



Colburn Community
Support

Annual Report 2022-2023

Introduction

“SPEAK UP FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL WHO ARE DESTITUTE. SPEAK UP AND JUDGE FAIRLY; DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND NEEDY.”
PROVERBS 31:8-9

As we reach the end of our first year, we are pleased to present the Colburn Community Support annual report. This report highlights the various initiatives, accomplishments, and impact we have made within the Colburn community over the past year. We are immensely grateful for the support and collaboration of our volunteers, partner organisations, and community members in making these achievements possible. Since the inception of Colburn Community Support, it has been a privilege and humbling experience to walk with others sharing their joys and sorrows on a daily basis.

1. Support Activities:

Throughout the year, we offered a diverse range of support activities aimed at addressing the needs of our community. **We reached 105 households consisting of 216 adults and 85 children. 394 activities were undertaken including:**

a) Practical support:

- Using the van to deliver to the Colburn Foodshare project.
- Assistance with hospital transport.
- Provision of accessibility equipment not available locally such as wheelchairs, crutches etc.
- Helping clients with house moves.
- Sourcing and provision of second-hand white goods, beds, and furniture.





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b) Pastoral support:

- Provided bereavement support to those losing loved ones in difficult circumstances.
- Trained as facilitators and set up a local branch of SoBS, (Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide) <https://uksobs.org/>
- Accessed Stronger Communities funding to develop suicide prevention strategies as well as sessions to reduce isolation for those struggling with their mental health.



c) Admin support:



- Supported individuals with CV writing and job applications.
- Offered guidance on benefit claims and Personal Independence Payment applications.
- Helped with applications for Blue Badges & Disabled Bus passes.
- Provided support in understanding Educational Health Care Plans

d) Financial Planning Advice:

- Provided advice on budgeting and financial management.
- Assisted with tax reclaims and accessing unpaid child support payments



e) Business & Charity support:

- Provided governance advice to Catterick, Richmond & Colburn Community Libraries.



- Assisted BlueBoxt Creative and Performing Arts with policies and procedures.
- Contracted by Just The Job Environmental Enterprise Ltd to provide fundraising and marketing support.
- Underwent "GROW" coaching training with Fresh Expressions to support businesses and individuals.



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2. Collaborations and Partnerships:



- Actively sought collaboration with local businesses, nonprofit organisations, churches and government agencies to amplify our impact. Some key partnerships included:

a) Local Businesses:

- We liaised with local retailers who have provided support to the Colburn Food share project, especially Aldi, Lidl, Co-op, Heron Foods & KFC.

b) Nonprofit Organisations & Churches:

- Referrals from nonprofit organisations allowed us to expand our services, share resources, and enhance our collective efforts in addressing community needs. These included:

- King's Church Colburn
- Colburn Warm Hub
- Carers Plus Yorkshire
- North Yorkshire Adult Learning Services
- Heartbeat Alliance
- Provision of games café & puppet show
- Free holiday activities for families

c) Government Agencies:

- Worked closely with government agencies such as Community Mental Health Team, MOD, Diocese of York, North Yorkshire Council, Richmondshire District Council and North Yorkshire Police.
- We were able to initiate projects that benefited individuals & families within the community.



3. Volunteer Engagement:



- Volunteers have played a crucial role in helping us to deliver projects and services.
- Their commitment allowed us to make a lasting impact in the community.
- We express our deepest gratitude to our volunteers for their selfless contributions.
- Our “Walk & Talk” initiative would not happen without volunteers.



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4. Impact and Success Stories:

- Throughout the year, we witnessed numerous success stories that showcased the positive impact of our community support efforts.
- These stories included individuals finding homes and employment, families overcoming adversity, and community members coming together to support one another during challenging times.
- Assisted in the provision of 170 Christmas hampers for the community.

