



**KORBAN**  
James 2 v 15-16

**Annual Report 2020 - 2021**

*Breaking the cycle of  
homelessness*



## OUR VISION

*Breaking the cycle of homelessness in Colchester by giving young people a home and supporting them to move on and live independently.*

## OUR MISSION

*"Providing supported housing for young people in crisis"*

Helping young homeless people aged 16-25 realise their potential and thrive, by providing accommodation, support and guidance enabling them to develop the character, skills and confidence to live independently.

## OUR AIMS

- Provide quality, safe, stable, supportive accommodation which feels like a home.
- Give young people a healing experience of family; sharing meals and eating together being an important part of this.
- Work in partnership with the local church, other professionals and service providers.
- Empower young people to grow and mature, through investing and believing in them as individuals.
- Provide and facilitate holistic support recognising people's physical, psychological and spiritual needs.
- Give professional and genuinely caring support.

## OUR VALUES

- Christ-centred spirituality.
- All young people have worth and potential.
- Building community.
- Authentic relationship.
- Having fun.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**"It is good, Lord, to be here" (Luke 9.33)**

We probably all know of places that are special to us. They could be beautiful landscapes, magnificent buildings or familiar streets. They are special because they have a particular association for us; a fond memory, a happy event, a significant time in the past. I have several, but one stands out because it might seem unusual – Bethany Place, the original home and current base of Korban.



It appears from the outside to be nothing special. It's an unprepossessing 1960s vicarage in the middle of a housing estate. However, it's the place where the lives of many young people over the years have been transformed. They came to Korban homeless and destitute, literally with nowhere else to go, and they were changed. **Bethany Place is a place of hope – of encouragement, nurture and support, a place of love, where some of the people who need it most can get real help.**

In the years I have been involved with Korban I have seen countless good outcomes, ranging from dramatic turn-arounds to just a little gentle help along the way. Sometimes things don't always work out for a resident but that is the exception. Korban is of real benefit to most individuals, and that means to society as well. If a young person can settle down, get a place in college or a regular job, and form some sustaining relationships (all of which Korban helps them to do) then the wider world also gains. Bethany Place is the location where all of this happens, and **that is why I, and many other people, regard it as a special place.** And these days there is another house in the life of Korban – our move-on property which, thanks to a generous loan some years ago, we own and run to help residents get ready for full independence – Bethel House is a special place too.

However, Korban is not about the buildings themselves, important and significant though they are. It is about people – the residents whose lives have been changed, the hardworking and dedicated staff who help to bring about these transformations, the many supporters, volunteers and friends who give time, talents and money to this charity, and scores of others who are inspired, encouraged and comforted by what we do.

Over and above all these is one particular person – God. As a Christian charity we draw our strength and inspiration from a God who cares deeply for humanity and this world. He cares enough to send his only Son, Jesus Christ to this earth to live amongst us and to be one with us. A God who, by his Holy Spirit, remains with us in all that we do. God is right at the heart of Korban; at its foundation, in the people, and in those special places where his work is carried out. Bethel simply means "Place of God", Bethany is "Place of affliction" - somewhere people in distress can go for help. How appropriate those names are. God is with us - he has given us guidance and help in the past, and will continue to do so in the future.

**The trustees are delighted to present this report about what has been happening in Korban in the past year, and it makes very exciting reading. We can all take great encouragement from it, and, even though the problems of youth homelessness have not gone away, we can be assured that good work is being done in God's special places in Colchester.**

**"How lovely are your dwelling places, O Lord of hosts." Psalm 84v1**

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

***“Thought I'd give you this update as it's been 2 and a bit years since I left Korban. I have now started my second year of uni after passing the first year. I'd just like to say thanks to Korban for everything you did for me.”*** It's so good to hear from our residents after they've moved on, and to know that our work at Korban has made a lasting impact, not just in terms of finding them a home.

Over the last 12 months we've had 14 different residents living at Korban, six of whom were new. Three came to live at Bethany Place and three went straight into Bethel House. Two residents left prematurely, but despite the ongoing impact of Coronavirus and another nationwide lockdown, we managed to support five residents to move on positively:

One moved into their own council flat, three moved into house-shares in the private rented sector, and one moved in with their partner to have a baby.

