

Open Door

Exmouth

www.opendoorexmouth.org.uk

“The most wonderful time of year...”

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year...” Andy Williams reminds us as he’s played out in homes and cars throughout the land. At Open Door, we are so privileged to have the support of our local community throughout the year, with our amazing volunteers and the many donations we receive from local churches, businesses and individuals. However, at Christmas, it reaches a whole new, wonderful level! It is utterly inspiring to witness the thoughtfulness, kindness, and generosity of our community, wanting to give back, to help someone in need, and to make a difference. From donations of toys for struggling families, to an overwhelming community response to our reverse advent calendar, with pledges to donate

food, toiletries and hats, gloves and scarves to the homeless and those in need, and to all our wonderful volunteers who have signed up to help on Christmas Day, you are all an absolute inspiration and from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you all.

But of course, for some Christmas will be really tough, lonely, cold, unaffordable, stressful. And for those, we want to say, we’re here for you, if you need. If you don’t want to be alone, or you can’t afford to buy the Christmas dinner, or you don’t have a roof over your head, or for whatever reason you can’t be at home, we would love to share Christmas Day with you.

Our doors will open at 11:30am for a time of reflection for those who want to light a candle in

remembrance, and then the Christmas Day celebrations kick off at 11:45am with carols, presents, a visit from the Mayor and then a delicious 3 course traditional Christmas dinner, followed by after dinner games and good conversation for those who’d like to stay on for the afternoon. If you know someone who might benefit, please let them know. To book a space, call 01395 224218 or pop in.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, let us be inspired by his message of love, to love our neighbour, to help those most in need, to forgive, and to bring hope, healing and restoration. This is the heart of Open Door. Thank you all for being a part of it, at Christmas and the whole year through.

An update from Helen Tribble, Projects Director...

For those who haven’t seen me recently, I have some very exciting news... Dan and I are having a baby! We are delighted to share that we are 27 weeks pregnant (as of December!), due early March, and we couldn’t be happier!

So, the plan is that I will be on maternity leave from 1st February, although of course I will be popping into the projects to show

off Baby Tribble!!

With regards to cover, we decided it would make most sense to cover my absence in house so the team will focus next year on keeping everything ticking over, and I’ll return in January 2020!

I am truly grateful to Sandy (Admin) and Lisa (ICE), who will both be working an extra day a

week to help cover my role, to David Ley who has offered to cover Maureen in the Café when she’s away on holiday, to the Project Leaders who have offered to cover speaking engagements, and to the Trustees who will also be on hand to support the staff where needed. Other than that, it should all be business as usual!





Open Door Exmouth
The Open Door Centre
Church Street
Exmouth
Devon EX8 1PE

Phone 01395 224218
info@opendoorexmouth.org.uk
www.opendoorexmouth.org.uk

Please pray for:

- Pray for all the events coming up over Christmas - for the re-launch of ICE, for the Christmas socials, for the Christmas Day meal and for the Nightshift team out on New Years Eve. Pray for all those working, that they will have the health and strength they need, for all those volunteering, that they will be blessed by being involved, and for all those we're helping, that they will find love, peace and hope this Christmas.
- Give thanks for the difference being made through Haven, and for the amazing support from Co-op and Children in Need. Please pray for more volunteers so we can increase the capacity of our groups and help those children who are still on the waiting list.
- Give thanks that St Johns Court is here to stay and pray for all those struggling with their mental health, that they will find the support they need.
- Give thanks for our wonderful Child Contact Centre achieving such a glowing accreditation!
- Give thanks for all that is being achieved across our six projects. Please pray for a continued healthy pregnancy for Helen and for a smooth handover process ready for next year, and for God's continued guidance over it all!

at the heart of our community

"I wish I could go to Haven everyday"

***Lucy, aged 8**

We are so proud of the difference that our sixth project, Haven, has made this year. Not only have the team continued to deliver the Primary and Secondary support groups, this year they've also established a Young Carers group, and as well as the monthly parent peer support group, they've also been able to offer a monthly drop in advice café, enabling a total of 47 children and young people and 31 parents to be supported. It's been a busy year! None of this would have been possible without our amazing team of volunteers, led by our Project Leader, Jenna

Burnett, so a massive thank you to you all.

This year has seen some incredible financial support as well, with Co-op members raising an incredible £8289.98 through their Local Community Fund and Children in Need pledging £10,000 per year for 3 years. We are truly grateful for this amazing support, both from our local community and from a national charity, both recognizing just how important investing in the emotional wellbeing of our children and young people is.

Here are a few words from the Haven families themselves:
"I'm very, very grateful to the

Haven team for the support, guidance, advice and time they have given not only to both my children, but to me too."

"My son really looks forward to Haven and gets so much from the sessions. I want to say thank you. Haven has been brilliant for him. It's helped him during difficult times by providing a safe space, trusted adults and a whole range of strategies to try."

"The young carers group has been invaluable to my daughter. My son has autism and won't leave the house so these sessions that my daughter goes to have been amazing for her.

The work Haven does with our children is outstanding."

We've saved St Johns Court!!

If you've been supporting us for a while you will have read several newsletter articles about the Save St Johns Court campaign. St Johns Court is Exmouth's Community Mental Health Unit, and 3 years ago Devon Partnership Trust announced that it would be sold. Off the back of a public meeting, where the town expressed their deep concern at losing such a vital resource, a campaign group was set up with the aim of saving St Johns Court.

At Open Door we know how vital St Johns Court is to this community. When it was threatened with closure, and the service relocating to Exeter, we knew that we had to join the campaign. Three years later I am delighted to say that we have finally had it in writing from Melanie Walker, CEO of DPT, to Hugo Swire MP, and confirmed by Matt Hancock MP - St Johns Court is here to stay!! Thank you to all who have supported, shared and signed the petition. We did it!!

Accreditation

Every 3 years, our Child Contact Centre has to apply to the National Association of Child Contact Centres for reaccreditation. This involves submitting an extensive portfolio and a day long interview and observation, ensuring that all paperwork and procedures are up to scratch. I am delighted to say that we have just been notified that not only have we retained our accreditation but we've done so with flying colours! No action points, no recommendations. It's perfect! A huge well done to our amazing CCC team!

With all our heartfelt thanks for your support this year.

We wish you a very happy, blessed Christmas.

See you in 2019!

Love,

Open Door Exmouth xx

