

Dacorum Street Pastors' Report for Churches Together Annual General Meeting 2021

A very difficult year for us with all activity being adversely by the effects of Covid-19 and regulations that can in at the end of Q1 and government regulations resulting in two lock downs of the community and closure of pubs and restaurants. Our own risk assessment was carried out by me following guidance from Ascension Trust.

Nevertheless following the ending of the first lock down teams were out on Saturdays engaging with the public and on moving into Tier 2 teams were out most Friday evenings in Hemel Hempstead but this activity finished on the move into Tier 4 and second lock down.

Our goal for 2020 was to retain the current team and work towards grow it but that work has been impacted by Covid-19. We have worked to keep team together by phone calls to vulnerable and / or isolated members and zoom coffee evenings. Churches Together was to hold a forum in the middle of the year but this did not happen in the way as previously planned due to Covid-19. Paul Martin had spoken at Prayer Hemel but that had not found any new volunteers. Clearly we were unable to be pro-active in recruitment during the year but this is a real focus for 2021. An updated leaflet was agreed during the year and this is to be distributed to all churches as soon as regulations allow and congregations return.

We ended the year with three in training, two of which have nearly completed all of the sessions. Ascension Trust introduced online training from Q4 and three of our trainees have taken part on these. This will help them complete training during the current Covid-19 regulations.

Prayer was made a central part of our ethics in 2019 and Simon Barratt did work to kick start this. Unfortunately he moved from the area but it was good that Paul Martin agreed to take the lead on this. Ascension Trust had also coincidentally done work on that with the introduction of Prayer Partners in addition to the role Prayer Pastor. The former praying from home and the latter being at the hub which in our case is Liberty Tea Rooms.

Looking at the Urban Trinity, I have maintained good contact and support with the police through CI Paul Mitson and, latterly following his appointment, CI Craig Flint. CI Mitson also provided a small grant to support us.

Liaison with Dacorum Borough Council has been more difficult following it not arranging Community Safety Partnership meetings as it should have done and which I would normally attend. Following pressure from me one was arranged in Q4 and I have now had discussions with its current Chair, Cllr Julie Bank, Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services, who is trying to arrange some funding for us but this has so far not materialised. I also sit on the Dacorum Homeless Forum.

From 2020 Ascension Trust changed its calculation of the licence fee from 15% of income to that but with minimum £800 per annum, which includes our insurance premium so whilst finances are in good order at present fundraising is an essential area for us to focus on and any support from churches in CTHH would be appreciated.

Response Pastors remain part of the Herts Major Incident Plan but have not been called upon during 2020. I am part of the Herts Local Resilience Forum and Lead Co-ordinator for RPs in Herts. We have 8 RPs from our team.

Last year we sought 2 more Trustees. We have found one but continue to look for another. The work is not onerous but it would make a difference.

Finally, we need CCHH to continue to pray for:

- New Street Pastors
- Help towards our funding
- New Trustee

Mike Wallis, Chair of Trustees