We provided a lot of extra support to our residents to help them get through the pandemic, as all of us at Korban found it really tough earlier this year. We applied for an Active Essex grant to get a piece of outdoor gym equipment. It really helped and one of the residents said “with no job and not much to do, it fills time... It's allowed me to get up and do something and keeps me moving which helps my joints so they don't lock up, as I have hypo-mobility which can be very painful and debilitating.” Our gardener Penny also did a lot of one-to-one therapeutic gardening which a number of the residents found invaluable.

During the last year we were able to provide significant move-on support due to the grant funding we received last year from Colchester Borough Homes, voted on by CBH Tenants and Leaseholders.

Our team has been strengthened and grown this year as we increased Gail's and Daniel's hours, and our administrator Jo handed on the baton to Michelle so we could increase the level of office support. Our volunteers, Handy Andy Courtier and Sister Diana also made a welcome return after isolating and more volunteers have joined to help us with the weekly food collection as part of Fareshare Go.

Right now we're in a significant transition at Korban; going back to our roots, and at the same time reaching forwards as we start doing Nightstop in Colchester! We successfully applied for a Nationwide Community grant to deliver Nightstop in Colchester, in partnership with Depaul UK as part of Nightstop Essex. Nationally Depaul oversee more than 30 Nightstop projects in the UK and deliver some directly too.

Korban started out in 2006 as a Nightstop project, with local Christian hosts. They volunteered and gave young people at risk of homelessness somewhere safe to stay in their own homes for a few nights to a few weeks, while sorting out stable accommodation. We're really pleased to say that this year we recruited Louise Groves our volunteer coordinator for Colchester who will start in early September.



Abraham Lincoln said "The best way to predict the future is to create it" and that's why our vision is to break the cycle of homelessness in Colchester. At Korban we do this by working in partnership with churches, businesses, charities, other services for homeless people, the council and individuals. It's also why we're starting Nightstop in Colchester, after well over a year of planning. Intervening at this point in someone's life can help to prevent them staying in an unsafe place and potentially change the course of their whole life, breaking the cycle of homelessness before it has even begun.

## **RESIDENT TESTIMONIAL – GINA**

*I moved to Korban having lived at the Colchester Night Shelter for 3 days. I was there because I didn't have a stable enough home to stay at, so I was living with different people and I needed to leave. I went for a meeting at the Youth Enquiry Service and after that Korban interviewed me - I moved in a few days later. I was feeling a bit s\*\*\*. Lonely. Scared. I knew I was being offered a chance at Korban.*

*In the first few weeks I stayed by myself. The people were alright and I started working straight away in a care home. The communal meals were alright and I liked Sister Diana's cooking. I found the support meetings unusual – I've never had people checking on me and it made me feel safe. It was nice to have people looking out for me. I got on really well with one resident and that made me feel better, having someone to talk to.*

*In the summer we had a day trip to the beach, had fish & chips and ice cream, and played games in the sea – I kept nearly drowning!!! We also went bowling and saw a comedy Christmas show. I went on walks with my support worker and her dog.*

*After a year I went to the move on house. I found that lots better as it was calmer and more peaceful. We had some communal activities there too. We saw the sun rise at Frinton and had a bonfire with marshmallows in the garden.*

*I've got to know myself more at Korban. I feel more confident and I can voice my opinion more. I am better at judging people and learning who to trust. I've learnt to be more independent. I've got some better cooking skills, although I still love takeaways! I've learnt to value the skills that I have as a person and my self-worth. I process emotions better and am more level-headed. I was always based on pure emotions and made emotional decisions, but now I have learnt to think a bit more logically, although often this goes out the window.*

*I am moving to a house share which I feel I have been prepared well for - I am more independent and confident I will be OK.*

*I would like to say thank you to my support workers along the way for believing in me when I didn't, for all the support and kindness shown, the compassion and empathy. It is very much appreciated. I know without the help that I was given I wouldn't be the person who I've become today. There's been ups and downs, but I've made it through and though I'm still not there 100%, I know I'm on my journey for better things to come.*

## PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

We have continued to benefit from Tesco's leftover food donations as part of the Fareshare scheme, and throughout the year we've worked in partnership with Acts 435, the Buttle Trust, the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre (otherwise known as the Nuns of Greenstead), Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services, Essex Mind and Spirit, Kingsland Church, St. Anne's, the Youth Enquiry Service (YES), and The Langham Community Shop. We're also still part of the Colchester Supported Housing Joint Referral Panel, and a member of Homeless Link.

We are blessed to have ongoing financial support from churches across Colchester including; St Mary's Dedham, St Leonard's, St Albright's, All Saints' Great Horkesley, Kingsland and the Canonesses. This year Church of His Presence based in Grays have also started giving regularly to Korban.

