

Liberty Tea Rooms & community Hub
Report for Churches Together AGM
22nd June 2021

This has been a very difficult year for local business.

We have sadly seen the closure of many businesses in the town centre and due to current restrictions it has not been possible for us to open our doors.

None of us could have anticipated how long this forced closure would have gone on for. However, during this time it has given us an opportunity to pause and reflect on how we do things going forward. It has also been a great opportunity for us to introduce a new website libertytearooms.co.uk and to carry out some refurbishments, All will be revealed when we relaunch the charity later this summer.

As we have been closed for well over a year we will need to retrain the volunteer team before we can open. Sadly we have lost over 50% of our volunteer team for various reasons. Therefore, we are launching a recruiting campaign for new volunteers. If you are interested in joining the team do get in touch by email **hello@libertytearooms.co.uk**

We are so grateful to all who have continued to financially support us through this very difficult year. This includes churches, individuals, businesses, together with government grants and the furlough scheme. Any donations received ensure that we will remain an active Christian presence in the town centre.

Earlier this year Owen stepped down as CAP Centre Manager, after fifteen years of serving the town. Liberty Tea Rooms and Community Hub are happy to report that we have secured a new CAP Centre Manager, Christina Bird, from Christchurch Hemel. She has settled into her new role very well and is doing a great job, despite lockdown restrictions.

Owen is now our Community Development Manager, which enables us to develop community relations both inside the charity and with businesses, churches and local agencies. It is really important that people fully understand our Mission, Vision, Ethos and Values of who we are and why we exist.

Looking ahead, it is our intention to visit all of the churches who have been faithfully supporting us from the start, to share some very exciting plans and initiatives. If you would like us to visit your church please contact Owen at owen@libertytearooms.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you very soon.

Owen, Kerry-Anne and the team