

**hull yfc**



**annual report**

**2019 - 2020**

# Chair's Report

Dear supporters, prayers, volunteers... whoever and wherever you are.

The past year has been a momentous one for Hull YFC. I seem to remember writing about change a few years ago. It's often scary, generally because its unwelcome. Whilst the number of changes you will read about, maybe for the first time, in this rather larger than usual annual report are many and significant, none are a bad thing. Some are tinged with sadness, but that doesn't make them bad.

We have explained previously our ceasing to be a Youth for Christ chartered centre. That has now all 'gone through' perfectly amicably and easily, if, as I say, with some sadness. We also shared how we'd begun looking for a new partner and now I'm pleased to share our search has led to Urban Expression. Unfortunately getting a new relationship going is not easy in Covid-time, but the contacts so far have been really encouraging and bode very well for the future. We hope you enjoy Stuart's article, and with the extra details we've included, you should see why we chose Urban Expression as a network we could really learn from and make a valued contribution too.

It's the personnel changes that will be new and a surprise. We welcomed Ian Dyson back to Hull and the Boulevard best part of a year ago now. And he came with Iona his wife and Jonny and Hope. And they have since produced Samuel. So plenty of change for them. Including living in Matt's House and then moving into their own. Very recently they have jointly accepted the role of Team Leader which will be a new way of doing things for us, but as Trustees we think they are such a gift and they will create the capacity for doing some new things and some differently.

The role became available because a few months ago Richard told us he wanted to relinquish it. Leading a team that you've been in for a decade when the ex leader/couple are still around is not an easy thing, no matter how wonderful Chris and Anna were and are. But then we had a very difficult time with a new staff member, and the British YFC thing and some other things - some good but tricky things too - that have made it a pretty bumpy ride for Rich and Emma too these last five years. I'd have been shouting and wailing; Rich has dug very deep and waded through with such good grace. He won't be paying himself any

tributes in this newsletter, but he has really impressed me. The Trustees, on whose behalf I'm writing all of this, are so grateful to Rich. Good job! And I'm so pleased he and Emma are not only staying, with their children, right where they are on Malm Street but also that they remain part of the team. Please pray that they are released into some new really satisfying work.

Which leaves us with 'what to say about Chris and Anna'. Well for reasons you can read something about inside, they have both left Hull YFC. But they are still pretty intimately tied in. And of course they too remain on Malm Street. Where Ian & Iona are and another couple, Stuart & Ellie have arrived. And Matt's House at the top of the street. So there is something afoot; please do pray about that in among all this change. And it's a good thing. We get older, what we have to offer changes. And as you know Hull YFC, whilst being committed to the same things it was when Chris and Anna arrived over twenty years ago, tries to be Jesus and is good news in some ways we'd never have dreamed of back then, in very large part, thanks to them. We had this God given idea about living and working and worshipping 'in the neighbourhood' and they have lived that out to the nth degree, and inspired others to do so. I'm personally so pleased to have them as dear friends and we as Trustees are so grateful for them and to God for the gift they and their children have been and continue to be to the Boulevard area.

Actually, there are other leavers; from the Trustees that is. Rev Martyn Westby is stepping down. He was a Johnny come lately in HYFC years, but was really helpful in some of the tough spots over the last two or three years, so thanks. (And Cathy his wife remains, if that's a reassurance). Perhaps more significantly for many of you, Mike and Joy Donaldson have also recently stepped down after twenty years. They have been a great strong steel joist through the structure of Hull YFC and we are really going to miss them, but its good for them and they are no less supportive and will keep praying for us. And we will be enriched by new Trustees we haven't worked with yet, as Iona and Ian and the team present us with more challenges in the year ahead.

So there has been a huge amount of change and we are grateful, from a real depth of experience, to an utterly faithful God who we know holds us all, arrivers, leavers and stayers, in his kind hands.

With our deep gratitude for your, in many cases, long enduring support, care, prayer and love.

**Andy**



We couldn't be together for cooked breakfasts, but we didn't let this stop our end of term tradition. We delivered ingredients to all our families to enjoy together at home.



# 2020 PHOTO GALLERY



Our Easter packs were filled with activities, chocolate (thanks to a donation from Thorntons) and a chance to look at the Easter story and it's relevance to us as we sat in lockdown looking for the hope to come.



