

# SERVING AND TRANSFORMING THE COMMUNITY TEAM

## REPORT TO THE ST MARY'S CHURCH CONGREGATION

AGM 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018

Team members : Kim Edey, Veronica James, Brenda Large, Sheila Pilkington, Hennie Sleeman, Nigel Stalley, Pauline Welch, Guy Bridgewater (team leader)

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### Objectives for 2017/18

### Achieved

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Trial “Lent Angels” scheme</b></li></ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trial scheme run raising £1055 for Thanks a Million, and reviewed for 2018</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Maintain Night Shelter staffing &amp; HCT support</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 29 Night shelter volunteers from St. Mary's in 2017/18, serving a variety of shifts, nights &amp; venues</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Support Mission Agencies</b></li></ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interviews in services with supported agencies :Teach Beyond through Ellis &amp; Helen Vaughan; Impact Foundation with Ernie James; Anchor Counselling through Rev Wally Fahrer; World Vision through Linda Emery (inc Harvest Lunch presentation)</li><li>• Financial support given to World Vision through mission giving gift plus Lent, Harvest&amp; Christmas collections, also mission giving gifts to Anchor Ministries and Bible Society</li></ul> |

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### Objectives for the Year 2018/9

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- Support preparations for Pre-school move to the new Church Centre, & explore possibilities for new breakfast and after school clubs
  - Maintain Night-shelter staffing & Horsham Churches Together support
  - Explore wider engagement possibilities (eg Acts 435 charity scheme; take advice from local politicians & Horsham Churches Together)
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## Comments on other areas that the team oversees

- **St Mary's Preschool**

We've had a very exciting year, the highlight being that we became the first pre-school in the country to be accredited by the Forest School Association for our forest school provision.

Another exciting opportunity is linking up with a nursery school in Kenya in the area which the Diocese of Chichester is linked to. Liz Miles is visiting Nyahururu over half-term to meet the children and staff, share ideas and tell them about us and find out about what nursery schools are like in Kenya. We hope we can maintain a link through 'WhatsApp' to give children in both countries a wider perspective, continue to share ideas and to help us pray for each other. I've just seen a great video of Liz teaching the *Jesus' love is very wonderful* song to the children at the Nyahururu nursery school.

A link closer to home is with the Age Concern Centre at Lavinia House. We have visited each Christmas and sometimes at Easter to perform songs for them but we are going to start visiting to do activities with them as well. We will be playing games, reading books together and drawing and colouring together. We also hope to join in with the 'Holiday at Home' which is coming up for the older members of our own church family in July.

We have a new name, new uniform and a new website <https://www.stmaryspreschoolhorsham.co.uk/> but our ethos remains the same and the staff team continues to be amazing. Parents say time and time again how much they appreciate that the staff really care about the children. One parent says 'We feel he is nurtured and truly understood by the staff, who are constantly coming up with fun and innovative ways to stimulate learning and confidence for him as an individual.' We currently have 12 members of staff and the latest is studying for her level 2 qualification. All staff members continue training in some form, attending courses run by WSCC and also learning with the children as we work out together how to build a bridge or discover facts about polar bears from the internet, for example.

Our parents have worked hard over the past year raising funds for the 'Thanks-a-million' project and they have great plans for the year ahead. We hope that many of the events will be opportunities for the whole Church community to come together ...but I imagine that you may not all be queueing for your ticket to the next pre-school disco!

Please 'like' us on Facebook.com/stmarysnurseryhorsham if you want to see more of what we do.

Karen Inglis Taylor

- **Night Shelter**

The Night Shelter project is operating this winter during the period 1 December 2017 to 16 March 2018 at seven different venues across the town offering food shelter and support to

a number of homeless people from the Horsham District. Whilst numbers were low initially we have regularly experienced 8 – 10 guests a night.

This year St Mary's was unable to offer The Barn as a venue for the hosting of the night shelter. Kingdom Faith Church offered their site for Saturday evenings and as a church St Marys offered to take responsibility for the running, manning and operation of that venue on Saturday evenings (as they were unable to provide their own coordinator). Manny Holden and Denise Herrington were asked to be the coordinators for St Mary's.

