



CLEOBURY COMMUNITY HUB

Annual Report 2023

Charity # 1186142

Previously St Mary's Youth Project 2010-2023



ANNUAL REPORT

Chair's Review

After many years of supportive leadership and the vision to launch a Youth Club in Cleobury Mortimer, Rev Preb Ashley Buck has handed over the reigns of what has now become CCH (Cleobury Community Hub). I would like to start by thanking the Rev. Ashley Buck who chaired this organisation from its infancy, providing solid advice and positive guidance, allowing CCH to flourish and develop sustainably in the coming years.

It has been an exciting year for The Cleobury Community Hub as it continues to track the experience of our rural community in an extraordinary way, providing a place full of care, safety and freedom to all members of our community.

Our Ukrainian refugee guests have now found independent accommodation and employment within our community, a challenge for everyone in this small rural community. The cost of living crisis, energy costs and the resultant social issues have helped shape what we offer to our community. The 'Warm Welcome' initiative and the free 'Soup Garden' lunch have been an imaginative response to the problems people have faced and we have been delighted by the many people visiting us for these services. We are delighted to have had over 10,000 visits to the CCH this year to experience the warmth, care and friendship of our dedicated team in these challenging times.

CCH can only run and provide all it does because of the wonderful volunteers who serve alongside our trained team. Their enthusiasm, energy and commitment are second to none and we are so grateful to each and every one who have given time and resources to make the Hub

such a special place. We will never fully know the impact on peoples lives but we know and see that the more people who experience the benefits of the Hub, the more people have recommended CCH as a venue of positive change.

In July SMYP (St Mary's Youth Project) legally changed its name to Cleobury Community Hub, (CCH) underpinning this change with a stronger structure of Governance. All aspects of the safe running of CCH have been updated and improved along with the ongoing appointments of carefully selected Trustees and skilled members of the Management Team. We are always seeking the support of members of our community to assist whether as volunteers or Trustees. We have also been working with Hereford Diocese to secure a safe organisation for oversight and accountability. This is still in process but we hope will be completed during 2024.

CCH isn't purely reactive to circumstance; it is planning for a sustainable future. Initial investigations have started to evaluate an increased and improved offer for all members of our community. Plans are afoot to encourage a more diverse community to visit and experience the extended opportunities that CCH has to offer. These are ambitious and great plans for the future.

Thank you for taking the time to pick up our report and engage with all we are doing.

Nick Davis.

Chair of CCH Trustees (Acting)

The quotes in italics throughout this report are from stakeholders who are regularly involved in what happens through the CCH, and the service users who regularly attend activities.

Our History

Cleobury Community Hub began life as St Mary's Youth Project (SMYP), set up by St Mary's Church in the year 2000. In 2010 it moved to a new phase, appointing our first youth worker to meet the requirement to support disenfranchised young people in the local community. The local Church initially provided seed-corn funding for this project; other local charities and funders have supported our development over the years that followed. In Nov 2019, we became incorporated as a CIO as the work grew to reach all generations as our vision expanded along with wider opportunities.

"[The Hub] It's fun! There's climbing and soft play and it's safe so you can have a lot of fun." - Ezra, aged 7

"The way the community come together for the Warm Welcome is incredible. Some people make soup, others buy fresh bread to share and it is always full."

"It's such a fun community place. Everyone cares about everyone and you can just come and hang out. You don't need to buy anything, you can just come, chill and play games."
- Isla, aged 11

With the new charitable status came a 'new era' for SMYP. Increasingly, over the years, schools asked if we could support disengaged children before they reach exclusion, and so our then, Lead Youth and Family Worker, developed a programme (Active Education) which also involves the parents, as without total family support and commitment it is not possible to bring about real change in individual young people.

This ability to react to challenge and create positive change, manifested itself in the development of The

Community Hub, designed and driven by our young people.

