



## During 2014 Faith-based organisations contributed 268,000 hours of community service in Hastings & St Leonards

Cinnamon Network, so called as the founders met in a curry house of that name, is a Christian organisation which fosters and assists in developing social action by Christians. They conducted a national audit of faith-based community service to which Church Together was pleased to contribute. The object was to provide an answer to the question 'Does Faith bring good into our country?'. Hastings and St Leonards were one of the 57 locations round the country that took part in the Faith Action Audit where Christian churches and other faith communities were asked to share via an online questionnaire what they had done for the benefit of others outside their own group during the year 2014. We are grateful to Tim Miller, of the Hastings Interfaith Forum who provided us with contacts within other faith communities in our town and also to those groups from these communities who took part in the audit.

The launch of the accumulated national audit results was held on 20th May in Westminster where we heard some remarkable figures. Over 16,000 projects were reported, employing over 9,000 paid staff and nearly 140,000 volunteers. Over 28 million hours of community service were contributed valued at over £230 million. All this in one year. To see more details of the national report please visit the special website

[www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/cinnamon-faith-action-audits/](http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/cinnamon-faith-action-audits/)

The keynote address at the launch event was given by Archbishop Justin Welby and you can read this online at

[www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5557/archbishop-on-faith-as-a-force-for-social-good](http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5557/archbishop-on-faith-as-a-force-for-social-good)

## Hastings & St Leonards Results

178 projects were reported, over 268,000 hours of paid and volunteer time was provided by 53 paid staff and 1703 volunteers, altogether valued at £2,295,547. Again, just one year's worth!

Printed copies of the Hastings and St Leonards report will be circulated with the printed copies of Unity News to all churches and also to all the other faith communities who took part. We are planning an official launch of the local results at the Town Hall in September.



*'There will always be people who need... provision wrapped up in love'*  
Archbishop Justin Welby

## Hastings United

On January 26<sup>th</sup> the main hall of the Hastings Centre was filled again with towards 400 from churches all around the town. Tony Higton, previously an Anglican Vicar and leader of the the Churches mission to Jewish People during his years living in Jerusalem was our speaker. Tony's knowledge of and love for the



peoples of the Holy Land and the problems which have wracked it for centuries, enabled him to share with us, both a solid Biblical basis for our understanding and then a loving concern for all people groups involved. You can find his full talk on the Church Together website [www.hastingschurches.org.uk/unity\\_service\\_2015.html](http://www.hastingschurches.org.uk/unity_service_2015.html). Tony founded Paradox Ministries to promote awareness, concern and prayer for the people of the Holy Land. Follow this link if you would like to know more [www.prayerforpeace.org.uk](http://www.prayerforpeace.org.uk). Hannah Latty, from Ashburnham Christian centre, together with some musical friends led our time of sung worship and beautifully performed one of her own songs.

26 different displays were there for us to see just some of what Christians are doing in serving our community and also reminders of three invaluable places available to us nearby, Ashburnham Christian Trust, Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre and Penhurst Retreat Centre. Never been to any of these? You should, you won't regret it.

## Unity Service 24th January 2016

So soon already! We have some updates for you. Our next Unity Service will be held on Sunday 24th January 2016 at 3.30pm, note the earlier start. Again we are fortunate to have the Hastings Centre, home of King's Church on the Ridge, available. Several of the Church Together committee members recently attended the Faith in Politics breakfast at Ashburnham Christian Trust where we heard Joel Edwards speak.



Joel is well know to many from his time as General Director of the Evangelical Alliance, subsequently International Director for Micah Challenge and is also a Commissioner of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. He has presented on the BBC Radio 4 feature of The 'Today ' programme Thought for the Day. Currently he works with Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 'Working for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights, in the pursuit of justice'.

Those of us who heard him were both absorbed and entertained by his address at Ashburnham, so we've asked him to come to speak to us all at our 2016 Unity Service and are pleased to tell you he's coming! We'll keep you informed as plans develop.

New volunteers are desperately needed for both our local Night Church events  
Interested? please contact Church Together in the first instance.

