
“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” Psalm 126 v 3

Greetings and a Happy New Year to you!

We are at the beginning of a new year and a new decade and I am excited about the year ahead whilst prayerful about recent events that have happened globally. I am grateful that we have someone greater than ourselves to go to with our concerns and mindful that many of our tenants do not and may feel unsettled.



With that in mind could I draw your attention to our Prayer and Fasting Day next week **Tuesday, 14th January 2020**. These are diarised days in the HIA UK Network calendar throughout the year. They always occur on a **Tuesday** and the dates for the next two, are **Tuesday, April 21st April 2020** and **Tuesday, 15th September 2020**.

Please feel free to contact me directly or the office (**01733 558301**) for more information.

Tenant Updates

Last quarter we had some positive move-on's, with tenants moving on, to social housing, reunited with family and to a shared flat with their partner. One of the factors that is known to contribute to homelessness is “relational poverty” so I am pleased to see that two out three of those move-on's were as a result of positive relationships.

Just last week an ex-tenant rang the office to speak to his Empowerment Worker to wish him a Happy New Year. As his Empowerment Worker was not there, we spent some time chatting on the phone. He told me he had been with his family over the Christmas period and then proceeded to ask how we were at the office. There is a passage of scripture that says, “He sets the lonely in families....” so it has been encouraging to hear stories of family reunions.

There have been other encouraging stories of tenants clearing debt and sticking to budget plans. One tenant even planned ahead for Christmas, buying presents for his son from September to December so that he was still able to cover his bills.

You play a vital role in these stories as you love and support our tenants.



Awards

Alan Burt from **Peterborough City Church** received a certificate this month from us for his “continued commitment to tenants”.

Alan, like so many of you just quietly gets on with listening and befriending the tenants in the house that the church supports.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your, continued commitment and support to tenants

THANK YOU!

In October last year, we were hosted by the **Salvation Army** for our Annual Thanksgiving Service. It was a beautiful service and such a pleasure to hear the brass band and the **Salvation Army Songsters**. The theme was “Partnership” and we had several short interviews with people about what partnership means to them. **Gary and Lorraine Chaundy**, the Majors at the Salvation Army gave an insightful interview to “Partnership in Leading”. One of the comments, I loved and took away from that interview was the reminder from Lorraine that we are in partnership with Christ first and if we are working towards His plan, the goal is the same and everything else should fall into place.



Christmas

This year’s Christmas meal was attended by 43 people, comprising of tenants, church volunteers and Hope into Action staff members. A big thank you goes **Open Door Baptist Church** for catering for us all; it was really happy occasion. We also received a very generous donation of toys from the **Salvation Army** in Peterborough for presents for the children of our families. To all of you who provided Christmas hampers to our tenants this year....

THANK YOU!

On New Year's Eve, two of our Peterborough Empowerment Workers, Harriet, Annet and myself attended the Hope4Peterborough New Year's Eve Service at Peterborough Cathedral. Hope into Action had a table at the Cathedral alongside Open Door Trust, CROPS and many of the other charities that are doing great work in Peterborough. We heard about the work of chaplaincy in the city and surrounding areas and the Reverend George Rogers from **Werrington Parish Church** gave an inspiring address about being ready with an answer to explain the hope that we have.



Dates for your Diary

On Saturday 8th February, we are having another **HOPE** training day.

We will be contacting those that have already expressed interest but if there are any of you that would like to update your training then please do contact the office (01733 558301) and speak to Jenny or myself (07762 738184) to reserve a place.

The cost is £25 (chargeable to the church) and includes lunch and the training materials.

Please let us know of any dietary requirements at booking stage.

Hope into Action Conference 2020

On Friday 20th March 2020 we are hosting our Annual Conference at which we will be celebrating our 10th Anniversary, We have some great speakers and I suggest you book early. It is being held at the Kingsgate Community Church. If you click the link below it will take you through to our website with all the details.

<https://www.hopeintoaction.org.uk/event/conference-2020-stories-of-hope>

Do talk to your Empowerment Worker to find out if you are entitled to a discounted ticket.

Final Thoughts

One of our HIA values is that “We listen” as we believe that “Listening empowers; it is central to how we relate to each other as a network, with our church partners, with tenants and how we approach conflict.”

In Isaiah 50 v 4, it says, He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed” and I want to have that type of ear. When you are being

instructed you pay attention, you may even lean in a little because you want to learn and understand.

With that in mind, I would love to hear from you and your thoughts.

One of our church volunteers spoke to me at the Christmas Lunch saying that it would be good to meet up and have a time for sharing and encouraging one another, which is a great idea so we will plan for that to happen.

Do you have an idea for something that you like to share?

You can email me directly, ring the office and speak to one of the team there or speak to your Empowerment Worker.

Thank you for all the practical support, love and prayers.

Please feel free to share your stories with us too. You can send them directly to myself at rachel.patterson@hopeintoaction.org.uk or share your story with your Empowerment Worker.

Rachel and the Peterborough Team

"We cannot do what we do without you"