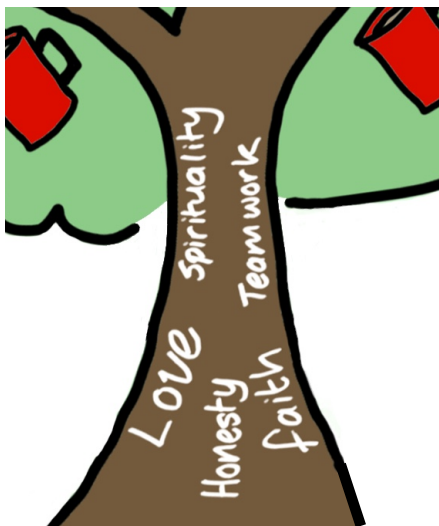
Taking the Cleobury Neighbourhood Plan project as a catalyst, we challenged the young people to get involved in creating a 30-year forward plan for this small town. They developed with us the concept for a Community Hub which met the active and aspirational needs of young people but was open to welcome in and able to engage the whole community. So we set about turning our Hub drop-in centre that the young people use, into the new Community Hub. With fundraising and lots of involvement and effort from local people we opened the first phase. This includes a café area, soft play, bouldering wall and meeting hall for young peoples' activities. People can drop in for coffee, parents and carers can bring toddlers and wait while their older siblings climb, and the young people have a drop-in centre which is part of ,rather than isolated from the community. This 'new era' quickly became the norm with older adults meeting friends for coffee in the mornings, community groups using the space during school hours, home educators started meeting to socially engage children in activity and young people started making this their "3rd space". This term is referred to as 1st space - the home. 2nd space is work or school. The 3rd space is where we choose to gravitate towards outside of the first two spaces. The nature of our facility, located centrally in Cleobury Mortimer, along with the 4 days a week we are open to the public have contributed to the increased usage and development of the organisation. We are particularly proud of the number of young people and parents who climb together at Climb61, our bouldering wall, where often there

was little interaction between them before.

On 31st July 2023, SMYP officially changed its name to Cleobury Community Hub - reflecting the work that goes on for ALL of the community.

Mission Statement

In September 2022, The Trustees, staff, key volunteers and several other stakeholders underwent a Mission and Vision Day that was externally facilitated. Through this team day we discovered 5 essentials to our Mission (in no particular order); 1. *Love* - for individuals in our community of all ages to help them become the best version of themselves.



2. *Honesty* - and transparency to our service users and accountability from board level outwards. 3 & 4. *Spirituality and Faith* - exploration are to be encouraged and nurtured through all of our activities. Our heart is to see this aspect of our offer to the community in everything we do, from coffee to climbing and everything in between.

5. *Teamwork* - is crucial to our growth. It is through relationship that individuals feel like they belong and participate. It is our staff team serving our volunteers that help them feel valued who in turn hold up a

mirror to those in our community, showing them their true value and worth.

Structure and Governance

In late 2022 and early 2023, St Mary's Youth Project (SMYP) underwent a series of vision gatherings and team meetings, exploring what was offered to the community and reflected on the experiences of the past 13 years of full-time Youth and Community Work. The conclusion to the intensive and in part, difficult conversations, was the decision to restructure the whole organisation to incorporate the holistic nature of the work being done. The focus for SMYP for a long time has been;

“First to the young person.

Second to the family.

Always through relationship.”

Yet the work had become even more intergenerational since the development of the Cleobury Community Hub and the name and the governance needed refreshing for the next stage of the organisation and how it supported the local and wider community. In July 2023 the process started, keeping the same charity number and framework of the constitution. The Cleobury Community Hub (CCH) was officially adopted as the charity name. CCH, a charitable, non-profit making organisation has continued to be meticulous in managing its financial affairs to break even as a minimum, within a financial year running from January to December. As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation the new structure incorporates a small board of Trustees and a growing management team that oversee staff and a volunteer team that has grown to a record number through 2023. The Director reports to the trustees and leads the management team. The trustees

have been picked to support the growing development of the organisation, using skills from their professional lives to enhance the delivery and growth of the organisation to the benefit of CCH users.

The *trustees and management team in 2023 comprised:

Nick Davis*
Samantha Dolphin (Secretary)
Linda Lambert (Treasurer)*
Roger Aston
Leonora Castledine*
Rev Mark Melliush*
Mark Greaves (Director)

Non-executive members may be co-opted to sub-committees, to bring further expertise to particular issues.

The Trustees and Management Team meet monthly with additional meetings convened as necessary.