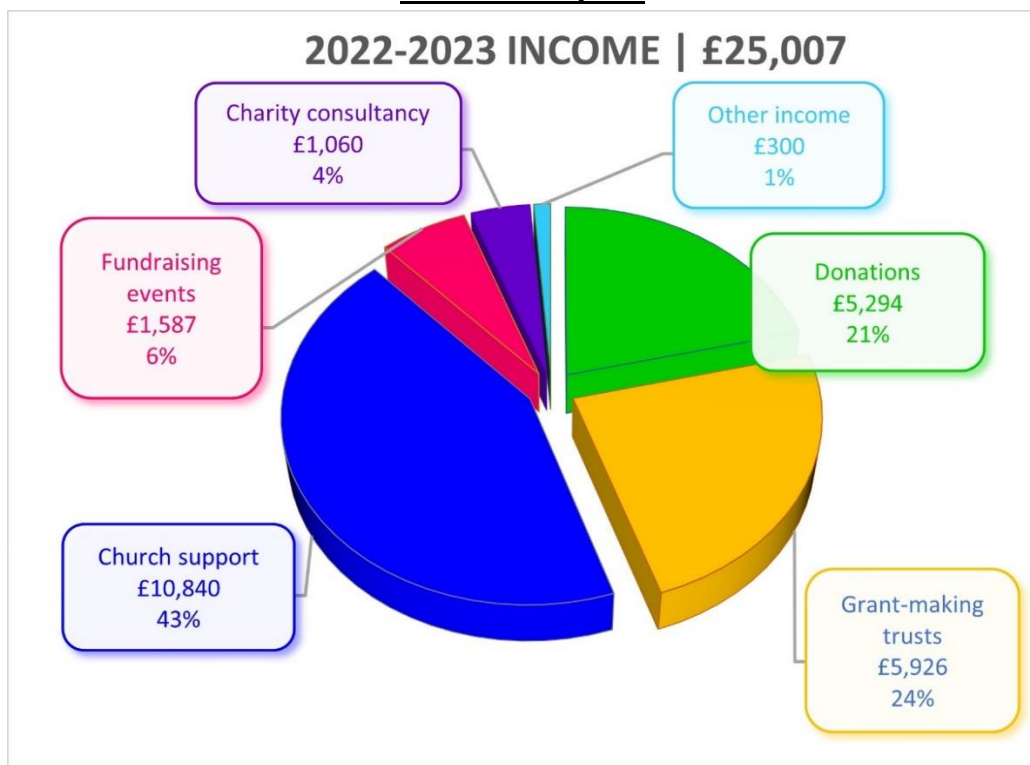


5. Community Outreach and Awareness:

- We actively engaged in community outreach initiatives to raise awareness about our work through speaking engagements at churches and local interest groups.
- Interviewed by BBC Northern Correspondent, Danny Savage (see picture) and our work also featured on BBC Radio York.
- Maintained an active presence on social media platforms.
- Adopted by two groups to be their “charitable” project for 2022.
- Provided prayer support to individuals and families.
- Introduced “Prayer of Blessing” cards for all the homes we visited.



