



*“Here to serve,
Jesus, each other
and the community.”*

Action in our community September 2007 – December 2017

Introduction

Gleneagles Anglican Church was born, not through a decision of the hierarchy of the Church of England, but out of the community. Young families from the Gleneagles Estate on the north-west of Wellingborough agreed that they needed a church service that was appropriate for their children and was local to them. So they got together and organised one all-age friendly service held at Redwell Primary School in October 1990. This quickly became a monthly event and its popularity led very soon to a weekly service and Gleneagles Anglican Church was born. True to its very young heritage, Gleneagles Church has always been involved in the local community and increasingly so in the last ten years and especially since Gleneagles Church became a parish in recognition of its growth and effectiveness in the local area in May 2013.

We continue to meet in the sports hall of Redwell Primary School. The membership of the church has grown so that we are approaching 140 adult members on our Electoral Roll (46 in 2007) and many are involved currently in our initiatives in the community whilst many others are working in occupations serving the community or active in voluntary service. Our history and our available workforce give us great reason for optimism about our plans to greatly develop our activities to service the community once we have the much-needed resource of our own church and community facilities.

Looking to the future with a new church and community centre

The new church and community centre will enable Gleneagles Church to offer more services, activities and facilities to our community, particularly to those areas of society which have been identified as “areas of deprivation.” For example, we plan to develop a full programme of regular events and groups for the elderly (the most lonely social group in the community) and also several other projects to benefit the most needy, for example, debt counselling, skills training, a drop-in centre-café and more.

We have already recruited a number of skilled, qualified specialists and organisations who are keen to run projects working with the community in our new facility (see the list below).

Churches Together in Wellingborough in conjunction with other groups in the town are at the planning stages of putting together a plan for the churches to assist in the provision for homeless people, particularly in very cold weather. The plan also includes developing a permanent night shelter, to which we will be contributing both finances and personnel. With our new facility, we will be ideally placed to play a full part in this project including the provision of showers and hot food.

Our growing number of church members are willing volunteers who will participate in and support the various church community projects including providing support for users of the drop-in centre-café. We will ensure that volunteers receive appropriate training as is our current practice.

Gleneagles Church is currently establishing an important role in the local community as bringers of social cohesion. In this area of north-west Wellingborough, no-one else is offering community help and support in all of these ways to the local community, except for our near neighbours, the Hope Project, whose work is limited to the Hemmingwell Estate, adjacent to Gleneagles Parish. With the increase of the population in this area that will occur as 3000 new homes are built in the next ten years, the demand for such community projects and facilities will double.

Our vision is for the new building to become a hub of community life, care and cohesion, as well as a home for a vibrant and growing church congregation.

Current Gleneagles Church community groups and events

We run the following groups which are all open to anyone in the community of any race, faith or of no faith.

Families

Wellitots weekly group for parents and carers of pre-school age children held at Vicarage Farm Community Association (VFCA). This has run since 1993 and continues to be popular.

All age service – a monthly interactive service of worship particularly suitable for young children

Children

Children's Holiday Clubs – a week-long event in the summer holidays, currently on hold while we test the effectiveness of children's WOW's (see below).

Children's WOW's – a new event held during school holidays at VFCA, introduced in the last two years, fun and activity based, with an educational theme teaching spiritual awareness.

Ignite – Children's club for 5-11yrs weekly during school term-time.

Redwell Primary School – we have had extensive involvement in our host school. We have an excellent relationship with the school and our activity and involvement continues to increase. As a result, we are building good relationships with the children in the local community and their parents.

Since 2007 we have run the following in Redwell Primary School:

- Regular assemblies for all ages;

- Prayer spaces – age-appropriate opportunities to develop spiritual awareness;

- Transition lessons for year six preparing pupils for the move to senior school;

- WOW's run in school for every class in the school;

- Assisting teachers in delivering religious education;

- Assisting the school in presenting the schools 'values' on Value Day;

- Rev Pereira served as a school governor for a five-year term.

