

# The Heritage Chapel and Halls



Park Road,  
Rushden,  
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NN10 0RW

Charity No. 1174622

## Annual Report 2020

### **Chair Opening Words**

At the time of writing the Annual Report 2019 in March 2020 the Coronavirus Pandemic had just placed the UK and many other parts of the world into lockdown. The Trustees had previously decided that it would be best to move our Annual General Meeting to the month of March 2020 to review the year of 2019; to enable greater numbers to attend with the lighter evenings. Unfortunately the move of date meant a further postponement of the AGM and at the time of writing this report in March 2021 we are still to hold an AGM to cover both years.

Due to the pandemic we had to take the difficult but essential decision to close the doors of The Heritage Chapel and Halls to all users, including for public worship services for periods of time in line with government and public health advice and instruction.

### **Review of 2020**

During 2020 the Trustees have had 3 in person Trustee meetings, all other decisions, issues and activity have been handled via email communication as some of the Trustees are unable to use Zoom or other virtual means. The Trustees have shown tremendous patience and effort during this year, it is not easy to operate in this manner. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

Here is a summary list of the principal areas that have been managed by the Trustee Board during the year:

Decision making and implementation of suspension of all activity at premises  
Set up and on going edits to Covid Risk Assessment

Monitoring of and compliance with government direction and legislation that affect the Chapel and Halls

Setting up of a Buddy system to maintain contact for chapel attendees

Monitoring the premises condition and security during lockdown

Liaison with Hirers

Financial matters

New cleaning contract

In October 2019 Sarah Blachford and Les Hunt were co-opted onto the Trustee Board pending standing for election by the membership at the now postponed AGM. At the point of writing they remain co-opted Trustees but they have been very helpful in areas relating to premises.

Dennis and Wendy Dangerfield deserve special mention in this report for their sterling work in producing and delivering the weekly booklet during the pandemic and especially lockdown periods. The booklet is always a great publication but during lockdown Preacher's messages, a Trustee message and quizzes were included which kept our congregants in touch. Grev Watson faithfully posted the electronic copy onto the website too. There is a lot of work weekly that goes in to creating this quality booklet against a deadline and all those involved in it are thanked for their valued contribution.

Towards the end of 2019/2020 the entrance foyer was refurbished. Though sadly not utilised for most of the year this work was funded in part by grant from East Northants District Council Community Facilities Fund. The work included re-plaster in areas and making good, redecoration and sanding and waxing of the wooden ceiling. There has also been a new kitchen servery installed as well as carpet, heating and new noticeboards with the intention of it being used as a hub between Chapel and Halls.

Karon Watson oversees and manages the Minister diary and Services Calendar and books speakers well in advance, the 2022 diary is now complete. She has kept in contact with all our Preachers and Leaders requesting a message for the booklet. We are grateful to our Ministers and Preachers who have continued to support us during the pandemic.

Janine Musson as Treasurer has continued to faithfully produce monthly finance reports for Trustees and the congregation. With the suspension of income for the majority of this year we are grateful that the success of previous years has carried us through 2020. We are happy to report that the generous loans, which act as a reserve were not drawn upon. Operating without income is not a sustainable position so we are anxious that usual hire opportunities will remain, being our primary source of income.

**Conclusion**

We are aware that there is still a lot of work to do, but I hope that you will have gained an insight into the amount of work that has been ongoing this year, often behind the scenes. There are many issues that face us moving forward, especially relating to Coronavirus but also refurbishment, funding, ensuring that we can pay our bills – you will see how much is needed to run the site and we still need to develop the life of the chapel and halls in so many ways.

We need and value your support, we cannot do it without you. It has been difficult to put The Heritage Chapel and Halls 'on ice' - it is difficult now to maintain momentum after the restrictions placed upon us for the benefit of public health. It is our hope that this will be a year to look back on and that the requirements of a new way of operating will become second nature in time. Our prayer is that with God's help these buildings will remain in trust for the future. That townsfolk will be served with affordable rooms to hire for community activities and clubs and that God will continue to be worshipped here, with individuals finding faith and growing closer to Him and in fellowship with one another.