A neighbour donated 50p to Breakfast Club for every rainbow children coloured or painted to fill her windows.





Thanks to supporter donations we were able to give out activity packs to entertain children and help keep parents sane.



In partnership with other local organisations we were able to deliver food parcels to families in need



To encourage families to get into the fresh air, we created a community word search by hiding letters and leaving clues.



Thanks to Rooted in Hull we were able to give families planters to enable them to grow their own herbs or flowers.



Our Lent reflections at Tuesday Meal began in person at Matt's House . . .

... and ended up on Zoom!



Breakfast Club resumed briefly in the Autumn term. It was good to be back even though things had to be different.



# Stepping Away

We have really enjoyed and appreciated our time as members of the Hull YFC Exec and are grateful to have been given the opportunity to be involved in this way.

We moved to Cottingham in 1996 and not long after arriving, we attended a meeting about the work of Hull YFC where we met Chris and Anna Hembury. A while afterwards we were asked if we would be interested to join the Exec, and so our journey began.

Twenty or more years later, we look back on this journey with thankfulness to God, to the team, to the Exec, and to the faithful and generous individual supporters and churches throughout the City and beyond.

It has been a challenge and a privilege to support the team and to be involved in the thinking and planning for the way the organisation has evolved over the years. As an Exec we have seen some exciting developments with the work and wrestled with a number of significant issues. However these difficult times and decisions have often been where we have all learnt a lot and developed and moved on in our thinking and ideas.

Life for the team is often changing and challenging and this Covid time is no different. We have always been very impressed by the team and their creativity, love, commitment and 'can do' attitude together with their trust in God in all situations. This has been something that has been an example and encouragement to us both on our own faith journeys.

We have enjoyed getting to know



the different staff team members, volunteers and some of the families locally. Mike has learnt to be a waiter at the Mothers' Day celebration meals on a number of occasions and Joy has enjoyed her involvement especially at Breakfast Club and Orts.

We have been encouraged as we have seen God's love at work transforming the lives of individuals, families and a community. We have seen this love shared by all those involved with Hull YFC as they work together to build and strengthen relationships in the community and by doing this show each of us that we are loved and special to God.

We are no longer Exec members now, but this will give us more time to be involved in some of the other activities of Hull YFC. So it is not goodbye, but hopefully redeployment!

**Mike and Joy Donaldson**

# Light in the Lockdown

The last 10 months have seen a global pandemic that has rocked the world. We have all had our lives turned upside down by this storm, but as noted in a meme doing the rounds during this time: while we're all in the same storm, the boats that we have to weather it are dramatically different. On the Boulevard, we have a real mix of 'boats', but the majority are crowded, leaking (damp), poorly furnished, have no green outdoor space and don't have enough electronic devices to fully engage with the world (notably education) as it moves into cyberspace.

It would be easy to write an article about the significant extra challenges that deprived communities have faced during this time. However, I would be doing our community a disservice if I was to claim that this has been my only take home message from lockdown on the Boulevard. Instead, what I have been reminded of time and time again over the last 10 months is the resilience, generosity and resourcefulness of the amazing people we know. We were undoubtedly worried that one more thing on what is already a full plate might bring about a tipping point. But despite being the victim to yet another circumstance, on the whole, they're still standing.

The reality is that most of the challenges that were new to many of us during lockdown are faced, to some degree, by the families that we know day in, day out. The ordinariness of zero hour contracts or temporary work, poor quality rented housing, anti social behaviour and issues with physical and mental ill health, mean they are not strangers to turbulent and anxious times. They are already familiar with the need to take each day as it comes and just keep putting one foot in front of the other.

And so when things all felt too much, it was their example that often showed me the way to get through another day. They knew how to meet their social needs by gabbing to a neighbour on the doorstep when trips to cafes and restaurants weren't allowed. They knew how to entertain their kids without the need for day trips and holidays, because that is always what the 6 week holidays looks like for them. And they knew how to support each other through it all because they are used to being there for friends and family in challenging and traumatic times.

Now we find ourselves in not only another lockdown, but significantly one in winter, and for all their resilience, people are tired. Winter is dark and cold, and heating houses and funding Christmas is expensive. With so many of the activities that bring joy to our HYFC community unable to go ahead this year we are scrabbling for ways to keep our heads up.