- Over the years and up to the present time many children from the school have attended Ignite Holiday Clubs and other events.

Youth

'3:16' – social group ran from 2003 (approx.) – 2016. We plan to re-introduce it in the future when we have the better facilities afforded by the new church and community centre.

Sunday youth group – activity and discussion-based group. Topics include spiritual awareness, Christianity, social issues, teen-relevant issues, etc.,

Adults

Parenting Course – We have run this event once for a small group of 8 parents. Church members have completed a training course to deliver the resource material and we plan to re-introduce it when we have the better facilities afforded by the new church and community centre.

Friendship Group – a Monthly social group for older adults run at Gleneagles Social Club plus excursions.

Mutual Support Group – Monthly group to support the bereaved including those who have lost someone many years previously and are still struggling. Based at Gleneagles Social Club.

Marriage preparation course – advice, wisdom and a chance to talk about potential issues and potential joys.

Gleneagles Church involvement in Community Initiatives

Community newsletters – Since 2007 we have produced Community newsletters working with Gleneagles Social Club and delivered them to every home in the local community (3000+). This is currently on hold due to funding restraints.

Gleneagles Community Action Group (GCAG) – Gleneagles Church formed GCAG in 2012 in order to take action that benefitted the local community. In 2015 we invited key local people who are not church members to join the GCAG committee. Particularly since then, GCAG has been effective in action including:

Installing a defibrillator at VFCA;

Running social events for all including Queens 90th Birthday Garden Party;

Establishing Volunteer Force to act on behalf of local people;

Litter picking events;

Weekly Drop-in;

Facilitating community action – including a group recently that wished to object to plans to introduce an all-weather football pitch on popular amenity land.

Conducted a needs and attitudes survey across the community finding for example...

The “**Top 4 Needs**” were an expressed desire to see more by way of support for and activities for Children and Young People as well as the Elderly coupled with a facility for community catering facilities.

Wellingborough Daylight Centre – The Daylight Centre is an invaluable resource for this town providing help, support, food, etc., for those who are homeless or very needy and vulnerable including running Wellingborough Foodbank. Gleneagles Church has partnered with the Daylight Centre in the following ways:

Funding – we currently give £100 per month plus collections from special events

Foodbank - weekly collections of foodstuffs which we deliver to the Daylight Centre

Christmas lunch for the homeless – we have helped Daylight Centre to serve this and in 2017, to give their staff a break, a team from Gleneagles Church are cooking and serving the whole of the lunch.

Church rep – Our church rep keeps the church informed of all Daylight Centre activities and is able to quickly encourage a response from church members when there is a particular need.

Volunteers – Church members are Daylight Centre volunteers giving much-needed regular assistance.

Prayer – We regularly pray for the staff and clientele of the Daylight Centre.

Street Pastors – Three Gleneagles Church members are currently operating as Wellingborough Street Pastors.

Hope into Action – The Gleneagles Church Hope into Action project has raised £207,000 towards the purchase of a house to be a home to homeless people. We expect to complete the purchase by March 2018. A support group is in place to help and care for the tenants.

Clergy roles in the community

Both Rev Melvyn Pereira, Vicar and Pioneer Curate, Rev Ali Middleton, are involved in serving the community. As well as being generally available to talk with and help any member of the community and being involved with local groups like Scouts, Beavers, Cubs, both have particular responsibilities.

Melvyn - Community Chaplain available to help and support any community member. E.g. In recent years ‘J’ whose wife left him with three young children; ‘S’ and family who lost a grandchild aged 2 months; ‘D’ who lost two sons; ‘A’ experienced strange noises and manifestations at home which scared her and her children; ‘Y’ and ‘J’ request for a Parenting Course as required for ‘J’ by a court order.

Gleneagles Social Club / VFCA Committee – mediation, advice re confrontation, counselling, general

Ali – Chair of GCAG leading the group in vision and planning.

