

# The Mag

June 2024

*The monthly magazine from Adeyfield Free Church*



## Our Community

Our place on The Plaza

## **From the Editor.....**

When we first believed we had heard from God that we should up sticks and move to Maylands the industrial estate looked very different. There were a few little local shops and rows and rows of factories and offices. This was over 25 years ago and some people in the congregation of that time could not believe that God would put us in a place where hardly anyone appeared on a Sunday let alone would come there to worship. But it became gradually obvious that this was what God was saying and after many hiccups and challenges we finally arrived having been encouraged to come by the local council. They want this site to become 'The Heart Of Maylands' with residential areas, shopping, industry and worship taking centre stage. And we can see it happening before our eyes. So, what, then, is our place in this community? Why did God send us here?

Covid shutdowns made our entry into the area virtually invisible. In fact, we have heard many people looking in through the windows and wondering what the building was about. The footfall into the centre is increasing but very slowly and our desire to serve the community in whatever way God intends seems frustratingly stunted at times.

We need to think about reaching out into the community in creative ways because once people do come in and meet us and see the potential here, they sense a special presence and enjoy the experience.

In this edition of The Mag, I'd like us to open up our perception of the people and places who live and work in our community; to begin to have a heart for them and to truly take our place here as God has intended.

After many attempts to encourage the builders to use Meet and Eat some of the landscapers came in recently for takeaways. After a couple of days, one chap came in to make a complaint.

'Your cakes are too good' was his complaint.

That would be a wonderful complaint about us as an example of God's love and care for everyone we come into contact with.

## We Are All Part Of The Ministry

God has called the whole church to be His people who worship and serve from the Church Centre on the Plaza. In order to do this, we need mega funding, not just to resource our outreach activity but to keep the building going. God has told us that if we do the little things..... regular fundraisers, prayer, volunteering, bringing our creativity into the mix,etc. He will do the big things..... inspiring others to support us.

To this end the elders have been working with a company that specialises in bringing fundraisers to the aid of Christian groups and a 3-year planning strategy has been developed. This plan was circulated to the church members before the Church Meeting in June and needs to be read and discussed in detail before the church can affirm it. Then the process can continue. This discussion will happen at the Church Meeting in July and so it is vital that we all read the plan and come to the meeting. If you have not had the plan or lost it you can ask Admin to email it to you or a printed copy may also be available.

**Ask for a copy of the Future Kraft Outcomes Plan.**

A copy of the plan would have been useful here but it did not fit into the Mag format.

It is so important that we all take on this responsibility to read and discuss the plan and to set up our own fundraising activities. In so doing we will develop our outreach into the community and release the means to fulfil those aims.

# WHEN YOU PRAY

Lord, we pray for prosperity and blessing for our neighbours on Maylands.

- We pray for all who live here.
- We pray for all who work here.
- We pray for all who have set up business here.
- We pray for all who use the shops and facilities here.
- We pray for all who travel here.
- We pray for all who visit here.
- We pray for all who hope to have a home here.
- We pray for all who take rest here.
- We pray for all who have made plans for here.
- We pray for all who play here.
- We pray for all who worship here.

Where the Lord is, there is blessing. Lord, we pray that you will always be here with us all and that we will always praise you for your goodness.



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**Thank you for your very kind gift towards the ministry and mission of Through the Roof. Your love, prayers and financial support enable us to reach more disabled people with God's love and make a positive difference to their lives in 2024. We really appreciate your generosity for this vital work.**

## Our Community

*From Pat G.....*

The question from the Editor was “Is there anything you have noticed about being The Church on the Plaza”?

There is a saying.....

“To have friends, you need to be a friend”.

I think the same goes for a community. To have a community, you need to be part of a community.

The opening of the Meet and Eat Community space on Wednesday and Thursday morning is one part of AFC mission in building community on the Plaza.

True, not many using the facility at present, but I think just coming along and sitting and having a coffee will be an encouragement for people to come in.

1 Thess 5:11

***Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.***



## **From Janice S.....**

Before the covid struck I attended a lovely family Bible based church in Adeyfield. Plans for a new building as ours was crumbling, faithful servants of God. And we had plenty of social events for the community, some of which I served in e.g. Messy Church.

I easily got out of the routine of going to church, once churches opened again. My dad died suddenly and since then I supported my mum, watching church without walls at home together.

Last year I had horrendous anxiety, I could do nothing but shake in fear.

My church prayed for me and some came to visit me and just sit and listened while I cried. Derek came around and held my hand and Christine, week after week, would come and chat.

