

HORSHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER REPORT 2020

Tom Murray stepped down as Moderator at the AGM in July and Brian White took over from him. Brian has now left Horsham and Tim Carter, Deputy Moderator is now standing in with the position waiting to be filled.

Various events were held in the town as usual during the year including services at the bandstand, a light tent in the Carfax at Halloween and Children's Musical Nativity and town trail on 14th December.

There has been a big emphasis on One Good Friday. Plans were coming together for the two productions on the Carfax on Good Friday and fundraising was going well. The event has now been postponed though until next year. Most of the key people have agreed to continue with the event next year.

Gill Parsonson is working on Holy Trinity's aim to become an ECCO church and St Mary's have a small group working on this too. Advice and support for this has come from other local churches who have already achieved an award.

Horsham Matters.

Having had their funding cut from West Sussex County Council, Horsham Matters has been fortunate in receiving funds from numerous organisations and churches. Fundraising events have also helped, and the hope is that they will not finish the year with a deficit although some urgent building work needs doing at Micah House. In the coming year it is hoped to develop a community café with a supermarket style foodbank. A grant for this was turned down by HDC so other options are being looked at. Plans are also underway to extend the foodbank delivery to rural areas. 116 foodbank vouchers were issued in December. In the near future, larger foodbank storage premises will be required.

They have had to close their charity shop now, which was their main source of income and are working hard distributing food to those in need. They would welcome donations at this difficult time and purchases from their online shop.

The Christian Life Centre have been holding a community lunch on the third Thursday of every month from 12.30 to 2.00. Its aim is to reduce social isolation and food poverty.

During this winter, night shelter attendance has been erratic but some guests have been housed during this time too. South Lodge have provided haircuts and treatments during some evenings and a retired G.P. has visited on a monthly basis.

Donations at the warehouse can now be left on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9.30 until 12.00. Foodbank donations can be left Tuesday to Friday 9am-2pm.

Libby Risby, Gill Parsonson and Rebecca Tuck