

Otley Christian Resources Hub

Supporting Ministry to Children & Young People

Annual Report, September 2016 – August 2017

Trustees: Revd Peter Willox (Chair), Janet Buttanshaw, Steve Grasham, Anita Seals, Revd Camilla Campling-Denton.

Staff: Anne Cayton (retired April 2017) Mandy Thorlby

Schools Work

Open the Book has completed its twelfth year in the area. We are resourcing assemblies in 16 primary schools, mainly on a fortnightly basis. Most teams have got a pattern of working with their individual schools – the Hub’s role is to provide the resources, offer advice on available stories and make sure the team leaders have any support they need. Three longstanding storytellers have retired this year and new volunteers have come on board. The trustees would like to thank all our volunteer storytellers for their hard work.

What’s the Story? Both Christmas and Easter were busy

Christmas: 6 churches did WTS? using our resources and chains were also sold to Sheffield, Headingley, Harrogate, Bradford and Skipton.

Trinity Church Rawdon did WTS? for the first time with training and support on the day from Anne and Mandy. Overall we sold 1482 storychains.

Easter: The project ran at 7 of our member schools and chains were sold to a further 5 external organisations. We sold 736 chains in total. Anne again worked with Trinity Church to deliver the project, Mandy supported at Leeds Minster and both staff members were involved with delivery at Addingham.

Props Team – this group of willing volunteers have met twice this year and have mended various costumes and props as well as producing some new costumes. John and Jane Charman have officially retired from the props team and the trustees would like to thank them for their hard work over the last 11 years in producing and maintaining so many wonderful costumes and props.

Children’s Ministry.

Over the last year the Hub has continued to work with individuals and small groups in helping to plan sessions or find resources. In particular, Mandy has worked with

- Ben Rhydding Sunday school
- Burley Sunday school and family service
- Otley to set up a new toddler church ‘Little Sheep’ as well as supporting Messy church and Explore together services
- Burley Methodists support for Sunday school
- St John’s Yeadon – All-age worship, school assemblies
- All saints Ilkley - resources for under 5s
- Leeds Minster resources for assemblies
- The Hub also hosted a training evening with Scripture Union on their Explore Together model. Over 40 people attended from across the diocese.

Resources and Publicity

The Hub has continued to purchase relevant resource books for churches to borrow – and new booklets detailing seasonal resources have been produced. Our website and Facebook page are kept up to date and a bi monthly newsletter is sent out.

Other news:

- In October Mandy completed a three day accredited Godly play course and over the next year there are plans to develop Godly Play as part of our resources .
- Mandy attended the first joint Clergy/Reader meetings since the reorganisation and also attended the first South Craven and Wharfedale deanery meeting.

Other Changes

As a result of the Diocesan reorganisation - Otley Christian Resources Hub has now become a “Charitable Incorporated Organisation” with our own constitution and charity number. The former management group have become trustees as part of this process. They have met half termly over the past year. During this period two of our trustees have resigned due to relocation and we are currently in the process of recruiting two new trustees.

In addition to this change the Hub Manager Anne Cayton retired in April . The hub hosted an event to say thank you and to celebrate her 10 years of hard work but the trustees would like to formally thank her for her amazing contribution as part of this report. Mandy Thorlby has now taken on the Hub Manager role.

Clearly there has been a lot of change over the last couple of years and although this has been unsettling and taken some time to resolve the trustees and staff are happy with the new structure and are looking forward to a positive year.

We are very grateful to all the parishes from the old Otley Deanery and the Methodist circuit for continuing to support the Hub financially – without your support our work could not continue. December 2017 is the end of our current funding cycle so the trustees will be asking for further pledges to continue the work for another two years.

Finally:

Thank you to Paul Cayton who maintains the website and provides IT support.

Anne and I have found it a real pleasure to support all the volunteers in the churches who work with children – it never feels like work – much more a privilege to serve you all.

Mandy Thorlby , August 2017