



Special News Update

Community Ministries

19th July 2011
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Community Ministry

At the 'We Share' weekend in November 2009 there was general consensus that one of our main aims should be to provide community ministries by serving those in the communities where we have church groups. For the past year or so Andrew Fellows has been serving in the role of Mission Centre Community Officer and has been exploring possibilities for community ministry that congregations and individuals could undertake. In this special News Update we want to share with you those ministries that church groups have been involved in over recent months and provide some information about ministries that we would like you to consider.

Community Questionnaire

Early in 2011 a questionnaire was sent out to congregation pastors to complete regarding the use of their church building and the connections the congregation and its members have with the local community. Simon Holmes has compiled the responses and a summary of these is attached.

Walking for Health

Matt Fox and Andrew Fellows trained as volunteer walk leaders for "Walking for Health" which encourages people to become physically active. Clay Cross congregation hold a "Walking for Health" walk each month. The latest attracted 14 people including 5 new faces.



Big Lunch

The "Big Lunch" is part of a nationwide campaign to encourage as many people as possible to have lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of community friendship and fun. Last June the Sutton and Nuneaton congregations both hosted a Big Lunch. Over 150 people, ranging from babies to those over 80 years old shared in the day at the two congregations. A typical British party atmosphere was established. New contacts were made and existing relationships developed as those from the communities surrounding the churches gathered to eat, chat and play together.

Mission Made Real

Christ's mission was one of evangelism, compassion, justice and peace. Through service to our communities we can make Christ's mission our mission.

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Church Urban Fund Conference

Last April Andrew Fellows attended a conference in London run by the Church Urban Fund for churches and projects wanting to tackle poverty in their communities. Andrew came back with a number of Community Project ideas which are well within our capabilities. Two of these are listed below:

Foodbank

<http://www.trusselltrust.org/foodbank-projects>

Foodbank mobilises churches and communities to give out nutritionally balanced emergency food to people in crisis. Foodbank also offers additional support to help break the cycle of poverty, putting people in touch with relevant agencies who can offer further support. Food is donated by local people or through collections at supermarkets. Volunteers sort and pack the food into food boxes which contain enough food for 3 days. Front-line care professionals identify the people in crisis and give them a voucher. On taking their voucher to the foodbank centre, people receive a warm welcome, a hot drink, some conversation and their food.

Nightstop

<http://www.depaulnightstopuk.org/>

Nightstop provides young people aged 16 to 25 with free safe emergency accommodation in homes of approved and trained volunteers. The young person has a room of their own, meals, opportunity to bathe and wash clothes and a sympathetic listening ear. Both the young people and the hosts are rigorously vetted. Volunteer drivers take the young person to their accommodation and take them back to the central office again in the morning. Further support is provided to help them find more permanent solutions. There will be a presentation from representatives of Nightstop on the Wednesday morning of this year's Reunion at Dunfield.

A Few Others

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

<http://www.capuk.org/home/index.php>

The Lighthouse Group (TLG)

<http://www.tlg.org.uk/>

Spear

<http://www.spearlondon.org/>

SAFE

<http://www.cuf.org.uk/ready-go-projects-employment/training-safe-choices-programme>

The Church Urban Fund

http://www.cuf.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Ready-to-Go_Projects_Directory.pdf

What Could You Do?

If you want to discuss what you or your congregation might do to serve your community please contact Andrew Fellows (abfellows@btinternet.com, 01332 511067).

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