

HALL GREEN UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

Report for year ending 31st August 2020

Trustee's Annual report 1162079

The year 2019/2020 has been a year of two halves that was totally unpredictable and unprecedented.

The church calendar from September 2019 to February 2020 ran its usual course as we celebrated Harvest and a Laying on of Hands service. Rev Neil Johnson, Superintendent of the Birmingham Methodist circuit led a service for us. We were also led in worship by local representatives from the charity Tearfund, and a local Young People's charity, to which the church made financial contributions.

Our afternoon/evening services continued on the second Sunday of the month. Some members of the congregation engaged in a variety of discussion course such as The Bible Course, an Advent course and regular Godly Play sessions. One member started a free monthly Film Morning showing a variety of films old and new.

In December we opened the church and halls to the Community for another very successful Christmas Open Day and the nursery class from the local school visited for an afternoon to experience the Christmas story through storytelling and crafts. The very popular Christingle service was enjoyed by the congregation and their families.

And then, in March 2020 the world changed! A new and devastating worldwide pandemic called Covid-19 (Coronavirus) stopped us - briefly - in our tracks and forced us to re-imagine church. On Tuesday 24th March all in church activities were halted as the UK went into Lockdown for 6 weeks, and people were only allowed to leave their homes for essential work, travel and shopping. This did not stop church, however. Those that were able, by internet or telephone, began to worship together at a new weekly service on the internet platform Zoom. This has enabled the church community to continue to meet, praise and pray together in a new way. Since Lockdown was eased, but restrictions remain, we have continued to meet on Zoom for the majority of our services, meetings and courses. We are very grateful to our talented local preachers and our youth group, the Discoverers for leading services. We have held discussion groups such as 'Grave Talk', 'Godly Play' and 'The Character Course', weekly prayer meetings, a regular 'Kessler's Koffee Morning' and the 'Hall Green Ladies Craft Group' have all continued to meet on Zoom!

During the year a few of our beloved members were called to higher service and their presence and wisdom is greatly missed. We are also thankful to members for continuing their financial support to the church and charities during this difficult time. Their commitment has enabled the church to continue its work and mission.

This new way of being church online is not without its limitations for some, just as meeting in person in the church was for others, but with perseverance, and some imagination, we are continuing to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ as best we can in previously unimaginable circumstances. With God's love and the Holy Spirit's guiding hand we will continue to love and serve our community as best we can now, and in the future.

I commend this report to you.

Rev Lorraine C. Shorten

Minster of Hall Green United Community Church