I realized I needed my family being Adeyfield Church and to attend and to worship God.

Since then God has blessed me with some lovely Christian ladies and others and we encourage each other daily.

I cannot do anything without a lovely Heavenly Father, who I meet at Adeyfield Church on Sundays.

The Community Cafe is open to the residents on The Plaza and around, for a chat and to offer support. It is so important to share God's love and abundant mercy and grace for us.

An anchor in troubled times.

## **A Snapshot of Our Community**

One Monday in May I, uncharacteristically found myself with a free morning so I took myself along to the Plaza to take a closer look at the businesses and spaces there. How often do we go there and just come to the church centre or pop into Tesco before we go into the church centre? I do make a point of going into the Rennie Shop regularly and they have gotten to know me there but as for the rest of the shops.....

## **STARBUCKS**

I remembered when we were without a home. For nearly two years we had no building as the builders of our side of the Plaza didn't finish on time. A group of us would go along to Starbucks, buy a coffee and sit inside to pray for all the businesses. They got to know us and even allowed us to do an adult Nativity inside the café one Christmas.

And now, on this pleasant May morning in 2024 I got a cup of tea and sat down to rest and watch. The café was buzzing, dog walkers, business people, young men and retired ladies were there. Some had takeaway coffees, some, like me, took a seat and enjoyed a space in the day.

The team of three young people behind the bar were rushed off their feet but still took time to be pleasant and helpful. I explained about the church and this copy of The Mag and asked permission to take photos inside or out but in the absence of their manager they did not have authority to make a decision.

Maybe we should pick up the habit of praying there again and making ourselves known to the staff.

## **RENNIE HOSPICE**



The ladies in the Rennie Hospice shop were thrilled to know we would be reading about the shop and readily agreed to have their photos taken. I managed to top up my store of greetings cards and couldn't resist a piece of jewellery before I left. One of them was on her first day as a volunteer. She was doing very well. Supporting this venture is a good way of reaching out into our community and they do have some very nice things.

**INDIGO SUN** Going somewhere hot for your hols? Feeling a bit pasty? Indigo Sun can sort that out. I popped into there for the first time and were welcomed by two very pleasant girls who were interested to hear that they could be part of our June edition on the local community. Of course it wouldn't have been appropriate to take photos inside although you couldn't see anyone receiving treatment. It has the atmosphere of a peaceful and confidential beauty parlour.

**MAYLANDS DENTAL PRACTICE.** When we were praying in Starbucks there was no dental practice on the Plaza but we continued to pray for one and one day, as we walked along to the café there was a

notice to say that a dentist was on their way. When I visited the dental practice I was able to tell them that they are an answer to prayer and they seemed to like that idea. The receptionist pointed out that there is no pharmacy for the residents. Let's pick this up as a prayer project.

## **THE PURE FOOD CO.**



These two cheerful guys were very helpful when I asked permission to take photos. They already know about AFC since Heather created a link between them and DENS. Once a week leftover food from that day is collected from them and taken to DENS as part of the evening meal. They were so happy to donate to this cause. It was not good for me to stand inside their shop. The food looks amazing. It took all of my willpower to come out empty handed.

## **GREGGS**

I went from one form of torture to another as I stepped into Greggs. Doughnuts, bacon rolls, cookies, sausage rolls were only some of the temptations that surrounded me. There was a long queue for coffee and snacks and I took my place. [No I didn't succumb.] As I stood there I was pleased to reflect that these two food takeaway shops standing next to each other do not seem to be suffering from the proximity of their neighbour. The lady I spoke to did not have the authority to say whether or not I could take photos and I stressed to her my desire not to cause a problem as I told her about the church being a neighbour and that we would be talking about the shops in our June edition of The Mag. She was happy that we care about our neighbours on the Plaza.

## **TESCO**

I couldn't find anyone free in Tesco to ask about photos so I just decided to be thankful that they are there and move on. I have used this store on several occasions for goods and to use the card machine and it has been a Godsend.

**BARBER'S WORKSHOP** This business stands directly opposite Meet and Eat. It was full of customers and the young woman working



nearest the door was happy to hear that we are thinking about them and gave me permission to take photos. A couple of years ago I remember seeing them putting chairs outside the shop for people waiting so that they complied with the covid regulations being set out. They have worked incredibly hard to get their business up and running as have all the shops.