As Christmas approaches and we are reminded about Jesus' coming into our world to bring hope and love, please join me in praying that His light will fall upon the incredible individuals with whom we share our lives here on the Boulevard.

**Emma**

# End of an Era

The start of July 2020 marked the end of our official service with Hull YFC. It is a testament to the health of the organisation that we have been able to bow out with grace and that our leaving in no way unsteadies the ship; rather, it frees up Hull YFC to better move forward lightly as it navigates the new uncharted waters of these times.

We were asked to write about what we have learned during our 23 / 21 years with Hull YFC but that feels more like a book (or, better yet, some long, slow conversations over food in good company!) than anything we might be able to squeeze into a Stoppress article. We have learnt, and continue to learn, so much about ourselves and about God in the adventure of life and mission here on the



Boulevard. We have been humbled by the riches of living as part of a community we came to serve; challenged and energised by a changing team of people who felt a similar call by God and committed to figuring out what that might mean here; and nurtured, prodded, thrilled, guided, harassed, healed and held by the Spirit.

We are, of course, quite long in the tooth now! Having stuck around for this long, it has been a privilege to have had and grown our own children in the company and community of others here in our neighbourhood, with all the joy and heartache and mess that birthing and dying and living brings. To see a third generation of families sharing breakfast with us and with each other is quite something. So we delight in and celebrate the strong fabric of the kingdom community we are collectively weaving here and are more than glad to still be of service at the Breakfast Club now as volunteers.

Behind all of this missional living, running as a silent thread through the decades, we have always known this: that the prayers and encouragement and consistent giving, in time and love and money, of Hull YFC / CMS supporters has been the scaffolding for every bit of kingdom building here. If there is a lesson worth acknowledging here it is this: you are not supporters of Hull YFC, you are mission enablers. You help make possible what happens here.

Chris's learning in his new context in the building trade confirms this! The scaffolding is a vital and necessary part of building something structurally sound. You are the steel acro-props without which the whole thing would collapse before we have a chance to get things in place, before the community can find its footing and we can build together. No-one looks at a building and marvels at the invisible support structures that made the thing possible. So your enabling is unseen, perhaps even to yourselves. But we know how to build for the kingdom,



and one thing we consistently learnt from our doing was that we never did any of it on our own. That the Hull YFC team is always more than the paid workers, the “hands on” volunteers and the community we work with. That those who quietly and mostly invisibly hold us up are as much a part of the fabric of all that is being established in Jesus' name here on the Boulevard.

So thank you for all that you have enabled in mission, for shoring us up, for providing the steady scaffolding for the work and for consistently making possible the building of the kingdom.

**Chris & Anna**

# A New Partnership

Urban Expression began in 1997 as a protest and an experiment – a protest against the widespread neglect of poor urban communities in the mission strategies of the 1990s, and an experiment in recruiting and deploying self-funding mission teams in these kinds of neighbourhoods. Over two decades later, we have 24 teams in many different places, involved in church planting, developing social enterprises, peacemaking, community organising and much more. We also run a missional training course, Crucible, in which hundreds of people have participated since 2004. And we have a sister agency in the Netherlands with 11 teams.

We are a values-based community – relationship, creativity and humility are our core values. We come from various backgrounds and denominations; we do not all agree on every point of doctrine; we value the diversity of our teams and their activities. We are a fragile network and are focused on neighbourhoods in the bottom 5-10% when measured in relation to deprivation. Support for the teams is provided by a dispersed team of nine coordinators, each working one day a week – funding for these people comes primarily from charitable trust and individual supporters.

At the beginning of 2020, after conversations and exchange visits, we welcomed the team in Hull into Urban Expression. This partnership is rather different from our normal model – the team has already been in their community for many years and is under the auspices of a charitable trust – but we are looking forward to learning together as we go forward. Our hope is that Urban Expression will provide a wider mission community for the team, offering support and training, and that we will draw on the experience of the Hull team as they share their experiences with us.

2020 has not been the ideal time to develop this relationship! We had hoped to get to know each other better at our annual community weekend in March, but this had to be abandoned due to the national lockdown. We have mostly communicated across Urban Expression via Zoom since then – useful, but not good for building relationships. We look forward to face-to-face meetings and further visits at some point.

