

The Hub Community Centre, Altrincham

Based in the centre of Altrincham, the Hub is a Community Centre for everyone. Run by Altrincham Baptist Church in partnership with Trafford Council, the Hub opened its doors in May 2008 after a major renovation project led by volunteers from the church. Andrew Smyth, Centre Manager, shares about the work and presence of The Hub...



"With a tag line 'Your community Your Place' the Hub aspires to be a place where people can come to relax; find a welcome; enjoy wholesome, home-cooked food; get involved in a range of activities; access professional counselling; receive debt counselling (through Christians Against Poverty); hire a room or volunteer. The Hub is funded by the members of ABC, supplemented with income from room hire and grant funding, which is secured for specific projects and events. Since opening the Hub has developed significant partnerships with the local community police, housing trust and nearby college who provide free Beginners IT access courses and is well-respected and thought of by the local council and those who access the centre.



The Hub has a range of activities from toddlers groups and soft play, to youth provision and groups for the elderly. You can play bridge, exercise, brush up on your knitting or watercolour skills, learn new skills in our ESOL class and our parenting courses, plus there is the opportunity to attend community events throughout the year, from our Christmas showcase, our valentines meal to our pamper evening or Easter Extravaganza."

The Hub provides many opportunities for members of Altrincham Baptist church to share the love of Jesus. Ashley Hardingham, Senior Pastor of ABC says "We are in the privileged position of being a church which has the opportunity to show love and share faith in a place which is

so accessible and is such a loving environment." One such person came to the Hub after a personal tragedy and at a time when she could not face the world and found here "a haven for the broken in which to heal". An ABC member states, "After years of praying – at last a place of inclusion! God is good and patient. This place is a gift to us – all ages – everyone is welcome".

This year the Hub has been awarded the Queens award for voluntary service, the equivalent of an MBE for voluntary organisations. The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is given to groups of volunteers who regularly devote their time to helping others in the community for improving the quality of life and opportunity for others and providing an outstanding service. Andrew Smyth reflects, "This award is a huge honour for us and is a fitting recognition of the hard work and many, many hours our volunteers put in to care for and serve the people of our community. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated team of high quality volunteers from all walks of life. We hope that this will be a springboard to enable us to grow and develop the services we can offer to the locality."

“For your thoughts and prayers:

- How could you be a blessing to your local community? Could you partner with local agencies and local government to see the Good News lived out where you are?

-What does being a community of welcome and inclusion look like for you?

