

Great Ashby Community Church

Annual Report 2020

Leadership

Rev Laura Gimeno (until Nov 2020)

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

Karen Chalk (Secretary) (from Sep 2020)

A Review of 2020

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 these activities have been massively affected by the ongoing COVID pandemic.

From March all church and community face to face activities shut down and many have not restarted and in some cases (for examples Circles Coffee shop) never will. As a result of this unprecedented situation we have had to develop new ways of 'doing church' and supporting those who struggle with these changes.

Laura, our minister felt called to leave us in November and move to Spain on the mission field. Although sad to see her go we wish her well as she seeks to adapt to the new language and culture and to bring people to a personal relationship with Christ.

Membership news during the year included the sad death of Edna Crist and happier news in the form of Toby and Christine's wedding and the birth of baby Abigail to Natasha.

Sunday Services

We enjoyed worshipping together for our weekly services every week of the year, however, for a substantial part of the year this has involved us worshipping together whilst apart with YouTube services being uploaded or zoom services being viewed live or recorded. We managed to return to face to face meetings between September and early December (excluding the month of November) but in a restricted manner with no singing and limited interactions between masked individuals.

Themes of our Sunday Services included series on the Kingdom of God, Prayer, 1 Peter, Ruth, Colossians, the Armour of God and advent. Seasonal services included Palm Sunday, Harvest, Church Anniversary, Remembrance Sunday and nativity services; with the latter being performed remotely via zoom.

This year we welcomed several visiting speakers including John Laing and Ken Reynard. Jacqui Katze shared about London City Mission and Sharon shared about her work in Peru (when she was able to be there)

We are thankful for everyone who has been involved in services during the year especially our PA team who have had to deal with a variety of service formats.

Prayer

We held prayer meetings until the lockdown began when unfortunately they were paused for the rest of the year.

Youth & Children's work

Sunday school continues to be a vital part of our Sunday worship. It met as usual during the early part of the year and alternative activities and videos were provided for children during lockdown. During our time

back at the church in general packs were handed out to children to complete during the service although they did manage to meet for a couple of weeks in December
Sunday Group met weekly on Sunday evenings during term time for children in years 5-9 until the lockdown began.

Discipleship

House Groups met weekly until the lockdown with some continuing during this period using zoom.

GA Mission to our Community

Activities were scheduled to occur in the run up to Easter but unfortunately these and all subsequent activities were cancelled due to the lockdown and subsequent restrictions.

Joint Mission Events in GA & Stevenage

All activities were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic

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 money to buy Christmas Shoeboxes for Eastern Europe with Link to Hope. Financial support was sent to Bridge Builders.

Social

Social activities were restricted due to the pandemic and associated restrictions. We had several zoom chats and quizzes were held via zoom.

Finances

See separate report

Statistics

Membership – 39

Baptisms – there were no baptisms during the year. The baptistery was disposed of as it cannot be used in the community centre.

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