving the community more effectively – perhaps less obvious change but the reason for all the previous change!

I commend this report to you as it gives an overview of the life of the church during 2016/17.

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## About Hall Green United Community Church

The church was formed in 2014 by the coming together of Hall Green Methodist Church and Sparkhill United Church (Moravian/URC).

The two congregations have been worshipping together since January 2008 and unanimously agreed to form the new church in order to better follow our aims: "To Worship God, To Know Jesus, To Serve Others".

The original churches have a long history in this area. For more information about our past and the denominations of which we are a part of please visit our website, [www.hgucc.org.uk](http://www.hgucc.org.uk). This also features regularly updated news.

The majority of our members hold joint membership of the Methodist Church, the Moravian Church and the United Reformed Church. We make every effort to be fully involved in the life and work of those denominations whilst recognising our responsibilities to the wider church and the community in Hall Green and across our city.

## Managing Trustees

### Elected Trustees

Peter Astarjian

Lorraine Shorten

Rebecca Parkes

Keith Dennis

Brian Dickens (Treasurer & Chair)

Leeford Dixon

Dolvis Ferdinand

Sarah Fidler

Joy Johnson

Christine Bourne

Blair Kessler

Norma Maynard (Secretary)

Julia Parkes

Alan Perkins

Linda Ramdharry

### Co-opted Trustees

David Harwood (Safeguarding Officer)

## Other Offices

**Access to building and bookings officer**

Mark Thomas

**All-age Worship Co-ordinator**

**Vacant**

**Baby and Co**

Julia Parkes

**Bible Reading notes**

Enid Allen

**Brownie Leaders**

Ann Ford

Alison Raybould

**Christian Aid Co-ordinator**

Vacant

**Cleaning Staff Supervisor**

Barbara Dennis

**Communion Steward Co-ordinator**

Margaret Lilley

**Creche Co-ordinator**

**Linda Ramdharry**

**Directory/Newsletter Editor**

Blair Kessler

**Disciples of Steel Director**

Paul Fidler

**Discoverers Co-ordinator**

Maggie Lewis

**Editor of 'The Magazine'**

Pam Smith

**Flower co-ordinator**

Pauline Astarjian

**Health and Safety Co-ordinator**

Christine Bourne

**Lotubai Project**

**Musical Director**

**MWA Circle Leader**

**Safeguarding Co-ordinators**

**Traidcraft Sales**

**Vestry Steward Co-ordinators**

**Website Manager**

**Welcome Stewards Co-ordinator**

**Youth Club Leaders**

Elaine Spencer

Val Dickens

**Evelyn Macintosh**

David Harwood

Sarah Harwood

Valmai Crocker

Enid Allen

Sue Sainsbury

Blair Kessler

Pauline Astarjian

Sarah Fidler

Sarah Harwood

David Moore

## **Activity Reports**

From our community cafe serving mainly more mature local residents to our stay and play sessions for young families, Hall Green United Community Church seeks to fulfil its remit to the community.

This brief report aims to give an overview of some of the activities that went on in and around our premises in the year.

### **AgeUK Info and advice**

AgeUK Continues to run a monthly footcare session at the church, staffed by their own trained personnel.

### **Baby and Co**

Hall Green Baby & Co. is an informal stay and play group that meets in the Church hall on Thursday mornings during term-time.

We provide books, toys and a safe environment in which both adults and children can socialise. We have drinks and biscuits mid-morning.

We have occasional visits from Chinnbrook Childrens Centre who provide information and advice for families.

Our numbers vary from week to week as there is no formal membership.

Baby & Co. has been running for almost 30 years and we hope that it will continue.

### **Brownies**

Our Brownie pack continues to thrive and offer opportunities and challenges to the members.

