



Final report prepared for April 2017 AGM

April 2011 – October 2016: New 2 You - A Community Mission initiative

The charity shop occupied 2 Park Square for five and a half years since April 2011 and raised funds for youth and community activities on Kings Heath.

The team of volunteers, most from the church supported by 2-3 from the community, was led from the outset by Aileen Houston

This verse from Isaiah 49:8-9a formed a promise and gave a sense of vision to the initiative.

“ This is what the Lord says: "In the time of my favour I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!' ”

The team promoted a welcoming environment for customers and the opportunity for chat and prayer. There was partnership with groups on the estate, relationships were built with local shops, voluntary groups, Councillors, the Borough Council, Police, schools and the Residents Association. It also helped us extend the influence of the church by being a ‘bridge’ on neutral ground.

New 2 You opened originally on a Wednesday and a Saturday for three hours each day; this was then supplemented for a season by a similar opening on a Monday.

The regulars from the team that supported this work on behalf of the church and community are to be congratulated on their commitment. Thank you to Lynn, Lewis, Ginny, Shirley, Fiona, Sharon and also Christine and Ruth from the community. We include faithful originals such as Richard and Vicky, Doraine who recently went to be with the Lord, and recently Sue.

Bearing in mind that Park Square is hardly a shopping destination and that many on the estate do not visit, the results were remarkable and clearly demonstrate the phrase in the above quote from Isaiah about the Lord showing favour.

The income over the period was £69,500 with £27,000 being donated to youth and community work which included supporting Jamie Madden's salary for two years [he was our full time Youth and Community Worker], the annual Community Leaders Meal, the CAP Money Course, the Community Fun Days, editions of Kings Heath News and much more.

A fund of some £20,000 has now been left which is currently paying the lease for the shop and funding a youth worker for the Thursday youth drop in.

The shop ceased trading in mid-October 2016.

With thanks to the Lord and the faithful team.

Aileen Houston
Vision Leader/Manager

16.4.2017