A very successful appeal was launched within our congregation during August, September and October and this led to a large number of the St Mary's congregation wishing to volunteer and support the Saturday night venue. There was considerable enthusiasm from both existing congregants who had volunteered in previous years and a significant number of newer members of our congregation who were moved to support St Mary's this year.

Unfortunately, during October, Kingdom Faith Church withdrew their venue on a Saturday evening and there was then a general re allocation of venues amongst the participating churches such that Manny and I were asked to coordinate the shelter on Sunday evenings at the Salvation Army. Neither of us were able to commit to do this on Sunday evenings.

Everyone who offered to volunteer for the Saturday evening sessions were then contacted to see if they would either be able to act as coordinator at the Sunday evening venue and/or offer their services on a Sunday. Unfortunately the vast majority of our volunteers were not able to commit to volunteering on a Sunday evening either but happily HCT were able to find another coordinator for Sundays..

Despite the fact that, as a church, we have not taken responsibility for one of the evenings at least 29 members from our congregation are actively involved in this project ranging from only preparing meals to engaging in all the other front line activities. We are most grateful for the all the support that they have given to this worthwhile project. It does help our guests to get back onto an even keel

Denise Herrington and Manny Holden

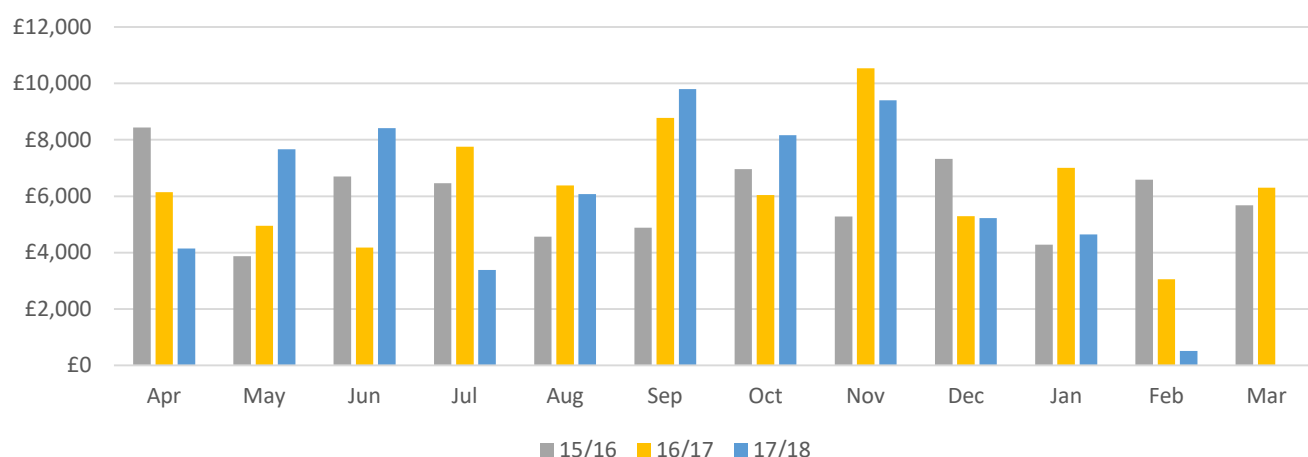
February 2018

- **Horsham Matters Report February 2018**

#### [Donations to Those in Crisis](#)

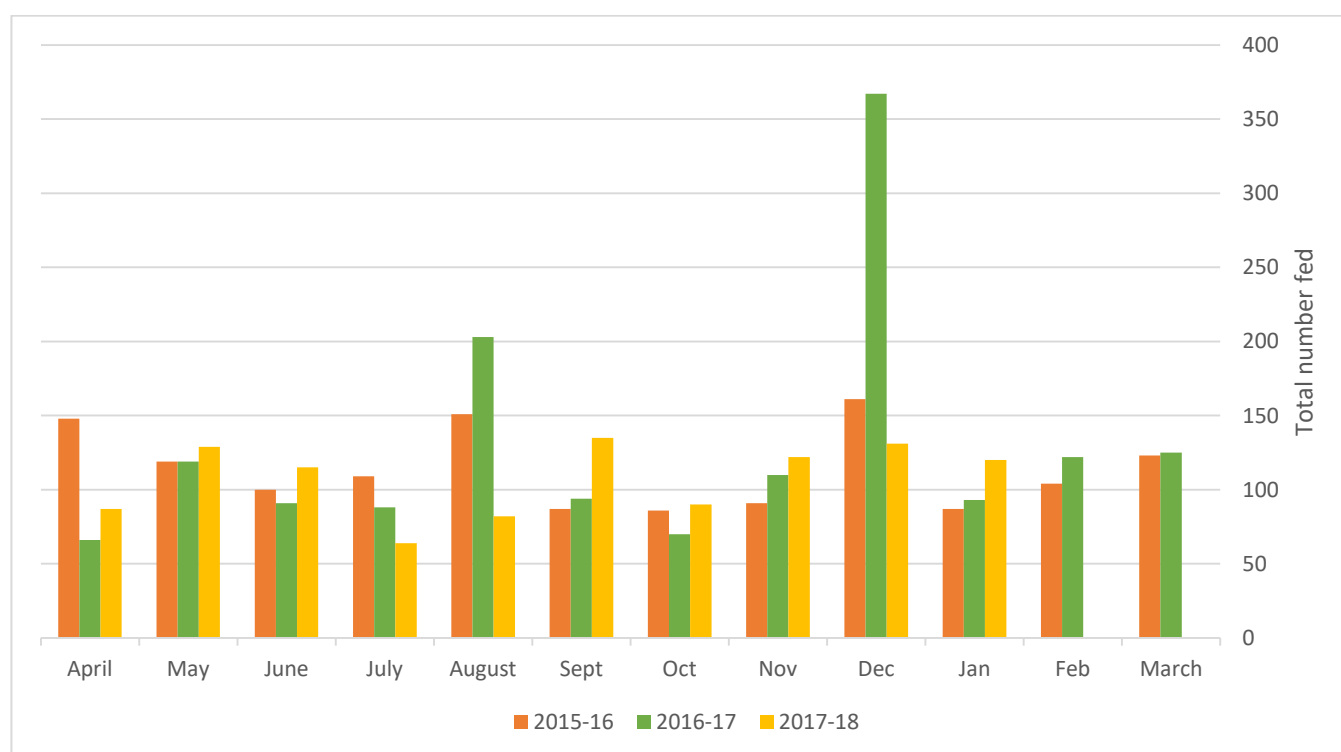
Since April last year we have fulfilled 382 requests for furniture and white goods and provided 246 fuel vouchers with a total value of £72,348 to those in crisis across the Horsham District.