## Hastings & Rother Worship Baton 2015

An exciting weekend of continuous worship will be taking place across Churches in Hastings, Bexhill, Rye and the surrounding area this summer. The event is called the Hastings & Rother Worship Baton 2015 and it will be happening across many local churches and ministries over 60 continuous hours from 7th - 9th August. Each church taking part will worship God for a 1-2 hour time-slot as part of the 60 hours, and a baton (conductor's baton engraved with words from Psalm 103v2) will be passed from church to church between slots as a physical symbol of unity across the churches. There will be many church denominations represented, including; Anglicans, Assemblies of God, Baptists, Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Methodists, New Frontiers, Pentecostals, Salvation Army, and United Reformed. People

will be encouraged not only to visit their own church's worship slot but to also visit a different church not known to them, to join them for their worship time. The rota which lists all of the churches taking part will be made available to view on the Hastings & St Leonards Church Together website soon.

The vision for the Worship Baton event was received by Rev Jan Vidler, who is a newly ordained minister at Hawkhurst Baptist Church. Jan says, "During a time of prayer and personal worship, the Lord showed me a picture of a map of our area and arc of worship ascending from Bexhill over and across Hastings to Rye. He spoke of a continual worship time involving many local churches, which we look forward to seeing in reality during the Worship Baton." At the end of the 60 hours there will be the opportunity for a special time of Communion altogether at Holy Trinity Hastings on Sunday 9th August at 8:30pm, which will be conducted by Rev. Mike Coe, Rural Dean of Hastings. Katie Harrison (event coordinator) says, "God loves it when His children worship Him together in unity. Our prayer is that this continuous stream of united worship across this little South East corner of England will bring Him great glory". The event is coordinated by Hastings 24-7 Prayer and supported by Hastings & St Leonards Church Together. All are welcome.



# Happy birthday to three local Christian organisations

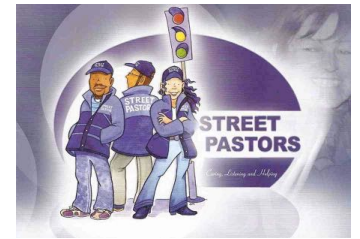
**Christians Against Poverty** is celebrating two years of rescuing local people from personal debt. The



The team have helped several despairing local families and individuals by offering a free, face-to-face and caring service, which gives both hope and a solution. Centre manager Nick Warren said: *"We have been in a lot of homes during these two years and learned about some very sad situations. Debt can be so destructive, making people feel so desperate, scared to go out or even open the curtains. We've also seen that however terrible something appears, there is always a solution and the benefit of the way CAP works is that it is really thorough, taking someone step by step to becoming debt free. We have been privileged to see three of our clients go on to become voluntary support workers for CAP and be able to share the benefit of their own experiences with other client families."*

To find out more, visit [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org) or call 0800 328 0006

**Hastings Street Pastors** are celebrating their 5th birthday.



The celebrations kicked off with a special service at Holy Trinity Church with the Street Pastor Band playing. Special guest Street Pastor co-founder Rev Les Isaac OBE gave an inspirational message, followed by an outdoor performance from local Gospel/Blues band 'The Remnant'. A birthday cake was cut and distributed to all including passers by along with special helium filled balloons.

The following day, Sunday, Wellington Square Church was the venue for a Civic Community Service with several local dignitaries in attendance. Prayers for our town especially for Hastings Borough Council, Police, the emergency services, Street Pastors and all who work so hard to make Hastings a safe place to live were offered.

The Street Pastor team have now been out 590 times, helping over 1,600 people, given away 1,900 pairs of their famous flip flops and over 2,900 hot drinks, soup & food.

**Later this year Hope Kitchen will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary.**

During the last ten years thousands of guests have been welcomed to Hope Kitchen which offers each person some soup, sandwiches and a hot drink as well as a listening ear and something of the love of Christ. To mark this

they hope you will join them for a Thanksgiving Service and Anniversary Stroll along the seafront from Rock-A-Nore to Glyne Gap and back. See details in Dates for your Diaries. A fantastic team of volunteers who help out from once a month to twice a week. They would welcome more volunteers to join them to listen to and chat with guests. Hope Kitchen relies on donations from individuals, churches and other charities such as Round Table and The Magdalen and Lasher Charity to help buy food and some other items such as sleeping bags and toiletries. They are also indebted to many who pray for them including some who do so in the prayer rooms whilst Hope Kitchen is open on a Thursday or Saturday evening. Please get in touch with them if you would like to find out more or feel you could support Hope Kitchen in any way. Visit their website [www.hopekitchenhastings.org.uk](http://www.hopekitchenhastings.org.uk)





## Global Day of Prayer

On 24th May, the annual Global Day of prayer was organised by our vice-chairman of Church Together, Father Tom Treherne of the Parish of the Good Shepherd. Over forty attended for the service at the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Redeemer in St. Leonards which included various opportunities for prayer and was enjoyed by those present.

