

The Heritage Chapel and Halls



Park Road,
Rushden,
Northants,
NN10 0RW

Charity No. 1174622

Annual Report 2020/2021

Chair Opening Words

The period for the AGM and Annual Report covers October 2020 to September 2021.

At the time of this report the Coronavirus Pandemic continued to have a profound effect on the world, the UK and our town.

Due to the pandemic we had to take the difficult but essential decision to close the doors of The Heritage Chapel and Halls to all users, including for public worship services for periods of time in line with government and public health advice and instruction. The impact of this affected our income but made little difference to our regular expenses such as Insurance and Utilities.

Review of 2021

During the period 2020/21 that this report covers, the Trustees were only able to have 2 in person Trustee meetings, all other decisions, issues and activity have been handled via email communication. The Trustees have shown tremendous patience and effort during this year, once again it is not easy to operate in this manner. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them. Thankfully the year 2022 has seen a full resumption of both Sunday Services, lettings and Trustee Meetings to near normal format.

Here is a summary list of the principal areas that have been managed by the Trustee Board during the year 2020/21:

Decision making and implementation of suspension of all activity at premises during lockdown
Set up and on going edits to Covid Risk Assessment for safe return
Monitoring of and compliance with government direction and legislation that affect the Chapel and Halls

Setting up of a Buddy system to maintain contact for chapel attendees
 Monitoring the premises condition and security during lockdown
 Liaison with Hirers
 Financial matters
 Preparation for gardening contract

Sarah Blachford and Les Hunt were elected to the Trustee Board by the membership at the AGM in September 2021 along with Cheryl Tompkins and Janine Musson. Karon Watson resigned as a Trustee after four years service in December 2021.

Dennis and Wendy Dangerfield again deserve special mention in this report for their sterling work in producing and delivering the weekly booklet during the pandemic and especially lockdown periods. The booklet is always a great publication but during lockdown Preacher's messages, a Trustee message and quizzes were included which kept our congregants in touch. Grev Watson faithfully posted the electronic copy onto the website too. There is a lot of work weekly that goes in to creating this quality booklet against a deadline and all those involved in it are thanked for their valued contribution.

The entrance foyer was refurbished in 2019/20. Though sadly not utilised for most of the year of the pandemic the improved link between Chapel and Halls is proving to be a warm and welcoming asset.

During the period of this report Karon Watson arranged and managed the Minister diary and Services Calendar and booked speakers well in advance. We are grateful to our Ministers and Preachers who have continued to support us during the year.

Janine Musson as Treasurer has continued to faithfully produce finance reports for Trustees and the congregation. With the suspension of income for the majority of this year we are grateful that the success of previous years, and tax rebates which have carried us through 2020/21

Conclusion

It is difficult to look back in the 'rear view mirror' to the period covered by this AGM and Annual Report, as there are so many matters that affect us in 2022 that can deflect us from remembering what we have been through in 2021.

We are aware that there is still a lot of work to do, but I hope that you will have gained an insight into the amount of work that has been ongoing during the year in review, often behind the scenes. There are many issues that face us moving forward, Coronavirus is still a matter for concern but thankfully the vaccination rollout has reduced the risk of serious illness or death and so much more is known about the virus which during this period was still unknown.

We have many refurbishment and repair areas that concern us, we are trying to seek funding and grants and ensuring that we can pay our bills – you will see how much is needed to run the site and we still need to develop the life of the chapel and halls in so many ways.

We need and value your support, we cannot do it without you. Please remember that the Trustees are all Volunteers giving of their time, efforts and energies during difficult times.

Our prayer is that with God's help these buildings will remain in trust for the future. There have been times during the pandemic that we have been concerned for the future. But looking into 2022, albeit with its own challenges, it looks like we are returning to something like pre-Covid normality.