Director's Report

In many ways, the past 12 months of coalface work in the CCH seem to be similar. Offering a warm, welcoming space for all ages. Responding to local, UK wide and International needs as they arise and aim at drawing in the most vulnerable in society to feel that they can engage with everyone. At the start of 2023 we were particularly excited for the events of the coming year. Our first major event was to celebrate Australia Day. One of our regular users is Australian and we saw this an opportunity to bring a little bit of home for him whilst having a fun event for the community. This event

was the epitome of how we respond to the needs and desires of our community in a fun way. A record number of 169 people visited on that day where we had a bbq, Australian themed food, drinks and games.



In the past 12 months we have had 370 people participate in organised activities. That's a 6% increase on the year before and considering we meet people on a weekly basis that do not know who we are or what we do, we know there is more to be done. Our regular activities have continued to include Rock Tots, Climbing Club, Climb61, Ladies' Night (bouldering), Hub Youth and schools work. The CCH threshold was crossed 10,546 times for anything from the coffee shop, Sunday Session, Climb61, Holiday Clubs and other one-off events.

"My family and I love using the hub. It's a great place to catch up with friends over great coffee. It's also a real safe space for the kids to hang out with their friends and do a bit of climbing too."

"I went to the Ladies Night bouldering for more social connections rather than the climbing but now I am hooked (and I've made some wonderful friends."

The Warm Welcome that happens throughout winter is a highlight of the community coming together. We have a host of soup makers, providing two excellent soup offerings every Monday. We have fresh bread donated by an amazingly generous couple and lots of people to enjoy it at lunchtime, a typical Monday sees 26 people attend for a free lunch.

Good Grief Cafe is a partnership with Cleobury Compassionate Communities (CIC) who deliver a welcoming opportunity for those dealing with grief. We host a lunchtime and an evening group monthly. Many of those that use the space connect with us at different times too.

Whilst it is our faith that drives the work that we do in Cleobury Mortimer we welcome everyone, whatever their faith to get involved in the activities and opportunities that we provide.

However, we also offer explicit faith-based activities. These are predominantly faith exploration, open to all faiths but specifically from a Christian perspective. The Sunday Session, Alpha, Youth Alpha and Open the Book have been our faith-based activities throughout 2023. I support the work of the local Open the Book (OB) team, going in to the local primary school to bring Bible stories to life in assemblies once a week. Our Youth Worker, Naomi, took on organising OB when Jenny Rand stepped down after 12 incredible years of prepping, organising us and delivering stories to children.

We thank Jenny for her service and know that she has brought joy to so many over the years of putting other first!

Youth Alpha is a one hour add-on to the end of Hub Youth where we have faith-based discussions, games and

hot chocolate! The Sunday Session is our all-age offer of faith exploration. We open the CCH at 2:30pm for climbing and refreshments. At 4pm we stream a service on our big screen from partner church, Lifecentral Church based in Halesowen.

Situated in our coffee shop, people are seated around tables and share their thoughts, discuss and continue their faith journey in a safe space. We have averaged 42 people each Sunday with ages ranged between toddlers through to people in their 80's - a truly intergenerational group of people.

Lastly I would like to thank those that have been involved over the years, helping shape the CCH to what it is today.

We fully understand that there is a time for everything and with people stepping away from leadership and oversight, it brings opportunity for new strategy and growth as we look to the future. A huge thank you to Rev Ashley Buck who has been our fiercest cheerleader over the years and has supported the growth of what we are now. Leo Castledine and Sonya Hill have been such an incredible support to myself over the years, specifically through HR and safeguarding and will be greatly missed. Megan Walker has been volunteering in some sort of capacity since she was 12 years old. In September, Megan left us to go to college and pursue her goals. We are so grateful to Megan for her tireless support to volunteering and trust it will be a good foundation for her future. We would also like to thank Simon Harris for his contribution to the trustees over the years.

We have a team of volunteers that help create a vibe that when people walk through the door, feel instantly welcomed and comfortable. Without their individual and collective support we would not be able to love and support our community in the way that we do - THANK YOU!

Youth Worker's Report

Over the course of the year we have reached 257 different young people, with 95 of those attending on a more regular basis. Since the start of the new academic year we have a core of 26 young people attending on a regular basis. The main group of young people are aged 11-13 years old which is so exciting as this is a demographic that is often tarred with negativity. It's such a great opportunity to build positive rapport leading to lasting relationships with young people and their families. Our numbers dipped between July to September, so it was important to look into how we can improve communication and create a buzz around coming to the Hub again. We started the Youth drop-in sessions on Tuesdays after school, where young people come, climb for free and hang out with us where we get between 5-12 young people each week where half of those will also come on a Wednesday night [Hub Youth] too.