Financial report





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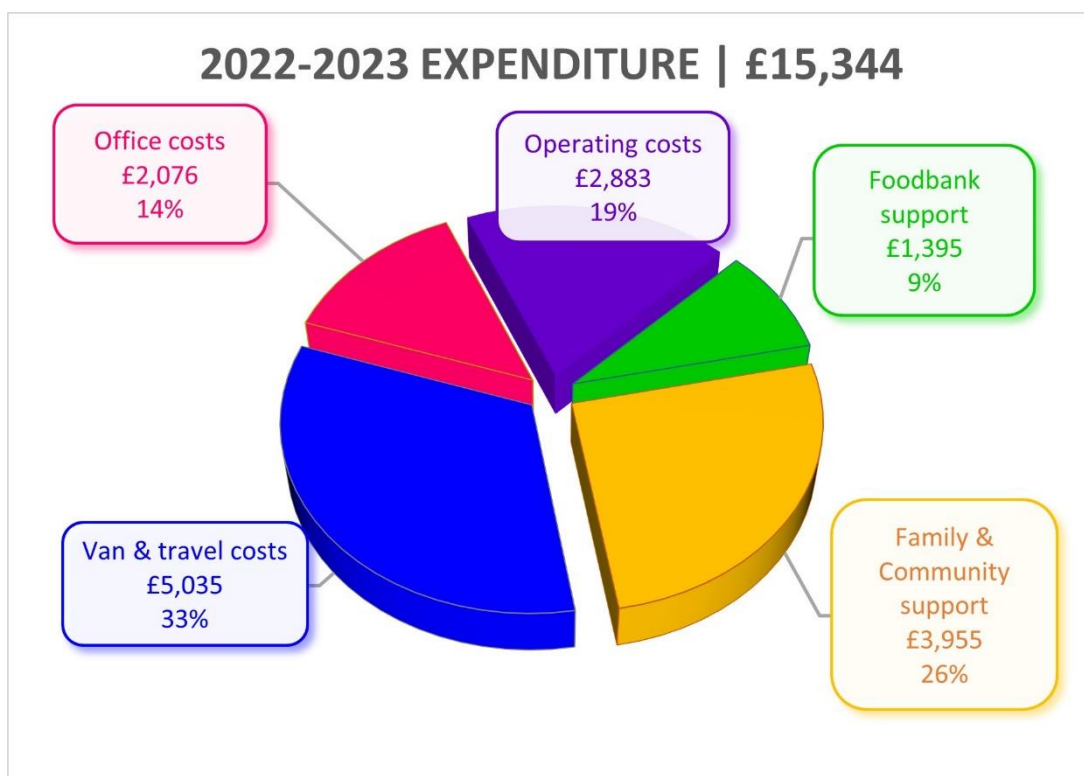
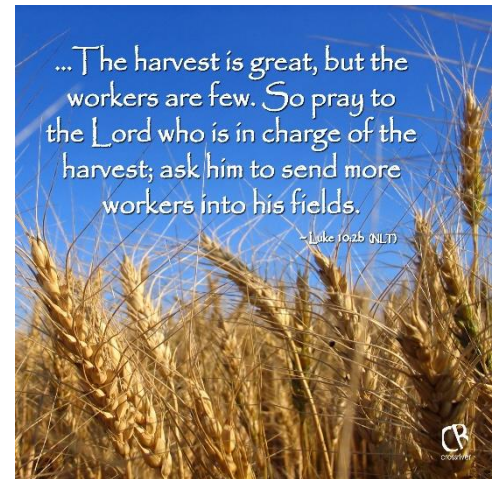
Our first year of operation was very much a huge unknown in terms of how we would meet the costs of running the project as well as ensuring our personal living expenses were also met.

We are indebted to the 24 individuals who have partnered with us to ensure that we have been able to live each day as well as undertake our new ministry.

In addition, there have been contributions from our Mission Partners, Holy Trinity Claygate and King's Church Colburn. This has also included visits from members of Holy Trinity who have gained a fuller understanding of the work we do having seen it for themselves.

We are also indebted to the grant making trusts that support what we do, giving a special mention to the Nias Wheatley Trust who help us ensure our van is never without fuel!

We would love to partner with more individuals and churches to ensure we can continue this vital work in the years ahead through the expansion of our team by way of additional paid staff and volunteers.



Whilst our finances show a healthy surplus (approximately £10,000), for our first year, some expenses were deferred until we knew what funds were available to provide a reserve for



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the coming year. We also needed to set aside funds for tax, national insurance and pension contributions which will be due at the end of 2023.

Conclusion:

As we conclude this year's report, we acknowledge the significant progress we have made in advancing community support in Colburn. However, we also recognise that our work is never done. Looking ahead, we remain committed to adapting to evolving community needs, fostering partnerships, and striving for continuous improvement.

Over the coming year, this will include:

- Building on the relationships already established.
- The formation of a local credit union.
- The creation of financial budgeting workshops.
- First aid training.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who contributed to our community support endeavours. Together, we have made a profound difference in the lives of individuals and families, and we eagerly anticipate the opportunities that the upcoming year will bring.

This year marks Simon's 40th year of full-time employment and this verse, has been a source of strength and encouragement recently in our new ministry together.

Thank you again for your unwavering support and belief in our vision for the Colburn community.

Simon & Jo-Ann Eastwood

Community Enhancers

Colburn Community Support

July 2023

