

Church and Community Working Together



Farewell to Robert

Robert sends his greetings - see below - plus we also said farewell to Ann (though she is still very much with us) and welcome Katherine to the Steering Group



All Online

Thank you to all those who have helped us gather for prayer, fellowship and taking counsel together online. We have continued to meet weekly and monthly on Sundays for prayer.

Greetings from Robert

I wish to thank all at H4H for your generosity and the kind comments in the book about my time in Harlow.

Our gospel is about personal discipline and social justice inspired by the love of Christ.

I shall continue to pray for the five core groups of Heart 4 Harlow as they lead this work into the next phase in 2021.

We pray for the churches as they encourage spiritual values of the kingdom that help to build the community. In addition equipping Christian disciples to be Christ's ambassadors serving the world for whom Christ gave all.

We pray for commerce and the prosperity of the town; for employment that serves human need.

We pray, Lord, that you will give our Civic leaders vision, courage, compassion, grace and wisdom that they might bless the community and be appreciated.

As we think of health and wellbeing for body, mind, spirit and social engagement bless all who facilitate these opportunities, especially the NHS in these difficult times.

Finally, Lord, bless the ACES core group who support all who enable us to have abundant life and not merely exist, through Art, Culture, Education and Sport.

Heavenly Father I thank you that you have called us to pray and work for the peace, prosperity of our town, country and world.

Amen

Farewell and Welcome Ann



We were very sad to say farewell to Ann Kosla from CLC (Church Langley Church) and from our Steering Group.

However, we are delighted that Anne is now Chaplain of St Clare's Hospice. So Ann is still very much here with us.

Introducing Katherine Odubela

Welcome to our newest Steering Group member of Heart4Harlow



Katherine is Associate Pastor for Redeemed Christian Church of God in Harlow and Parish Pastor for RCCG Inspiration House in Coopersale. She is Clinical Commissioner with the South East

London Clinical Commissioning Group, a Registered Mental Health Nurse, and spiritual care volunteer for Herts Partnership Foundation Trust.

Katherine is happily married to Pastor Gregg and blessed with lovely Children. She brings to her role being passionate about community wellbeing and promoting the Gospel. Katherine

enjoys mission work and Christian counselling and recently went on Mission to Zambia and Kenya. She is also a member of Street Pastors and Rail Pastors.



Heart4Harlow Community Awards

Turn to page 2 for an update and news of our new revamped Awards

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[The Heart4Harlow Community Awards](#) are intended to further develop a culture of appreciation in Harlow for the people and organisations who make a real difference to everyday life in our town.

Building on the legacy of the Heart 4 Harlow Awards established by Robert Findlay, former Town & Communities Chaplain, these awards combine an Annual Awards process

with ad-hoc Spontaneous Awards (made by any of the five [Heart 4 Harlow Core Groups](#)).

Nominations for the Annual Awards can be made any time from February to November and details of the nominations will be published on our website.

In December the [Core Groups](#) will decide on a winner and runner up for each category and these awards will be presented at an event in January.

Watch out for [updates on our website](#)



Health & Wellbeing

The Health and Wellbeing Core Group has worked hard throughout the year to represent the Church in Harlow in the key areas of Health and Wellbeing for our town.

We decided soon after the lockdown was announced, to join with statutory, charity and community groups to support a joint approach to supporting the most vulnerable within Harlow through the Covid 19 Community Hub. It was pleasing to see a number of folk from churches around the town volunteering to support people.

We have been represented at a number of meetings to help address the needs of the town including:-

- Supporting those housed in Permitted Development Rights (PDR) properties
- The COVID 19 response
- The plans for the new Hospital
- The Voluntary Sector Forum
- The One Health and Care Partnership
- The Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board.

We have developed a web-page specifically to keep people updated about [Health & Wellbeing issues](#).

Looking forward to the coming year, we have been working with the Dementia Action Alliance in Harlow to see how the Churches can better support those with Dementia and their Carers and the first awareness session for Church Leaders and Pastoral Team Leaders is on Thursday 28th January.

We are also exploring with Kintsugi Hope the potential for beginning groups to support those experiencing mental health issues, and our first Forum of 2021 on the 18th May, will have this as a main topic.

Ron Kingsmill

If you would like to receive updates on one or more of the Core Groups, for yourself or as a representative for your church, then please visit our website and choose '[Contact>Mailing Lists](#)' from the menu. There you will be able to subscribe to updates from the Core Groups you're interested in.

Heart 4 Harlow Forums

All Christians in any form of leadership - whether in your employment in the community (including civic and church) or the voluntary sector.

All are warmly welcomed.

Prayer gatherings

are normally on the 4th Sunday of the month from February to November at 6.30pm.

At present these are via Zoom but in due course will again be meeting face-to-face.

Every other prayer gathering engages with the "Community Links".

In addition, there is further opportunity for **weekly prayer** Thursdays 8-9am presently on zoom Do come!

Click here for our [annual diary](#).



Civic: Building relationships within our Civic community

PC Brad Hall and Revd Darren McIndoe joined. We hope for new members in 2021. With PC Brad Hall joining, the Group has strengthened links with Essex Police. We also established a link with Harlow Police Cadets.

In 2021 we need to strengthen our relationships with Council and Councillors and Essex Fire and Rescue.

We have and continue to pray for all who work for and support those employed in Harlow's Civic arena.

Ian Beckett

PS from Martin Harris: We are most grateful to Ian for his leadership as Chair. He is stepping down shortly to concentrate on chairing and developing the Commerce group - see below. Please be praying that the person the Lord is calling to this role will hear his voice.

We met regularly including by Zoom. Ian Beckett chaired the group: with Robert Findlay, George Irving & Tom Newens.



Commerce: Shops and Business: A Stewardship of Creation

We have been working towards forming a Commerce "Group". Some interest has been shown. Ian Beckett is our business link with Harlow Chamber of Commerce and St Clare's Business Forum. We are most grateful he is to chair the "group".

God calls us to be stewards of the wealth of creation. Many monasteries gave us a pattern of work, prayer and rest combining in a spiritual life. We may not live in monasteries but we can all seek close partnership between business and church under God. The church is infinitely poorer for having neglected this.

May we be praying for our shops and businesses, now faced with restrictions and challenges, and in the future, as and when we emerge from the Covid Crisis. Martin Harris



Churches and Chaplaincy

Lockdown began March 23rd; Easter was April 12th, so much preparation had been done for the walk of Witness on Good Friday. I'm grateful for everyone's willingness to take part and I hope that will be the case in 2022, because I have a feeling we won't be able to do it this year either!!



Things happened quickly and with various people's help, particularly Darren McIndoe, we managed to put together a town wide Easter celebration online that was very well supported. So inspired were we, we did another celebration at Pentecost and over time became more adept at what we could achieve as we came to terms with, and embraced, new technology.

The Heart4Harlow prayer meeting facilitated by Jane Carrington moved online. We have

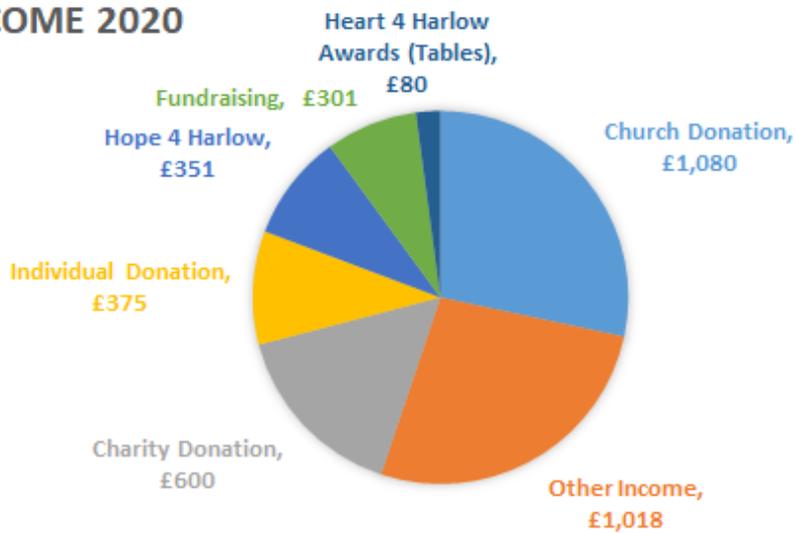
been able to gather monthly. Times have been difficult for so many, but it is our privilege to be able to pray together. For now this will continue online.

Christmas came and we were still unable to meet; who thought that would go on so long. With many contributors from many denominations, we celebrated online, with solos, carols we could sing along to, short scriptural interpretations of the angels' messages and readings. We gathered as a community. No it wasn't the same, and we do long for the days when we can meet together. That day will come; until then thank you for your support and encouragement - Don't forget we can trust an unknown future to a known God.

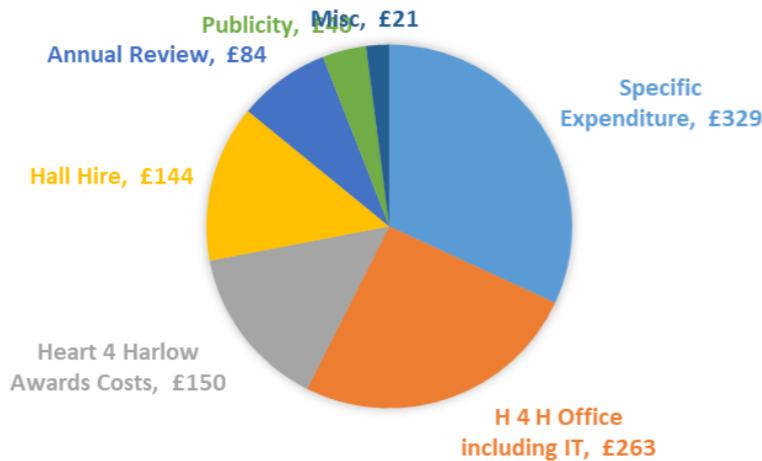
Alison Taylor

We may not for the most part live in monasteries but we can all seek close partnership between business and church as each responds to the call of God. The church is infinitely poorer in more ways than one for having neglected this.

H4H INCOME 2020



H4H EXPENDITURE 2020



Finances

If you take out the effect of income and expenditure related to Robert's retirement, then our income would have been £2,787 and our Expenditure £5,160, leaving a reduction in reserves of £2,373.

We are thankful to the three churches and two individuals who made regular donations through the year. We are also very grateful to Rachel Ricketts who completed the Prudential 'My Ride' fundraising event on behalf of Heart 4 Harlow.

If you would like any further information about Heart 4 Harlow Finances then please contact ron@heart4harlow.org.uk

Ron Kingsmill,
Treasurer



Arts, Culture, Education & Sport

The "ACES" core group has met several times over the year, mainly via Zoom, to pray, share and celebrate what is happening in the world of arts, culture, education, and sport in our local community. The focus of our meetings has mainly been education – although we now have great contacts with those involved in the arts and sport so hopefully the focus next year will include these aspects.



We have discussed the impact of the Great Open Door group and prayed for their amazing endeavours throughout the year. Great Open Door have sent two presentations to school for electronic viewing and this has been very well received by the schools and enabled the ongoing relationship between Great Open Door and local schools to continue and to deepen.

We have also focused on the work of the Gideons – now known as Good News for Everyone – and have been praying that they will be allowed into every secondary school in Harlow as soon as possible.

We have also prayed for and encouraged the Harlow Holiday Lunch Clubs / Boxes of Hope initiative which has had and is continuing to have a massive impact on vulnerable families throughout the town.

Our main focus going forward is to share information with each other and with the wider Christian community so that we can pray and work together to build on the good things happening in our schools and grow and deepen relationships between schools and churches. We have decided to pray specifically for a small group of schools at each meeting so that over the course of the year every school is covered in prayer.

I would like to say a big thank you to the rest of the core group for their love and commitment to this work.

Sarah Mitchell