At Easter we took 25 young people on a residential trip to the Pioneer Centre which was an amazing time, pushing many of the young people out of their comfort zones in a supportive way. In the Summer we also took 4 young people away to the Satellites Festival in Somerset. A Christian youth festival where 3,000 young people gather to explore faith and have a lot of fun. It was truly amazing to see them continue exploring their faith and to be part of their journey.



Our "Sunday Session Kids" sessions have been growing as we are getting more families in with a core 4-5 families who come regularly plus more who turn up on an ad hoc basis. This provides the parents an opportunity to access the Sunday Session whilst their kids are getting spiritual input too. Through stories, games, crafts and soft play we have looked at many stories in the bible learning who Jesus is.

We have started to implement a new Youth Session from 3:30-4pm for the older ones to engage in topics slightly more their level and then they can join in and help down with the kids after.

"The Sunday Session has provided a safe, welcoming and inclusive way to do church together and it's so exciting to see God at work in the lives of people of all generations from the local community. A real family."

"I love that the Hub brings many people together, who might not usually cross paths and it is a safe community space for all."

The Rock Tots group has reached 49 different families across 2023! Every Monday is different with a core group of 12 regular families attending more regularly. We have definitely seen this group grow through word of mouth as people are bringing other families along for a fun morning of soft play, introduction to climbing and snack, obviously in a warm and welcoming environment. What is truly incredible is the way connections made through this group have filtered into other activities of the Hub as people have come back

to climb or enjoy refreshments with their families, friends and even on ladies night.



Kids climbing has averaged 4 kids each week but are the same kids which allows us to work directly with each child on their technique and get to know them as people and value them. We have added a 4 level system for them to work towards something and create a sense of achievement. Many of the regular children are pushing these levels and become accomplished climbers in their own right.

Climbing has reached a large number of children, young people and adults though Climb61 that would normally shy away from team sports, yet they are finding a really supportive environment in community with like minded people - A great advert for the sport!

The work during primary school interventions has been very useful in building emotional intelligence with children. We received a grant last year from the Big Life Journal, where we received 50 journals to work through with children. By using these journals as a tool we look at who they are and who they want to be, boosting their self-esteem and confidence. This in turn helps the pupils verbalise their struggles and helps them thrive in school. I have

also developed different games and strategies for engaging children. All of the intervention work has been crucial in developing positive relationships in the community through our work at the CCH.

Looking Ahead

Last year we spoke of the dream of purchasing the Methodist Church site. This looks more likely by the week and we will undoubtedly be raising awareness and funds for the future development in due course. Don't just watch this space, get involved!!

Our heart has and always will be to love our community in the best way we can. The team of staff, volunteers and CCH users is one of love and support to the least and the lost. We will endeavour to create an atmosphere where mutual love, respect and support can be nurtured.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (msg)

Mark and Bev Greaves

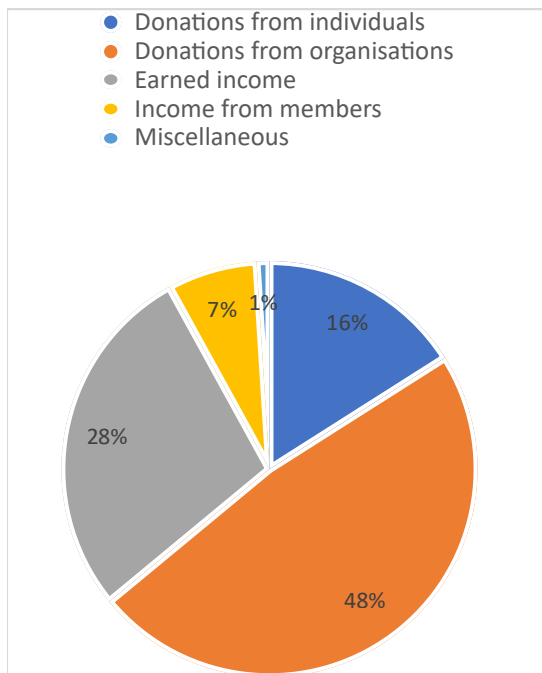


FINANCIAL REPORT

We remain in a good financial position due, in part, to the fantastic support we receive from individual donors who give regularly, local trusts and national grants.