**Stuart Murray Williams**  
(Urban Expression Coordinator)

More information can be found at  
[www.urbanexpression.org.uk](http://www.urbanexpression.org.uk) and  
[www.cruciblecourse.org.uk](http://www.cruciblecourse.org.uk)



# UrbanExpression

creative mission on the margins

## Mission Statement

Urban Expression is an urban mission agency that recruits, equips, deploys and networks self-financing teams, pioneering creative and relevant expression of the Christian church in under-churched areas of the inner city, outer estates, and marginalised communities.



## Values

### Relationship, Creativity and Humility

(Please visit [www.urbanexpression.org.uk/about-us/](http://www.urbanexpression.org.uk/about-us/) to learn more about what each value means to Urban Expression and how they hope to see them lived out.)

## Commitments

We are committed to following God on the **margins** and in the gaps, expecting to discover God at work among powerless people and in places of weakness.

We are committed to being **Jesus-centred** in our view of the Bible, our understanding of mission and all aspects of discipleship.

We are committed to seeking **God's kingdom** in the urban context, both by pioneering creative and relevant expressions of the Christian church and by working in partnership with others in mission.

We are committed to a vision of **justice, peace and human flourishing** for the city and all its inhabitants.

We are committed to **uncluttered** church, focused on mission, rooted in local culture and equipping all to develop and use their God-given gifts.

We are committed to **unconditional** service, holistic ministry, bold proclamation, prioritising the poor and being a voice for the voiceless.

We are committed to respecting and building **relationship** with other faith communities and averse to all forms of manipulation or erosion of liberty.



# 'I am Doing A New Thing'

Some people may remember that fifteen years ago I left Hull YFC and moved to Edinburgh to start a new chapter. But last July, myself, Iona and our two children (unknown to us a third came along for the journey too!) left our old life in Leith to start afresh on the Boulevard to follow God's call.



*Fresh-faced Ian on the Pilgrimage youth trip to Holy Island in 2005*

While in Edinburgh I took up a post with a Christian community charity working on a housing scheme to the west of Edinburgh. It was an incredibly challenging time both personally and in the work for the duration of the 5 years there, but through all that I learned many important lessons from God. Besides a period of growth and learning I met my wife Iona and had two children - Jonny and Hope. I also moved on to work for Bethany Christian Trust and Inspiring Scotland

leading a project called 'Inspiring Leith'. This work saw numerous initiatives started, all built upon the gifts and talents of locals to build a stronger community.

Iona spent her time studying for a degree in Community Education at Edinburgh University and working for various community organisations. Most recently as a manager at Sikh Sanjog supporting women from ethnic minorities and in particular those from the Sikh community who were suffering domestic abuse and other challenges.

So why leave a country we really loved, plus a beautiful city with lots going on, rewarding jobs, settled home life, friends etc?

Over the years we have kept in touch with friends in Hull and the work. It has always been an encouragement to read Stoppress and for us there was a draw towards the community and way of life. We tried to live out this call in various ways where we were but never felt quite settled and always had a nagging feeling that God had something else for us somewhere else.

I spent a period seeking God and one scripture that was prominent was Isaiah 43 v18-20 'See I am doing a new thing!'. During this time I walked into a church in Dundee and written in huge



*A youthful Ian leading a HYFC assembly 15 years ago in Constable Primary School (with Chris and Steph)*

letters on a wall were those very words. God was definitely saying something to us and so we took a step of faith to move to Hull even though we had no jobs or home, but trusting all would work out in time.

So, what has changed here in Hull? It is encouraging to see some of the young people I knew from primary school and the Zone 3 club now exploring faith of their own and involved with camp and other activities. Hull YFC are still following Jesus' example, supporting and enabling people and making God's Kingdom a daily reality . There are new



*Ian, Iona, Jonny, Hope and Samuel*

activities such as Orts, the baby and toddler group and Matt's House, plus familiar things such as Breakfast Club and Tuesday meal. The team in Hull really have been faithful to both God and this community by being committed for the long haul.

In other ways many of the issues are still here in the community. It is great to see lives being changed by God and the input of the team but lots of bigger structural issues such as health and inequality still affect people and some of these are new challenges people have to wrestle with such as recent welfare reforms and now of course those relating to the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Returning to Hull has been a huge change for us including a new baby, house to renovate and community to settle in and as you may have read Iona and I will now be taking on the shared leadership of Hull YFC. We feel a huge sense of legacy from all those who have gone before us and we look forward to building on that to continue seeing the Gospel shared in this community. In the short term we need a period of stability within HYFC to navigate the transition from Rich after all his efforts in the role and make sure the work can continue during the ongoing Covid pandemic.