## Furniture and White Goods



## Food Bank

In the same period we fulfilled 535 food vouchers providing 9,675 meals for 716 adults and 359 children.



We are hopeful that an offer to provide a temporary home for a food store in the town centre will work out in the next few weeks, so that we have somewhere to keep food when we vacate our East St store in early March.

## Night Shelter

The Night Shelter opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> December and has been hosted by London Road Methodist, St John the Evangelist, Brighton Road Baptist, Trafalgar Road Baptist, CLC and the Salvation Army. Unfortunately the URC were unable to host at the last minute and we are grateful to St John the

Evangelist for the first weeks and latterly Brighton Road Baptist who have stepped in to host the additional night.

So far we have received 21 guest referrals of which three have not taken up their place and have hosted 293 guest nights. Six of our guests have stayed more than 30 nights and four between five and fifteen nights. The average number of guests has risen from 3.6 per night before Christmas to 4.9 in the last few weeks.

As with last year we have been working Worthing Churches Homeless Projects to handle referrals and provide support. So far they have assisted three guests to find more permanent accommodation.

### Youth Work

Our youth work team are still busy running clubs and activities across the Horsham District, with regular clubs in Billingshurst, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, Pulborough, Slinfold, Steyning and Upper Beeding. They also run drop-in and mentoring support sessions in The Towers, Steyning Grammar, The Weald and Millais and Eliv8 courses in partnership with the Youth Support Team (YST) at Tanbridge House and Forest. In total we have over 700 young people registered with us and see around 300 each month at two to three activities.

David Sheldon