

## Horsham Churches Together

Annual Report Jan-Dec 2018

HCT met quarterly during 2018. The Forum consists of a Clergy Team and two delegates from each church. They meet in fellowship to discuss matters of finance, information, local support, organisations, charities, projects, future developments, aims and mission affecting the Parishes within the community.

During 2018 many topics were discussed and planned, some of which follow below.

Churches and individuals were encouraged to register with and participate in a 40 day mission to impact their community and 'do Lent generously'.

A mini-musical, 'The tale of 3Trees', the story of Jesus and Easter was performed locally in a new way through the lovely old folk tale.

Christian Aid week took place, 13-19<sup>th</sup> May.

Horsham Child Contact Centre was approved to run supervised contact sessions, supporting children and families.

In conjunction with Horsham District Council, HCT held many positive events throughout the year. The Good Friday service, Messy Easter crafts, Light Parties, Nativity Trails and carol services all took place bringing togetherness and unity to all who attended. The support of much needed volunteers contributed greatly to the success of these events blending well for the people of Horsham and also visitors to our town.

Horsham Matters continued to give assistance to local residents by providing white goods, housing/social support and food. However, they have been severely affected by budget cuts and also accommodation for their food donations.

Our local M.P. was aware of the situation and on occasions visited the Food Bank, Job Centre and Night Shelter. An on-line petition was set up to vote against the cuts.

Encouraging discussions took place between HCT and Horsham Development Working Party regarding the future proposals to the expansion of Horsham.

This involved Bohunt Education, GLF Schools, housing schemes and a Neighbourhood centre. Links were made with GLF and local churches to use their venue on Sundays.

The end of the year culminated in future aims being considered for Eco Church, Fair Trade and Messy Morning Worship within our churches.

Many take part already. If others are interested, details can be found on-line. HCT look forward to delivering many more exciting new initiatives in 2019.

Finally, with a view to Mission, the Christian organisation, Home for Good, who support Christian carers, promoted Fostering and Adoption. They asked HCT members to consider supporting this great need.

For more information, you can log onto their website [www.homeforgood.org.uk](http://www.homeforgood.org.uk)

*Val Strachan*