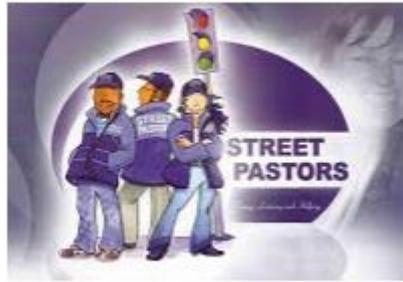


CTSD 2018 AGM reports

Street Pastors

Since being set up in July 2013, Spalding Street Pastors patrol the town centre every Friday and Saturday night. They are a group of dedicated volunteers from



local churches. Their main aim is to support, care for, listen to and help vulnerable people who are out on the streets enjoying a night out. The Street Pastors are first-aid trained in order to respond to minor injuries or illness, they work to keep the streets clear of danger by picking up bottles and sweeping up broken glass, both of which can cause injury, ensuring they are on-hand to provide blankets, flip-flops and bottled water.

Working under the banner of the Home Office approved Ascension Trust, Street Pastors work in partnership with the local Council and Police. Cllr Anthony Casson, South Holland District Council's Portfolio Holder for Public Protection, recently accompanied the Street Pastors on patrol, as did Councillors Angela Harrison and Tracy Carter.

Cllr. Casson commented, "Seeing the Street Pastors in action was inspiring, they are extremely valued by people in the town providing a reassuring presence well into the early hours, working alongside others that work in the night time economy e.g. pubs, bars, nightclubs, takeaways and statutory organisations. The Pastors feel that they are giving something back to their community and it was notable to see people coming up to them and thanking them for what they do, it makes them feel safer.

One of the council's main priorities is to create safer communities so we fully support what the Street Pastors are doing and will help ensure that their excellent work is continued."

Marion Sandhu, Co-ordinator of the Spalding Street Pastors said: "We are looking for people aged 18 and over who are church members, who would consider volunteering with us. We will ensure you are fully trained and offer you a unique and beneficial experience as being a Street Pastor is very rewarding. The people of Spalding seem to appreciate the work of the Street Pastors and always speak very positively of us."

For further information on getting involved or if you would like to financially support Spalding Street Pastors please email spalding@streetpastors.org.uk or visit <https://streetpastors.org/locations/spalding/>

CAP Debt Centre Chas Sandhu

It is with regret and sadness that I have to inform you that Jean Thomson has had to reluctantly step down as CAP Debt Centre Manager due to health problems. She offers her sincere apologies but has found her secular work and the voluntary role difficult to balance and with her current health issues feels she has no alternative but to resign.



The service has been well established and has already received seven referrals since it started, all of which have been assessed and are now in the system, thanks to the hard work and endeavours of Jean. Two have made a decision for salvation and two of these are attending Church regularly.

I would like to thank all the Churches who have offered support for the scheme and to those who are making a monthly contribution to CAP locally. This money does not go to the CAP Manager but to the Headquarters administration for those clients that Jean has started and transferred into the system. There is still a requirement that as a locality we continue to commit to £100 a month for these seven until August 18. Therefore, I would ask that if you as a Church have committed to a monthly donation for this to continue please.

I may have a person in my congregation that is available to pick this up and I am hoping that the project will continue, or whether there is anyone in your congregations who would consider this role. I would be grateful if you would raise awareness and ask your people to prayerfully consider if this is something the Lord could be calling them to do. As you are aware, it is a voluntary position but full training will be given and this commences in February 18.

AgapeCare



Agapecare Foodbank and Cafe has again been very blessed by God in 2017.

Donations of food and finance have been continuous throughout the year and our shelves have remained well stocked. We continued to receive weekly waste food donations from Sainsburys and fruit from Greenyard, with regular support of vegetables from Pedersons, pizzas from Freibergers and diary and cakes from Morrisons. The Foodbank received tremendous support this year at Harvest time from the local Churches and schools and particularly at Christmas from Spalding Academy and Spalding High School donating basic foods to help us in the new year.

We found that although less clients were visiting the Foodbank during the first half of the year, they needed more support than the usual 3 parcels and we were able to accommodate them in their need. The second half of the year saw a steady increase in those visiting both the Foodbank and the Cafe, including those who were homeless. We now average 18 people for meals and have seen over 6 homeless people find accommodation, supporting them in various ways through P3 and some have visited the Church on Sundays.

Our partnership with the Garth School continued into its 2nd year, providing work experience for 6 of their Year 11 pupils each week, in both the Cafe and the Foodbank, and Ayscoughfee School Year 6 pupils came for the 3rd year running, over a 4 week period, as part of their Community programme. We also had visits from the Priory School and various interested groups, increasing our number of Referral Partners, and a researcher from Sheffield University worked with us for several sessions and interviewing some of the Cafe visitors. Even the Bishop of Lincoln knows about us now!

We continued to send surplus water and clothes to refugees abroad through Jungle Care and surplus food to local charities such as Framework, the Lighthouse Project and others when asked.

At the request of Rev. Brown of Crowland Abbey we have recently initiated another satellite within the Abbey and hope to gradually expand this in 2018.