**STUDIO by OPEN** Next to the Barber's Workshop is another Hairdressing establishment. The manager jumped at the opportunity to find my appointment. When I explained I didn't have one she smiled as she said 'So you'd like me to book you one?' Even when I told her I was not going to be a customer today she was very smiley and seemed very pleased to be included in our June Magazine. Another business doing very well this morning as every seat was occupied.

**RELAXING ON THE PLAZA** Just recently the completion of the landscaping to the centre of the Plaza was completed with shrubs, plants, trees and seating [you may need a cushion] it will be a good place to take a little break. Maybe get a coffee and cake from Meet and Eat and sit outside as the landscaping goes right past our doors. It was one of these landscapers who came in with the complaint.

One of the things we have noticed ever since we arrived is that the Plaza can be windy and the wind seems to particularly like whipping through the waste bins. I noticed a heap of

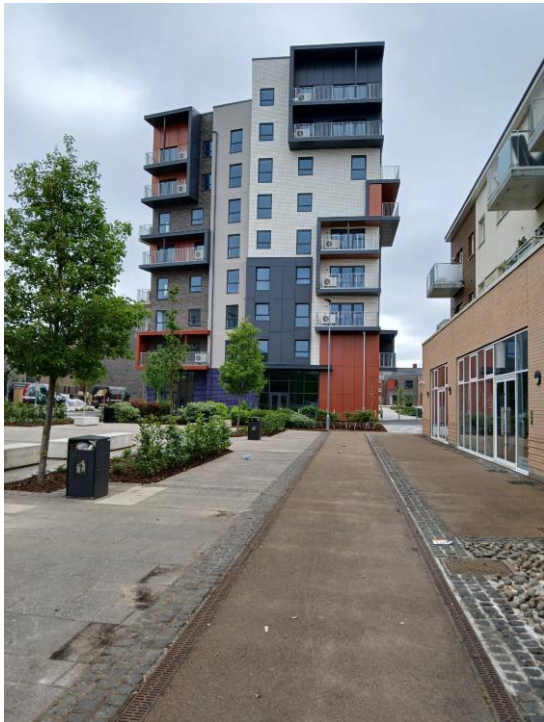


rubbish in and around the bins by Starbucks and here on the Plaza, on a Monday morning evidence of population during the weekend was present. It is Hightown's responsibility to keep the place tidy and they do send bin men but perhaps now we will be having the new flats populated soon, more bins and more frequent collections will be

needed. I chased this plastic bag, passing food wrappers, bits of paper and tickets as it blew across our cobbles. These also blow down into the lower car park and end up in the church garden. If you see any rubbish in the garden and you can remove it we will be so grateful.



**NEW NEIGHBOURS** The builders are just finishing their efforts on



the estate that was on the other side of the hoarding for months and months but is now an integral part of the view. We can now walk through from the church centre into the extension of the housing estate to see how many new neighbours we can expect. We think there may be three new shops as well as the flats and houses. There appear to be seats and pleasant walkways with a road that services all parts of the estate. And AFCC is now not at the far end but right in the middle.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of the little girl who lived in one of the new flats. It was a terrible tragedy and one which shocked neighbours and those working in the vicinity. How can we make a difference to these neighbours. Can we help to bring peace to the area? Surely there must be something. A candlelight vigil service has been suggested. We must do something.

## Mag Wordsearch

A	Z	A	L	P	B	L	O	H	S	E	S	U	O	H	S	T	R	E	W
K	I	M	S	T	Q	U	R	E	N	N	I	E	V	R	Y	M	U	C	A
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**ADEYFIELD-BEAVERS-BUILDERS-CENTER-CHURCH-COMMUNITY  
SPACE-CUBS-DENTAL SURGERY-FINGERPRINTS-FISH-FLATS-FREE-  
GREGGS- HOSPICE-HOUSES-LANDSCAPERS-LITTLE-OFFICES-  
PLAYSKILL-PLAZA-PURE FOOD CO-RENIE -RESIDENTS-SHOP-  
STARBUCKS-TESCO-WAREHOUSES-WORSHIPPERS**

### **Recipe Book**

As I said in the May edition I'd like to create a recipe book as a fundraiser. We made a start with the recipes you sent in for May so now we need lots more. Send your favourite recipes to me at [pamramannison@gmail.com](mailto:pamramannison@gmail.com). If we get enough to make a book I'll be seeking someone out with simple publishing skills to help create the book

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A bunch of Janiel's friends and family got together over breakfast recently to celebrate her 'Birfday'



It's good to be part of a community.

What a feast at the Toby on Maylands.

You really don't want anything else for the rest of the day!!

*There is an additional supplement this month*