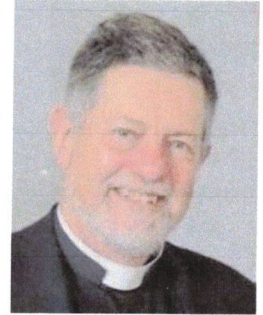


CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Annual General Meeting for Korban has for the last few years taken place on or about the beginning of the Church season of Advent. This marks the four weeks leading up to Christmas – that most important of Christian festivals which celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, into the world – so it is a time of preparation for that. The word “Advent” of course simply means “Coming”. However, it is much more than that. Advent Sunday, which this year was on 27th November, is the first day of the Church year, so there is something about beginning, freshness and anticipation. It is also a time when Christians think about the second coming of Christ at the end of time, and also the coming of Christ into our hearts and minds and lives. It therefore has a slightly solemn feel, with a sense of the need to confess our failures and shortcomings, as well as a joyful looking forward.



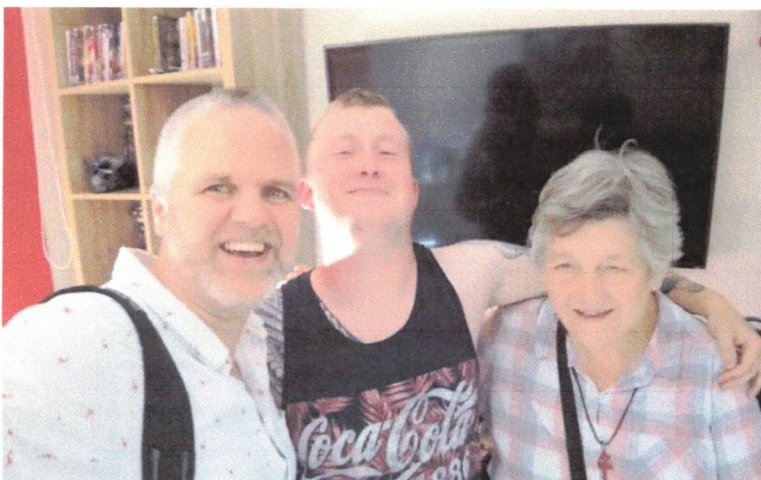
It seems appropriate, then, that we should have our annual meeting at this time as we look back on the previous year, taking stock of what we have done, being ready to see any things which may not have gone as we had wanted, and looking forward with eager expectation to whatever the new year has in store for us. I am pleased to say that, as this report and our new booklet demonstrate, it has been another good year for Korban, with many young people helped and supported, new projects begun, new and motivated staff, and a very sound financial base. We are also very pleased to have been chosen as one of the Mayor's charities that he is supporting this year.

“I am delighted that Colchester Korban Project accepted my invitation to be one of my Mayor's chosen charities for 2022/23. I have always admired Korban's work, and their vision and Christian ethos support the work they do with young people to improve and change their lives for the better.

I am honoured to be a Trustee and wish them well for the future.”

Cllr Tim Young, Mayor of Colchester

So we can be optimistic, although the problem of homelessness and all that goes with it remains, and is likely to be particularly severe in the coming months. In the bidding prayer at the Advent carol service we pray for those who, “by reason of their adversity” yearn especially for the coming of God – the hungry and homeless, the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and the unloved. Korban exists to meet those very needs, and we do it in the name of Jesus Christ, who gave us the pattern and example. As the Advent hymn puts it: “He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure.”



*Mark & volunteer Diana with a much loved resident in his very first flat!
Used with permission*

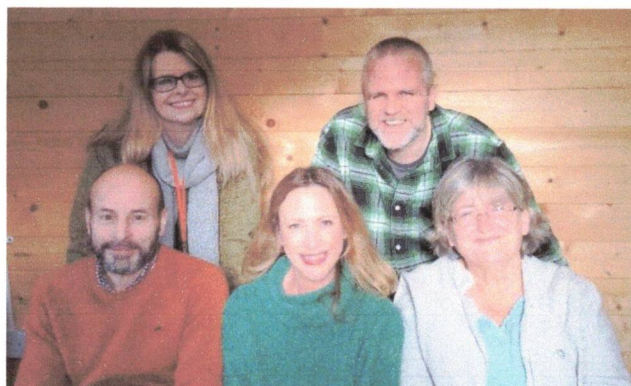
We do not know exactly what the coming year will bring, but we do know that Korban is as ready as it can be to meet such challenges as may come. We know that because of what has happened in the past year in our charity, as you can see in this report (and the photo opposite), and because we believe in a God who has shown his care for us in sending his Son, Jesus Christ to this earth – Advent can be truly hopeful.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

“I have become more confident and outgoing. This has also helped my physical and mental health. I feel my mental health has definitely improved since coming to Korban.”

