

# Great Ashby Community Church Annual Report 2019



## Leadership

Rev Laura Gimeno

Kenny Emagha, John Gribbon, Tanika Stewart, Mohan Taylor, Ben Ward

Dot Smith (until Sep 2019), Owen Smith (Secretary) (until Mar 2019)

## A Review of 2019

GACC aims to be a worshipping community at the heart of Great Ashby loving our neighbours and witnessing to the transforming power of faith in Jesus through our worship and mission. This year we have organised a range of activities that seek to bless our community as well as celebrating in weekly worship, prayer, and Bible study.

As Minister, Laura has been involved with the Great Ashby Toddler Group, Circles Coffee Bar, and is regularly to be found at the Community Centre. She is also Chair of Churches Together in Stevenage.

## Sunday Services

We enjoyed worshipping together for our weekly services every week of the year.

Themes of our Sunday Services included series on Discipleship, Being a Missional Church, Fruit of the Spirit, and Jesus Game Changer. Seasonal services included Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Harvest, Church Anniversary, Remembrance Sunday, Nativity & Carol services.

In August we also had our annual church in the park service where we left kindness rocks around the park followed by a picnic. This year Church Together services (formerly all age worship) have become a monthly event that brings us together as a church family for worship & teaching.



This year we welcomed several visiting speakers: Baptist Mission Society Speaker, Rev Ken Raynard, Rev Diane Tidball. Jacqui Katze shared about London City Mission. Rev Don Dowling visited regularly to celebrate Anglican Communion.

We are thankful for our worship, PA, refreshments, & Sunday school teams who served faithfully during the year.

## Prayer

We continue to hold 2 monthly prayer meetings. Special thanks to Hazel for organising our prayer breakfasts.

## Youth & Children's work

Sunday school continues to be a vital part of our Sunday worship.

Sunday Group meets weekly on Sunday evenings during term time for children in years 5-9. A group of young people went to Soul Survivor Watford to enjoy teaching and worship.



A number of adults and children also had a great week's holiday at Lemmings.

Grapes unfortunately closed in the spring after serving the Junior school children of Great Ashby for many years.

## Discipleship

Life Explored & Christianity Explored courses

House Groups meet weekly

## GA Mission to our Community

Easter Egg Hunt

Great Ashby Fun Run/Walk, in the GA District Park in aid of YoungMinds

2 flower arranging evenings

Coffee Morning in aid of the Haven

Community Carol Singing

Community Carol Service

Distribution of postcards to everyone in GA & Chrysalis Park



## Joint Mission Events in GA & Stevenage

CTiS Good Friday Walk of Witness

Community Garden and Litter pick with GA Community Council

Love Stevenage Accessible Fun Day with other churches in North Stevenage held at St Nicks park



Christmas Craft stall at the GA Christmas fair organised by GA Community Council  
Carol Singing in the town centre organised by CTIS



### **Other Mission**

We continue to support Sharon Jones in Lima Peru with Latin Link & Jacqui Katze in London with LCM. We regularly offer prayer support for Release. Many in the church offer financial support to Compassion.

We sent Christmas Shoeboxes to Eastern Europe with Link to Hope.

Financial support was sent to Baptist Missionary Society (overseas mission), Baptist Union Home Mission (supporting UK mission), Latin Link, and Bridge Builders. As well as charitable donations to Young minds, The Haven, and Feed up Warm up and Harvest food collection for the Foodshed.

### **Social**

We held a New Year brunch, regular bring and share lunches, pub lunch, trip to the bowling alley & a picnic. Also, we celebrated our Church Anniversary & held a farewell for Dot & Owen.

### **Finances**

See separate report

### **Statistics**

Membership – 41

Baptisms – we were delighted to celebrate the Baptisms of Charis & Chris

Visitors – during the year we welcomed a number of new visitors as well as regular visits from family and friends