***Ephesians 6;18* Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.**



## Snowflake

The number of guests attending the Snowflake Winter Night Shelter in the past winter disclose that, whilst there were fewer applications for places in the Shelter, the average number of guests at 13 per night was the same as winter 2013-14. The decline in applications reflects the success of the Snowflake team in assisting guests to move on to settled accommodation. However, increases in local rents and other factors are reflected in new cases of homelessness. A priority for the next winter is to increase the number of volunteers so that the Shelter can open in November and continue into March if very cold weather is forecast outside the standard three winter months. Our new Trustee, Sheila Young, is dedicated to communicate with and support our wonderful team of volunteers throughout the year. The Snowflake Trustees welcome the Greek Orthodox community as a new provider of accommodation. This Community's newly refurbished hall in Church Road, St Leonards will take over from The Concordia Hall of the Catholic parish of the Good Shepherd next winter on Wednesday nights through to Thursday morning. More info about the Snowflake Winter Shelter, including how to get involved, is on their website [snowflake-nightshester.org.uk](http://snowflake-nightshester.org.uk).

## Hustings 2015 – the biggest in town.... Again!

On April 28 we counted in 398 people who came to the Hastings centre to hear our five parliamentary candidates answer questions which were submitted in advance by local Christians. The Conservative Party was represented by Amber Rudd, The Green Party by Jake Bowers, the Labour party by Sarah Owen, the Liberal Democrat party by Nick Perry and UKIP by Andrew Michael. Our thanks to them all for coming and to those who submitted over 70 questions. Bishop Richard Jackson, who chaired the meeting for us, also assisted us in choosing which of the questions should be presented in the limited time available to us. We'd have been there till 4 am if we asked them all!



# SHADES - An update from David Henty Director of our Local Christian Theatre company

On Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> St Peter and St Paul's Church held an Outreach Weekend entitled **Out of the SHADE into the LIGHT**, to which SHADES Christian Theatre Company was invited to perform the whole of its repertoire of sketches for 2015.

Non-Christian friends and family members were invited and accompanied by members of the congregation (with special invitation tickets) to the free Saturday evening's entertainment. The Guests were then 'encouraged' to attend the Sunday morning Guest Service on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Two at least of those five non-Christians at the service promised they would come again to the church! St Peter and St Paul's congregation is now praying hard that this Outreach Weekend will prove to be a successful precursor to their Guests accepting further invitations to attend the church's Alpha Course in the Autumn.

## Dates for your Diary

### July

- Thurs 9th Faith In Education (Evening meal optional) @ Ashburnham Place  
Sat 11th Summer Concert - A light hearted look at creation. 7.30pm @ Wellington Square Baptist Church, Hastings. Free admission. A collection will be taken for Christian Schools Workers

### August

- 7th - 9th Worship Baton - see article in this edition of Unity News

### September

- Fri 4th Faith In Politics (Breakfast meeting) @ Ashburnham Place  
Thurs 10th Faith in the Marketplace, social evening @ Ashburnham Place  
Sat 12th Anniversary Stroll for Hope Kitchen volunteers and guests. 10am start from Rock-A-Nore to Glynne Gap and back

### October

- Weds 7th Prophetic Witness Movement International, Don Stanton will be speaking on subjects relating to End Times & Second Coming. 4.30 and 6.30 pm @ The Tabernacle Evangelical Church  
Thurs 8th Faith In Healthcare (Evening meal optional) @ Ashburnham Place

### November

- Sun 10th Hope Kitchen Thanksgiving Service, 3pm @ Wellington Square Baptist Church  
Thurs 19th Faith In Education (Evening meal optional) @ Ashburnham Place

### December

- Fri 4th Faith In Politics (Breakfast meeting) @ Ashburnham Place

### Jan 2016

- Thurs 14th Faith in Business (Evening meal optional) @ Ashburnham Place  
Sun 24th Unity Service, King's Church, The Ridge. Hastings. 3.30pm

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Sign up to Church Together emails to receive news, views and more information about events and activities from churches and other Christian organisations in Hastings and St Leonards - visit our website [www.hastingschurches.org.uk](http://www.hastingschurches.org.uk)

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