Our volunteers remain committed as ever to the Foodbank and Cafe and they deserve much praise for all their hard work and concern for those in need. Because of their care, over 500 parcels and Christmas hampers were given out in 2017, many individually tailored to meet the needs of those requiring them.

Agapecare is very much a community effort, the Church and local community working along side each other, from those who bring one tin to those who donate large amounts. But we can never forget Our Heavenly Father 'Who sees our need before we even ask.'

To Him be praise and glory with continual thanksgiving for His faithfulness in all things

CTSD website www.CTSpaD.org.uk



The **CTSD website** continues to promote what the Lord is doing through the churches in Spalding and District, now with our 'favicon' on the browser tab. In addition to

reporting on CTSD Council meetings, listing events and flower festivals across the area, the website offers a continuously growing archive back to the formation of CTSD in 1954. The listings of services at Christmas and Easter have again been formatted into brochures for Tourist Information and download.

As ever, edits, additions, corrections always welcome - with due apologies offered along with thanks for the opportunity to add, delete or correct entries.

Churches Together in Gosberton & District's ministers met in the summer and agreed to formally propose to 'deformalise' the group with effect from 28 September 2017. The CTSD website Gosberton page was updated with the removal of the 'Churches Together' logo and any meetings or events notified thereafter are being published without reference to 'Churches Together'.

The **CTSD website** remains fully paid up (at less than £5 pa). 92% of the 100MB free allowance now used.



Following the CTSD council meeting on 6 September 2017, the web domain www.Hope4Spalding.org.uk was re-purchased (unused since the Hope 2008 initiative), at £9.59 per annum for two years - but *whois* privacy has not been purchased. The Googlesite has been configured with images to aid smart phone navigation whilst retaining html hyperlinks for computer text software (as used by the visually impaired).

Facebook pages:

Hope4Spalding www.facebook.com/Hope4Spalding is available for all to add events or add details - once again, please let us know if you need help/access in this area.



Posters and pictures for Flower and Christmas tree festivals in the area are included on a separate Facebook page www.facebook.com/SouthHollandChurchFestivals providing snapshots of the amazing displays seen in churches.



The Prayer for Spalding Facebook page www.facebook.com/prayerforspalding (set up by Steve Weatherly-Barton) has three entries in 2017 inviting prayer for Steve Simcox in his new role in Stamford, for the CTSD Palm Sunday procession and the CTSD Lent Lectures (including the image by He Qi on Steve's poster). Steve offers this report:

It seems fair to say that Spalding Christians are still generally cautious about social media.

'Prayer for Spalding' has been running for nearly two years, and is still only viewed and used by a small number of people. Its greatest impact was when we were drawn together in prayer after the shocking triple murder that made Spalding famous for all the wrong reasons. However, the page will continue into 2018, but will also direct visitors to the Hope4Spalding initiative, which will be a focus of prayer and action this year.





Spalding Listening and Counselling Centre

2017 marked the 10th anniversary of the beginning of SPACE4U and over those years there have been the provision of many hours of counselling and some hundreds of people given access to a listening ear.

For any organisation large or small there is required a Team of people all working together for the common goal. SPACE4U is a Team, from front line face to face confidential contact to those who work behind the scenes. We are dependant on a number of volunteers to provide the service. We are extremely grateful to all who have supported the work and life of SPACE4U throughout 2017 and especially CTSD and some of the local churches who have supported financially.

Following the 10th anniversary celebration SPACE4U received quite a bit of publicity by the local press highlighting the service provided.

There has been a constant flow of people approaching us, occasionally clients have had to wait a few weeks for counselling, but mostly two weeks.

Presenting issues have included: Depression, anxiety, coming to terms with physical illness, abuse, self-esteem, bereavement & Work issues. Doctors surgeries continue to sign post quite a number of Patients to SPACE4U.

There are at present five counsellors (4 Qualified, 1 Trainee)

In 2017, 48 prospective clients approached us, of whom most were offered and took up counselling.

There were some 351 sessions of counselling, however this does not include ongoing clients who cancelled for illness etc.

During 2017 one trustee resigned. There have been challenges in recruiting volunteer counsellors to work specifically on a Tuesday. Financially we were able to gain some support locally and were successful in a grant application a few years ago. This has been invaluable in securing the work up to this point. However, having to raise over £6K per year in a difficult climate for charities continues to be challenging.

Publicity

Report to follow

Christian Aid

Report to follow



This is provided by the leaders, or/and their 'substitute', of the Churches which are in the area covered by the Spalding Guardian newspaper.

This means not only CTSD Church leaders but other CTs too.

In total, at this moment in time, I have 18 contributors.

HISTORY

Before I was the organiser for the rota of contributors, there was Roger Seal, a Quaker, and he took over in 2003 from Sheila Hance, the wife of Pastor Hance of the Spalding Baptist Church. I believe TTftW started approximately 20 years ago under the editor, Clive Brown.

I have approached retired leaders and they very kindly have helped fill the 'gaps' in the numbers on the rota, so that everyone does not have to do their contribution too often.

We also have the 'new' minister Revd. Frances Ballantyne, who has offered to fill in when someone is ill, at short notice.

I am always on the look out for more contributors so if you know someone, please let me know.