

GAP MINISTRIES Trustees Annual report for the CHARITY COMMISSION (Charity number 102680)

20th Feb 2023 to 19th Feb 2024

Trustees: Eleanor Burton, Keith Nickels and Muriel Titterington

As a small Charity, this report focuses on the main activities undertaken by the Charity.

Charity's purposes:

Pastoral care and relief of poverty, health and well-being, life skills in the community, promotion of peace and reconciliation, community development and assisting in bridge building across the community. Unchanged from last year.

Beneficiaries:

People who are lonely, with little interaction with others, with few skills and little hope in life. People who have need of food and other basic necessities of life, and struggling to make ends meet. New immigrants coming to live in the area. Bringing together people from the community.

Summary of the Charity's activities for public benefit:

CHARITY SHOP:

This is the only Charity Shop in the area, and is going well especially since the upstairs of the property was opened May 2021. This is mainly for collectibles, small antiques, linen, household items and women's and children's clothing. The downstairs Charity Shop is the bargain area with men's clothes, toys, cards, shoes, nik-naks etc.

Volunteers continue to be helped by gaining confidence, inter-personal and team skills, how to work in or manage a shop, sometimes handling money, sorting, ironing, steaming, socialising, organising time, gaining companionship, and making new friends. Sometimes it is the only place they can feel their worth.

As last year, we have had 2 young workers on work training schemes including Duke of Edinburgh award scheme which has improved their skills, social interaction and accountability.

FOODBANK:

Foodbank is a continuous means of helping people who have found themselves on the edge of society, and more so, with the cost of living crisis. We have been able provide food for a number of people plus the giving out of numerous HAMPERS and gift packs this Christmastime. Food has continually been provided to us by individuals, schools, churches, and businesses especially at harvest, end of term, Christmastime and Easter in particular. Food includes any non-perishable item, toiletries, cleaning products etc. Two local supermarkets are a dropping-off point and may sometimes donate perishable food items. The local bakery has provided items for our foodshare table located in our entrance hall for people to help themselves if they are struggling financially.

We are pleased that local community and public needs have been met by food and clothe items given especially in emergency situations. Recently, a number of Indians have moved into the area as well as some Afghans, and we have been able to provide them with food & clothes whilst they await job security.

DROP-IN: provides opportunity for a chat or to offload some pressing problem. We offer a listening ear or may refer to other organisations.

BUSINESS BREAKFASTS: These take place periodically to bring together shops & various businesses for a talk on a relent topic or to discuss local matters.