Gemma, aged 19¹

It's been another year of significant change at Korban. Before Easter we said goodbye to Gail and Daniel, after almost 4 and 4½ years respectively. It was a privilege to work with them both and along with Michelle we were a really effective team. However, the change in staff gave us an opportunity to restructure a bit and we decided to recruit a supported housing manager. After over 4 months of being short staffed we now have a full team again. Frank Saunders joined us in mid-April as our new move-on project worker



The new team, L to R: Frank, Rachael, Michelle, Mark and Karen

and after re-advertising several times, Rachael Simpson started in mid-August as our first Supported Housing Manager. Sadly Louise has not been with us since mid-March for health reasons, but Karen Loring joined the team (also in August) as our Nightstop Essex volunteer coordinator for Colchester.

In July we finally hosted our first Nightstop guest with our first trained volunteer hosts and now momentum is beginning to build, so we look forward to keeping more young people in crisis safe this year.

Our funders, Nationwide, have been very supportive and due to savings made throughout the year, we have been able to extend the Nightstop role for Colchester on a part-time basis until early February.

From September 2021 – 2022 we've had 12 different residents living at Korban, 5 of whom were new and all of them started at Bethany Place. Having kept going throughout the pandemic, with the lockdowns and various restrictions, we have definitely noticed the ongoing impact on our residents mental health, job prospects and opportunities for moving on. We have continued providing significant move-on support due to the grant funding (£3,000 spread over 3 years) which we received from Colchester Borough Homes, voted on by CBH Tenants and Leaseholders.

We supported 5 of our residents to move on, and 4 moved on positively:

2 moved into house-shares in the private rented sector (though sadly for one of them it didn't last), 1 moved into a student flat as he restarted university, 1 moved in with their partner's family, and 1 moved into his own council flat.

To help young people to overcome homelessness we not only focus on giving them a home, we also provide holistic support which makes a lasting impact. This year since they came to Korban:

- **9 residents reported that their mental/emotional health improved**
- **9 residents reported an improvement in their key relationships**
- **9 residents reported improvements in managing their money**
- **7 residents were in paid employment (3 on the government kickstarter apprenticeship scheme)**
- **2 residents were in full-time education**
- **1 resident started his own business, 1 resident was in regular voluntary work and 1 continued driving lessons**

¹ Name and age changed to protect identity

Despite the ongoing impact of Covid, churches and individuals continued faithfully supporting our work and we were also blessed by Colchester Rugby club who chose Korban as their charity of the year and raised over £2,000 in total. The annual Dedham quiz also raised £1,450 for Korban and smaller community groups like the Wivenhoe Congregational Friendship Group invited us to share about Korban and made a donation.

We have applied for grants for residents from the Buttle Trust for support with education, and Greater Change who provided £500 to support a resident with move on. Beacon House also gave our residents Covid booster vaccines at the start of the year.

As part of a scheme in the Colchester Gazette we were nominated to receive £941 from the Gannett Foundation², for a bathroom makeover planned for the coming year.

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.

The trustees serving during this year were:

Revd Anthony Bushell (Chair), David Cotterill (appointed 03/02/2022), Stella Lee, Robin Pagden (Treasurer), Nicky Sirett, Cllr Tim Young and Sue Biffen (resigned 18/11/2021).

Day to day management of the charity is designated to the Chief Executive, who line manages the staff and all volunteers.

Colchester Korban Project is also known as Korban.

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 29th November 2022 and is signed on behalf of the trustees:

Tony Bushell (Chair)

Date 29/11/22

Robin Pagden (Treasurer)

Date 29/11/22

www.korban.org.uk

Colchester Korban Project is a Charitable Company. Charity no: 1125617 Company no: 06630415

Patrons: The Rt. Revd. Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester and The Venerable Ruth Patten, Archdeacon of Colchester

² Gannett is the charitable arm of the parent company of Newsquest Media Group.