We hope you will continue to walk with us, the team and community during this new season and we firmly believe that God has a plan and is wanting more for the work in years to come, God is doing a new thing!

Ian

# Financial Report

As I reflect on another financial year, I am once again encouraged by the generosity of our supporters. I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all our individual sponsors and churches that supported us during 2019; this money helps maintain all our running costs and enables us to deliver the activities and support we provide.

We are very grateful for the grants that we have received from the Church Mission Society, Joseph & Annie Cattle Trust, One Joseph Boaz Charitable Trust, FP Finn Charitable Trust, the Camellia Trust, Hull & East Riding Charitable Trust, Evangelical Trust, Hesslewood Children's Trust, Seedbed, Leavers Coulson, Nunburnholme Trust, Tribune Trust, Garfield Weston, Charles & Elsie Sykes Charitable Trust, Joseph Rank Benevolent Fund, British Humane Society, Church Welfare Association, Methodist Women in Britain, Imagine Foundation & the Rank Foundation.

These grants in addition to the support and generosity from churches and people like yourselves who give regularly or as one-off donations, mean we were able to end the year in a better position than we had budgeted for.

Several large grants were given to the Orts mezzanine project which is reflected in the 2019 total income being significantly greater than normal. The new floor and other improvements were completed in 2019 which explain the high 2019 total expenditure. The remaining funds raised for Orts in 2019 have since been used to install a new kitchen earlier this year.

Salaries remain our biggest cost and the current economic situation puts increased pressure on us as grants towards salaries are becoming harder to come by. If you would like to consider supporting us financially please contact myself or Ian.

Thank you.

**Jill**

# Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year Ending 31 December 2019

<b>Income (£)</b>	<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>Total 2018</b>
Church Gifts	7,360	3,197
Individual Gifts	32,264	33,064
Trust Gifts	35,096	25,085
Event Contributions	1,964	2,993
Regular Activity Charges	590	566
Fundraised	422	1,349
Tax Reclaim	3,907	4,242
Legacy	0	0
Matt's House	5,790	6,084
Interest	568	237
Orts	44,975	9,785
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,936</b>	<b>86,602</b>

<b>Expenditure (£)</b>	<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>Total 2018</b>
Wages	53,773	58,393
Other Personnel	2,136	954
Office/Admin	3,544	3,890
Matt's House	6,000	6,084
Activity Costs	8,915	12,590
Orts	30,218	2,682
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,586</b>	<b>84,593</b>

	<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2019</b>	<b>Total 2018</b>
<b>Funds Brought Forward (£)</b>	39,099	26,447	65,546	63,537
<b>Surplus/Deficit on Year (£)</b>	3,953	24,397	28,350	2,009
<b>Funds Carried Forward (£)</b>	43,052	50,844	<b>93,896</b>	<b>65,546</b>

## Our Vision

A flourishing, resourced and resourceful, interdependent community where - out of their relationship with Jesus - people live a more expansive life, full of grace, peace, hope, purpose and love.

## Our Mission

To invest our lives in under-resourced, marginalised, urban communities, using Jesus' incarnation as our model. We look to nurture the assets of the community, working together to: address its needs, heal its wounds, pay particular regard to its often ignored young people, and attentively partner in God's transforming work.

## Core Values

To be Christ centered  
To live and work holistically  
To work relationally  
To promote justice  
To live simply  
To serve and be served  
Love!

## Staff Team

Ian and Iona Dyson - Team Leaders  
Richard Newby - Youth + Community  
Emma Newby - Families  
Jill Keegan - Administrator

## Board of Trustees

Andy Dorton (Chair)  
Jill Barton (Safeguarding)  
Stephen Moore (Treasurer)  
Pete Court  
Andy Tillotson  
Cathy Westby

## Patron

Right Reverend Alison White,  
The Bishop of Hull

## Registered Charity

1050216

## Contact Details

c/o Boulevard Baptist Church  
Gordon Street  
Hull. HU3 3HJ  
(01482) 221059  
office@hullyfc.co.uk

## Partnerships



[www.hullyfc.co.uk](http://www.hullyfc.co.uk)