Redwell Primary School – advisor/consultant, assisting teachers, assemblies, reading with children, special events, assisting with values day.

Gleneagles church members involved in voluntary action in the community

Some examples of voluntary work in the community currently carried out by Gleneagles Church members are:

Providing breakfasts for the homeless/disadvantaged - Mark and Arleen Rowell and team

Providing Christmas lunch for the homeless - Mark and Arleen Rowell, June Pereira and team

Delivering soup and sandwiches to the homeless – John and Jane Mulhall, Ali Middleton

Street Pastors – Tim Tompkins, Mark and Arleen Rowell

Daylight Centre volunteer- Julie Mulhall

Church Daylight Centre rep – Jane Bell

Christianity Solidarity Worldwide - Steph Gledhill

GCAG Committee - Ali Middleton, Chris Pettifer, Colin Suter, Chris Gledhill

GCAG Volunteer Force – Twelve church members

Christian Aid – John Gilyead and team

Raising funds for various charities – John and Tricia Gilyead and several other church members

Bible College, Bangladesh – Rev Bob Cutler

Chair of School Governors and Diocesan Board of Education – Greg Cracknell

Chair of School Governors – Helen Cracknell

Foster carers – Tim and Tracy Tompkins

Wellingborough Homelessness Forum (WHF) – Chris Gledhill is chair of Immediate & Urgent Needs Sub Group; Chris, Ali and Mark Middleton and Mark Rowell are members of WHF.

Community First Responder - Mark Middleton

Community First Responder trainee - Steve Girdwood

Severe Weather Emergency protocol – Chris Gledhill, Steph Gledhill

Hope into Action co-ordinators – Jane Bell, Paul McSharry

Hope into Action Support Group – Twelve church members

Chair of Churches Together in Wellingborough – Alan Palmer

Gleneagles Church members serving the community through their occupation

Over 20 Gleneagles church members spend their working lives serving the community in:

The medical profession

Teaching

Roles in education

Assisting job-seekers

Restoring victims of abusive relationships

Financial advice

Special needs children

Careers advice

The fire service

The armed forces

The prison service

Carers

Charity fund-raising

Missionary organisations

New projects to be introduced when we have our new facilities

The following have agreed to run projects to serve our community in the new building:

NAME	PROJECT
Paul McSharry IEng, MIET, MIRSE, CMgr, MCMI, MIOd Managing Director – Kilborn Consulting Ltd	Starting up a small business Running a small business
Jeremy Cox – Independent Financial Adviser	Debt Advice / Debt Management
Chris Green – Dyslexia Assessor and Tutor	Working with parents of children with dyslexia and associated problems
Sally Wilkins; Jane Bell	Craft workshops; Craft therapy Craft for the elderly and with those who have disabilities and their carers
Joy Davies Family Planning Association "Speakeasy" facilitator	Working with parents supporting children in sex and relationships advice and education
Liz Willis – Child Care and Baby Massage Trained facilitator for 'Care for the Family' 'Time out for Parents' Courses	Parenting Course Parenting advice, support Supporting new mums
Rock UK Outdoor Activity Centre	Outdoor experiences and training Team work and team building skills Youth work skills
Valerie Brown – Lay Pastoral Minister	Working with the elderly – various projects Elderly support group
Alex Palmer – Musician Music Director, Gleneagles Anglican Church	Music workshops
Daylight Centre , Wellingborough Providing friendship and support for adults in need	Foodbank collection and distribution Homeless support - provision of overnight accommodation and facilities
Family Support Link , Wellingborough Supporting families living with drug and/or alcohol addiction	Partner in identifying and supporting families Base for support workers and drop-in centre

Gleneagles Anglican Church Mission Statement

When asked "Which is the most important commandment?" Jesus answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength and **love your neighbour as you love yourself.**" As a church, we firmly believe that it is imperative that we embody obedience to Jesus' command and love all of our neighbours in effective and ongoing action, in giving to and serving all of the people of whatever race or faith or no-faith in our community. So we are.....

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