

Morpeth Update - July 2017

Serving & Listening

**Morpeth Town Square
Saturday Nights
11 till 1 am**



Mighty Oaks is a Christian group that serves the local community by giving free hot drinks and offering a listening ear on a Saturday night.

The last few months we have been very busy behind the scenes whilst the Saturday night service has steadily continued.

Back in March a large group of our volunteers completed their emergency first aid training. We hope it will never be needed but feel that it is a very important string to add to our bow given the environment we are working in.

In May we met as a full team to update our barista training at Costa Coffee on Bridge Street. We spent time sharing ideas for the new vehicle and we were given some tips and advice on 'Listening' by a trained counsellor. We continue to receive free coffee beans from this store as well as some of our hot chocolate.

We have looked at a number of potential vehicles to replace our trailer. An occasional second hand vehicle which fits our bill appears on eBay but we are very conscious that many of them are a similar age to our own trailer and may end up costing us more money than we can afford. We have found a few new small vehicles with the potential for appropriate conversion, and these would be a better option as many grants that are available to us specify new vehicles only. After our team meeting we agreed to deal with our towing 'issue' by part funding a new tow bar to one of our volunteers vehicles to try and take the pressure of existing towers whilst we continue to pursue the right vehicle. This has recently been completed and will be used later this month. As we have gained 8 new volunteers over the last year we have also ordered more coats to be worn on a Saturday night. We feel it is very important to be clear and recognisable when we are working—as well as warm of course!

Speaking of warm, we now also have a couple of space blankets on board and we have stocked the cart with small bottles of water to give out to those who may need it. We are currently exploring the possibility of stocking disposable hotel slippers too.

Prayer Points:

The increasing number of conversations with those suffering bereavement and struggling to cope with loss.

Team members who are juggling busy family lives and work alongside continued commitment to Mighty Oaks.

Moving forward with the purchase of a new vehicle; better equipped to serve our community.



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www.mightyoaks.org.uk

People are so willing to open up and tell their stories - often full of sadness and heartache. It is something I cannot imagine happening often in any other circumstances.' - **Mighty Oaks Volunteer**

May 2017 marked our 10 Year anniversary serving the community of Morpeth. Mighty Oaks Alnwick continue to serve faithfully in the market place on a Saturday night and Mighty Oaks Low Fell have just celebrated their 1st birthday. Mighty Oaks Aurora, based in Colorado and set up by a former Morpeth volunteer, also continues to serve the homeless community which you can read more about on our website.

We continue to support other Christian projects and have recently provided all the hot drinks to the volunteers and accompanying staff at **Lifepath**, Brinkburn Priory, organised by The Mustard Tree Trust and Scripture Union for the Year 4 children across Northumberland.

On the weekend of August 4th and 5th we will be attending the **Gather Festival North** in Wingates to provide the hot drinks for the expected 200+ attendees.

Having also developed links with **Chantry Middle School**, we will be making a 3rd trip to the school in the Autumn Term, this time to fundraise for ourselves; having already worked with Costa, Bridge Street to raise money for The **Costa Foundation** and **Henry Dancer Days**.



We cannot thank you enough for your continued financial and prayer support. By giving to Mighty Oaks Morpeth you are helping us to carry on serving the people in your local community; taking church beyond its walls and showing people the love of Christ in a practical way. Often it is people who are bereaved, vulnerable or homeless. Young and old, those that have and those that do not have. People who want to talk about our faith with us and people who do not. People who hold very negative views of 'religion' and people who are open and interested. Our hope for the future is that we will be able to continue **doing** Mighty Oaks on a Saturday night in Morpeth and that we will be able to strengthen old friendships as well as develop new ones.

Yours gratefully, *The Mighty Oaks Team*