During the year Korban raised money from a variety of sources, notably:

£ from Grants: £48,055 Nationwide Community Grant (Charities Trust)

£2,500 remaining from The Joseph Rank Trust for Bethel House running costs

£1,000 allocated for the second year of Colchester Borough Homes grant, for move-on support for our residents (£3,000 to be spent over 3 years)

£973 Tesco Groundworks

£894 Active Essex (Colchester)

£500 Essex County Council Microgrant

£908 was carried forward from the Colchester Borough Homes grant underspend the previous year due to Covid.

£19,717 from donations including regular giving from churches.

Personal supporters also paid for a take-away and movie night and a table football for the house.

The charity now has assets with a netbook value of £254,395, due primarily to purchasing Bethel House, associated equipment/appliances, and our cabin.

The charity has a reserves policy and due to the significant increase in income this year the reserves held as at the 31st August 2021 were increased to £16,500.

These are maintained at a level that, in addition to Korban's rental income, ensures our core activities could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty, for a minimum period of 3 months. This would give time to find suitable alternative supported accommodation for any young person in our care. The reserves are our only designated funds. All unrestricted funds are to be deployed as per the trustees' direction, in line with delivering the charity's services.



## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Colchester Korban Project is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee i.e. a company not having a share capital. Our memorandum and articles of association were incorporated on 25th June 2008 and amended at an EGM on 16th July 2020 to better reflect our ethos and update some articles regarding membership.

The charity was registered on 27th August 2008.

The trustees meet 5 times a year. Decisions are reached by a majority of votes, providing a quorum of 2 voting members is present (or a tenth of the total number of persons entitled to vote, whichever is the greater). We have a robust process for appointing new trustees including vetting and appropriate checks that they are eligible to serve in this way, which is available on request.

**Colchester Korban Project is also known as Korban.**

**The trustees** serving at the time the report was agreed:

Revd Anthony Bushell (Chair), Nicky Sirett, Robin Pagden (Treasurer), Stella Lee, Sue Biffen and Tim Young.

Julie Henkel resigned on 10th September 2020.

Day to day management of the charity is designated to the Chief Executive, who line manages the project worker, support worker, administrator and all volunteers.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

In exercising our powers and duties, the trustees of Colchester Korban Project have carried out our work with due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the charity commission.

This annual report was approved on 18th November 2021 and is signed on behalf of the trustees:

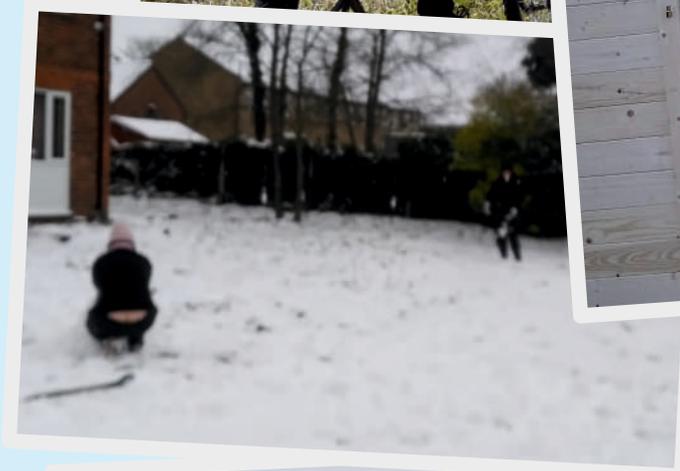
Tony Bushell  ..... (Chair) Date: 18th November 2021

Robin Pagden  ..... (Treasurer) Date: 18th November 2021

[www.korban.org.uk](http://www.korban.org.uk)

Colchester Korban Project is a Charitable Company. Charity no: 1125617 Company no: 06630415  
Patron: The Rt. Revd. Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester

Some names and ages have been changed to protect residents' identities



### HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020-21

- Eight residents reported that their mental/emotional health improved
- Three residents reported an improvement in their key relationships
- Five reported improvements in managing their money
- Eight residents were in paid employment, three of whom were on the government kickstarter apprenticeship scheme
- One resident was in full time education
- One resident was in regular voluntary work
- One successfully applied for their door supervisor's licence after completing door security and first aid training
- One resident attended an ECDL computer course, one completed their level 2 food hygiene certificate, one started learning to drive due to a generous local driving instructor offering free lessons to a resident!