Income

The main sources of our income are shown in this chart.



Donations from individuals

This includes donations made monthly by standing order, other donations from individuals, and collections voted by the members of voluntary groups. Most personal donations are eligible for Gift Aid tax relief, and this is also included.

Donations from organisations

These include donations and grants from churches, charities and other bodies who have kindly supported us during the year.

Earned income

We continue to provide support for pupils at our two schools in Cleobury Mortimer.

Income from members

This is the money paid by members for activities they take part in, including the café income from the

Community Hub. Income from the hub activities has continued to grow on last years income.

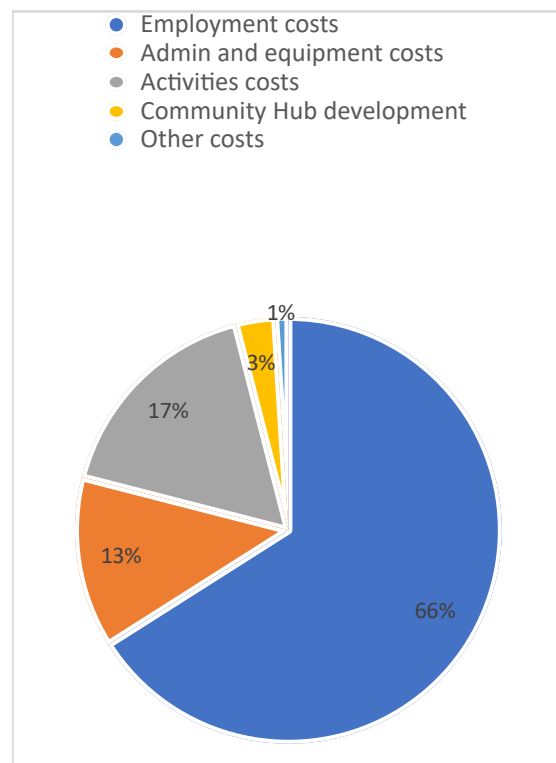
We are very grateful to all individuals and organisations who have contributed to our income and helped us in other ways during the year. Apart from payments from our schools and other partners for work undertaken, all our income is voluntarily given.

Miscellaneous income

This includes income from selling surplus equipment, and interest earned on capital.

Expenditure

The main types of expenditure during the year are shown in this chart.



Employment costs

These continue to be by far our largest expenditure. They continue to rise because we are employing more staff to meet the higher demand.

Admin and equipment costs

These include such things as insurance, publicity and running our payroll, as well as equipment needed

for delivering the services we provide.

Activities costs

These are the costs of services and activities which we provide for our members. Some of this is covered by contributions from members themselves, as mentioned above. It also includes the overhead costs of running the Community Hub, and the café consumables.

Other costs

This is mostly the rental we pay to the Methodist Circuit for the use of the Methodist Church premises. However, this is equally matched by a grant from the Methodist Circuit which included in our income, so there is currently no cost to the Project for our use of the premises.

With thanks

We are indebted to all those who support our work financially and in other ways:

Individuals who generously make donations

The Parochial Church Councils of Cleobury Mortimer and Neen Sollars Shropshire Council

Cleobury Mortimer Breakfast Club

Kidderminster East PCC

Cleobury Mortimer Compassionate Communities

Cleobury Mortimer Ladies' Golf

Cleobury Mortimer Crib League

National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund

Kelton Charitable Trust

Millichope Foundation

The Joseph Rank Trust

Wolverhampton & Shropshire Methodist Circuit

National Grid - Community Matters Fund

Action Centres UK - Pioneer Centre and our many volunteers who give freely of their time and talent to support the work of the CCH.

Contact details, further information and to get involved...

Charity Postal Address:

Cleobury Community Hub
1 Lower Street
Cleobury Mortimer
DY14 8BN

Operational Address:

Cleobury Community Hub
1 Lower Street,
Cleobury Mortimer
DY14 8BN

Social Media:

@cleoburycommunityhub
@cchhubuyouth



Cleobury Community Hub



Director:

Mark Greaves
07828 116810
mark@cleoburyhub.org.uk

Youth Worker:

Naomi Cornell
naomi@cleoburyhub.org.uk

Treasurer:

treasurer@cleoburyhub.org.uk

Climb61 Bouldering Wall enquiries:

climb61@cleoburyhub.org.uk
07828 116810

