

Trustees, Coordinator & Volunteers Acknowledgement

Father Roger Parker – Parish Priest

We are very grateful to Helen, our Coordinator, and to our group of loyal volunteers who have continued to staff all the activities in the Community Centre this past year and thus provided an excellent service to the local community. It has been a time of steady recovery from the effects of the Pandemic and its consequent lockdowns. Groups have rediscovered a new normal, and gradually most folks have returned to take part in activities. We have even seen some new activities in the Centre.

Among the latter, we welcomed the inauguration of a new Men's Health on Monday evenings, a Maths Class for adults on Tuesday mornings. We are also pleased to announce that, thanks to funding from the Fellowship Trustees, our new venture 'Choir Church' for children and young people has now started under the direction of our Organist, John Garrett.

In this regard we continue to be deeply indebted to the Fellowship Trustees funding for our Coordinator's Post. Without a Coordinator our work in the Centre would be impossible; volunteers need organisation, training, and scheduling, plus delivery of all the necessary activities inherent in running a Centre such as safeguarding etc.

Finally, we are also very grateful to the Trustees who spotted our Funding Appeal for the Church Refurbishment and kindly gave us a generous Grant of £5000 towards this work. We are delighted to announce the work should be completed by the beginning of summer when Saint Catherine's will be looking splendid thanks to the generosity to the Trustees and all those others who have donated.

Community Centre Coordinator Report 2021 - 22

Helen Beech – Coordinator

As we moved out of Lockdown and slowly regained a sense of normality, 2021 was a year of rebuilding here at Saint Catherine's Community Centre; encouraging people to return to attending groups and taking back up their volunteering roles, as understandably the Covid-19 outbreak had knocked people's confidence and some people had simply got out of the habit.

Nevertheless, the centre and its groups have gone from strength to strength, serving the community in several ways; whether it's the Bingo Buddies group bringing people together over a game of Bingo, Adult Learning helping people gain free Maths qualifications, or Ju Jitsu helping youngsters to keep fit and grow in confidence. One of the newest groups to get on board is a Men's Mental Health group – Casual Minds Matter – which aims to get men talking about their mental health and forming supportive friendships.



Drop – In, Brunch Club & Growing Together Group

Our community outreach continues with weekly Drop-In sessions on Monday and Friday, which cater for the vulnerable and isolated, providing support and friendship. We have now extended our offering on Friday to include a cooked breakfast, which has really proved popular. We have visits from outside organisations such as Inspire, who help those with drug and alcohol dependencies, and representatives from Gateway, who help the homeless access accommodation. Alongside hot meals, advice on Benefits and Housing, access to a phone and computer to connect with vital services, our

Service Users are also able to have a shower, get a change of clothing and obtain food parcels. On Christmas Day we also served a full Christmas Dinner; something we do every year for those in need or who will be on their own.

In Spring of 2021 we started up a gardening group – Growing Together – which ties in well with our existing provision for vulnerable adults. The group enables people to have a brew and a bite to eat in the Community Centre before taking a short walk up to our Community Allotment, where they can learn new skills, enjoy the fresh air and exercise, and make friends. This group, which also links into Red Rose Recovery and Inspire, has already seen one of its members successfully move into a Rehabilitation Program. The produce we grow also supplies our Drop-In with healthy fresh ingredients to cook with.



Playgroup

Our weekly Playgroup is still extremely popular with young children and their parents, grandparents and carers, providing them with an opportunity to play and socialise. We see a good mix of generations and backgrounds all coming together, and many friendships beyond the Playgroup have formed as a

result. At each session we promote Health and Wellbeing, such as healthy eating, through activities and play, and also offer a variety of crafts based on seasonal themes. A number of the parents have also become volunteers; giving them valuable experience and also enabling them to have input into the running of the group.

Boy's Brigade, Girls Association and Sunday Club

Our activities for youngsters continue with our Brigade and Sunday Club, which are both well attended by young members of our Church and the local area. The Brigade has a good spread of ages attending and they also play an active role in our Church life; attending a monthly Parade, doing the Readings and Intercessions at our Family Mass, and also helping out at various church events through the year.

December also saw the welcome return of our annual Nativity Play at our Family Mass on Christmas Eve; it was brilliant to once again fill the church with young people, who all came together to act of the story of the Nativity.

Summer 2021 also saw the Summer Club take place once again, which was attended and enjoyed by around 20 local children. The theme of the club this year was Friendship and we learned that despite our differences we can all be friends. As always, the Club was made possible by a healthy team of volunteers from our Church and local Community, plus Springfield School, which allowed us the use of their playing fields.