## **Disciples of Steel**

The steel band continue to grow and perform around the area in the year. It continues to rehearse on our premises

## **Discoverers**

The Discoverers are young people who meet during the Sunday service, rejoining the congregation toward the end of the service. There are currently just 3 Leaders which includes Maggie Lewis, Zoe Ferdinand and Joy Fisher. We are very pleased with all the support from the Helpers. It is invaluable to have them support the leaders.

The children enjoy sharing their ideas and thoughts about the passages that we read on Sundays and the activities that take part with it. It is nice to encourage all the children to try and take part, but they are never forced, but we find some of them need a little encouragement more than others.

Chaos continues to be very successful and it is always nice to see new faces!

## **Infohallgreen**

The service was started during the year to a people who have trouble finding help or information especially if they cannot easily use the Internet. infohallgreen is here to help and can point them in the right direction.

Developed by HGUCC in collaboration with Highfield Hall and Gospel Oak Community Centres, infohallgreen provides basic IT support and information to support our community. The service is run by volunteers supported by setup funding from Birmingham City Council. We are unable to offer advice, but will help discover who can give the advice that's needed.

## **Sparkhill Foodbank**

The Trussell Trust runs a network of over 400 foodbanks giving emergency food and support to people in crisis across the UK, where 13 million people live below the poverty line.

We have continued to support our local food banks with regular collections which, we believe, are making a real difference to people's lives.

Almost half of all referrals to the foodbank are due to either changes in benefits, or a delay in them being paid. As well as providing emergency food parcels, the foodbank supports its clients through its Money Advice Team and other projects designed to help people break the cycle of poverty.

## **The Sanctuary**

The Sanctuary, a joint venture of St. Chad's Cathedral and the Salvation Army, operates 5 days a week with over 70 volunteers supporting asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants.

About 150 clients use the Sanctuary every week with an urgent need for practical items. Many are newly arrived and still wearing what they wore on a long and hazardous journey. Most are seen only once or twice before they are moved elsewhere in the country or face deportation.

A further 150 are regular attenders at English classes and other workshops.

We are always made most welcome, and our gifts appreciated, by both volunteers and clients, when we take clothing, hygiene and household items donated in the boxes at the back of church.

## **Friendly Corner**

Friendly Corner is our Community Cafe, serving coffee, tea and light lunches on Tuesdays. We usually have around fifty customers. We are entirely staffed with volunteers, several of whom are not from the Church congregation. We make a modest profit, although charges are very reasonable.

We are very grateful to all our loyal volunteers for their time and dedication.

## **Fundraising Committee**

The large amounts needed to fulfil our 2020 Vision meant that the Fundraising Committee were very busy during the year in question. Among other things they organised a very successful pre-Christmas Dinner and Dance, two concerts, a poetry afternoon, an auction and a Community Sports Day on the Green opposite the church.

Thanks are due to all of the committee and volunteers for the various events.

## **House groups**

Three bible study house groups meet in the homes of their members on average twice a month, holding their meetings on weeknights or during the day.

The groups choose their own study material including York Course Studies and other published material. These enable study of the Bible and provide questions which promote serious discussion among the members.

Meetings usually last for about 1 ½ hours and the sessions include prayer and refreshments. In some groups, members take

turns to lead and prepare the material and programme for the evening.

Members of these groups also support the Hall Green Churches Together 'Lent Courses'.

### **Moravian Women's Association**

The HGUCC Moravian Women's Association continues to meet after worship once a month for ten months of the year. We share a letter from the President or Vice President, a devotional paper and a home and overseas paper with questions for discussion. Papers are forwarded to anyone unable to attend so that they can keep up-to-date with what is happening.

### **Youth Club**

The youth club meets on a Tuesday evening, during term time, between 7:30 and 9:00 pm. It caters for young people from school year 6 upwards.

After changes in leadership this year and we are looking to recruit a couple of new leaders. Anyone interested ??

### **Safeguarding**

The past twelve months have passed with out any concerns in Safeguarding. Refresher training took place during the year.



HALL GREEN  
**UNITED**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH