



Church and Community Working Together



Walk with the Cross

Good Friday put the Cross at the heart of our community. We walked from St Paul's to the Harvey Centre via the Water Gardens. At Christmas we gathered at BBs in the Harvey Centre to sing and speak of the coming of God amongst us.

You are a Gem

Heart4Harlow was among this presented with a "Gems of Harlow" award by the Chair of Harlow Council. We give thanks to God for this ministry of local churches.

More on page 3.



What is the church? [T]he church is an outpost of the future city of God. The city of God exists now, in the present, as a real-life society... This real-world, visible community is the family of the Father, the body of the Son, the temple of the Spirit. It exists to transform and renew human societies...

Death isn't a defeat. Far from it. We share in Christ's dying so that we can share in His abundant life and glory. When we share in Christ's death, when we are like the early martyrs... we become a world-changing force. Courageous witness shatters old worlds and lays the foundations for new ones. It's through the cross that God's city renews the cities of men.

Leithart, Peter J.. On Earth as in Heaven: Theopolis Fundamentals



The Walk with the Cross

Monthly Prayers

Thank you to Jane Carrington, for all she does to facilitate and enable our monthly meetings on the 4th Sunday of each month (excepting festival times). We have been much enriched by meeting at several venues.

What is the good news for Harlow?



We enjoyed a rich feast in September. Around 30 gathered at Kingsmoor Christian Centre to explore "What is the gospel for Harlow?"

Though we did not refer to the words above by Peter Leithart, we were in practice seeking to unpack what they might mean for us - be it in our words, our deeds, or our anticipation of eternity.

We had a superb panel of speakers: Victor Falola, pastor in the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) locally; missionary



Andy Thornton

statesman, Martin, Goldsmith; and Andy Thornton, CEO of the Michael Roberts Charitable Trust (MRCT).

Each has rich experience of Christian ministry in the UK and overseas in a wide range of areas.

Each brought perspectives rooted in the scriptures and their own experience, to help our thinking, discernment and prayer.

We plan a follow-up to continue and deepen our conversation together, that we might know more of what it means to follow Christ in Harlow.



Martin Goldsmith

What else is inside?

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Gems of Harlow; Churches & Chaplaincy Reports page 3

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It has been a joy for Heart4Harlow to be involved in Chaplaincy at the FE college.

There have been two particular events.

Katharine Odubela and the team from her church were able to attend a well-being day.



They spoke with over one hundred students and staff about Heart 4 Harlow, and to distribute Bibles and literature from the Bible Society.



Martin Harris was invited to be involved in the Remembrance Day event in the theatre. The use of the theatre and powerful readings made this a deeply meaningful occasion. The psalmists exhort us to remember. It was so encouraging and a privilege to be involved in such a meaningful occasion.

If you would like to be involved with a team of people involved with the College in various ways, please speak to Martin Harris.



Health & Wellbeing

While there was no new initiatives focussed on Health & Wellbeing in 2023, we did pray into a number of important issues for the town, including:-

- * The pressures facing Princess Alexandra Hospital, and the plans for a new hospital site.



Ron Kingsmill

- * The Michael Roberts Charitable Trust and its search for additional premises in the Town Centre - eventually leading to the premises upstairs in the Harvey Centre.

- * Streets to Homes and its support of the homeless, and Hope 4 Harlow, the church's contribution.

Ron Kingsmill, one of our trustees, is very much involved in various aspects of the local health sector.

Hope4Harlow again welcomed the vulnerably house for meals and hospitality in January and February. The excellent work of Street2Homes and national funding mean that there need be none without an offer of a warm place to sleep in Harlow in 2023 or 2024 so demand was not high - but nevertheless much appreciated by those welcomed.

Five churches have been involved this year, though we have found that two nights are sufficient

If you would like to receive updates about Heart4Harlow, 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 for the area you're interested in.

Heart4Harlow Meetings and Forum

Heart 4 Harlow Forums

An opportunity for all Christians to take counsel together as to how the Spirit of Christ is leading us, and to explore ways of partnering together in mission. These are arranged from time to time to focus on different areas of opportunity and calling.

All are warmly welcomed.

Prayer Gatherings

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

We move around different churches so that we can have a prayer focus on each locality.

If you would like to host, please contact Jane Carrington. (details from any of the trustees).

Every other prayer gathering engages with the Community Links in each area.

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

Do join us!

Major Forums and Events

We seek to arrange one major event year.

This last year we focused on mission: "What is the Gospel for Harlow?" This reflected both our desire to be following where Christ leading, and also an awareness that we seek to embody the Good News in many different ways and with different understandings, which gives us opportunity to learn from one another.

Other areas are due to follow, including civic, health and well-being, and education. If you have specific ideas for a major forum, please get in touch.



Gems of Harlow

Chair of Council Andrew Johnson's theme for the year is the 'the gems of Harlow' – whether people, organisations or places, he will be looking to promote them all in the coming year.

We give thanks to God for all the Christian witness and ministry that is represented by this award.

You truly are a gem!

Can you find the verses in Philippians and Revelation that apply?



Churches and Chaplaincy

Easter 2023

It was really encouraging to gather again on Good Friday to remember and give thanks for the ultimate demonstration of love, as Jesus gave His life that we might receive life through Him.

Our time together was focussed through a series of dramatic readings by Marla Ehlers, leading us through the Good Friday story from the perspective of Judas, Mary Magdalene, Pilot, Mary the mother of Jesus and Peter.

We had good numbers joining us through the Walk of Witness, and in the final celebration in the Harvey Centre, ably led

by Jonathan and Helen East.

Christmas 2023

We were again BBs in the Harvey Centre. Last year we switched to mid-afternoon rather than evening so there would be plenty of people around.

This year timings were tweaked and we give thanks to God for a good attendance.

It was wonderful to sing, give praise to, and proclaim the story of Christ at the heart of our community.

Thank you to all who helped plan, attended and prayed for these events.

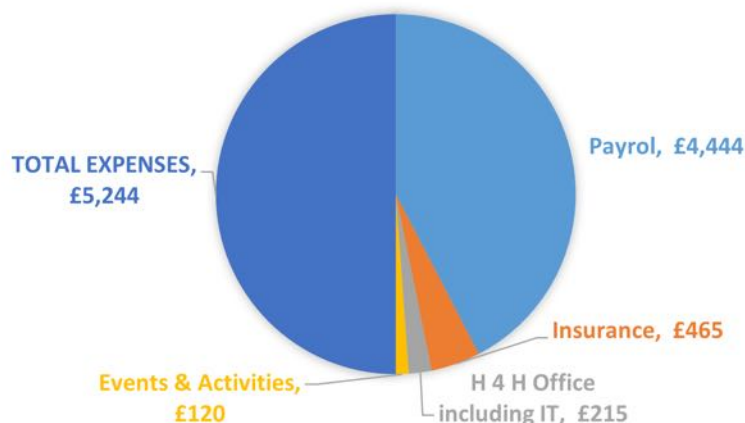
The Trustees of
Heart4Harlow

Katherine Odubela
Ron Kingsmill (Treasurer)
Alison Taylor
Martin Harris (Chair)

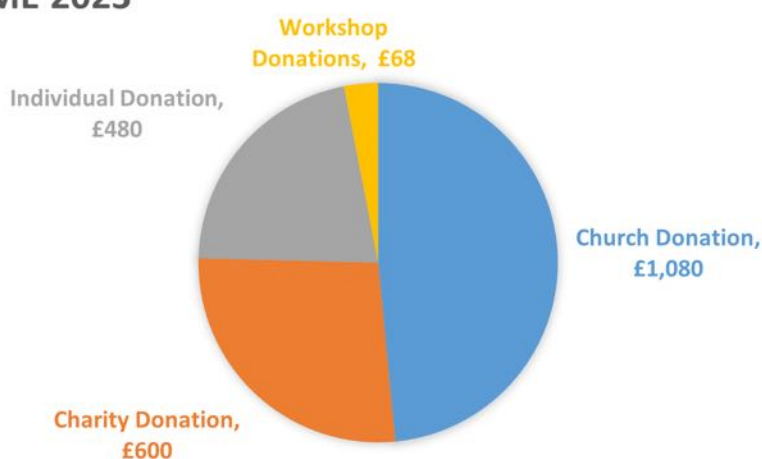
To find out more or for any other questions etc, contact us at
admin@heart4harlow.org

Our Hope in Christ makes us engage all the more in this world, to the glory of God.

H4H EXPENDITURE 2023



H4H INCOME 2023



Finances Report

Expenditure exceeded income by £3,016, this being taken from reserves.

Income was 48% lower than the previous year and expenditure 39% lower. This was due to the income and the costs of the awards in 2022.

We are thankful to the 3 Churches, 1 Charity and 3 individuals who gave regularly to the work of Heart 4 Harlow throughout the year.

If you or your church would like to donate to the work of Heart 4 Harlow then please use the QR code below.

The trustees would be glad to speak to you, or your church.

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

Ron Kingsmill,
Treasurer



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Our Heart4Harlow Vision:

“Church and Community Working Together”

- God has a heart to bless the whole community of Harlow. In and through its partnerships, Heart 4 Harlow seeks to express through words and deeds the love of God shown to us in Jesus Christ.
- We celebrate the gift of our life together with gratitude and praise.
- We pray for the well-being of the town through Commerce and Entrepreneurs; Civic Authorities; the College; University and Schools; Charities and Churches.
- We work together with all people of goodwill for the benefit of others.
- We encourage all in the service of our communities and in the strengthening of family life.
- We seek to challenge all that harms our life together.
- Seeking to do all to the glory of God in Jesus Christ’s name.

We work together with all people of goodwill for the benefit of others, to the glory of God in Jesus Christ’s name.