Report for CTHH AGM 2020

**Pray Hemel** continues to tour the town.

We have been blessed by going to so many non- church venues over the years as well as the church venues.

It is encouraging to find that we are welcome, and have been blessed by the people, at the Ski Slope, last year as well as Sports space this year despite the fact we were unable to meet there in April.

Our numbers are around the same, sometimes up a bit, but we move and are led entirely by God each year. It has never been owned, which is the blessing of it, there is nothing but our listening to God each year praying we make the right choices and letting Him do the rest.

Its all-encompassing nature, means that we have met in so many wonderful places over the years, we continue to push the boundaries, going to places we haven’t been before, in Pray Hemel we are one. Whatever our job, our title, our role, whatever our church it is just Pray Hemel, and over the years we have learned a great deal from each other and been the richer for that.

Our understanding of each other and how we do things, is richer now.

Pray Hemel continues to be blessed by the churches in the town, and the people who come and pray. We had no way of knowing in the beginning where it would lead, but it is always a time of blessing for us and those who come.

The virus has bought its challenges to all of us, we have had interesting and positive feedback, and are planning 2021 now. As you will know we send out Pray Hemel each month for people to pray at home, and our plans for next year will take into account the uncertain times we are living in.

I could not have envisaged all those years ago how it has travelled and where it has gone, I am always humbled by the fact that God chose to give me this, as a young mum, with not very much experience of church at all. A relatively young Christian at the time.

What I have learned is that despite the discouragement I experienced in the beginning ultimately it was about obedience. Sometimes that isn’t easy. And there have been moments. There have been great people too who encouraged, supported and loved, enabled and cheered us on. Individuals and priests/clergy ( I will never forget Father John at St Mary and St joseph when they were the first catholic church to take part-“Of course yes, would love to”, he said and away we went, it was a ground breaking moment at the time) Or Peter Cotton of St Mary’s old town, who introduced me to people and helped me.

Our responsibility is to God and Pat, Bob and I make a good team, with Bob doing great work in sending out communications, Pat and I work on venues and sorting that out. They have been a real blessing to me, I am so grateful to have them by my side.

My hope is what it always was. That as a people of God we would come together and pray for our town, we have done that for a very long time now, and my only thought in this is that God is ok with what we have done.

We don’t look for recognition or seek it, because it was Gods from the beginning and is His still.

I hope we have blessed Hemel Hempstead and I hope Pray Hemel has blessed you, and all that live and work in it.

*Penny Crosswell*