

Kingswell Centre

Kingswell Centre started from the prayer vision and hard work of a small group of young people, leaders and members of Carreg Llwyd Church, Oswestry, between 1982 and 1983. In April 1983 following a lot of searching and early morning prayer, a lease was signed on the Old Assembly Rooms in Arthur Street. This was a heavy commitment for a small church but in the next year and a half the work was completed and the Centre opened officially early in 1986. It had been open to support young unemployed people, many of whom had helped do the building up for a while before it officially opened. In the beginning Kingswell had a family restaurant and burger bar.

Kingswell's aims are to provide a practical Christian influence in Oswestry and District and to meet the developmental needs of young people and families, in essence it was about building a bridge between the church and the wider community. Over the years we have seen the relationship become two way as many of those who have been helped have come back as volunteers and contributed their gifts and talents back into the Centre.

The early years were spent building relationships with local young unemployed people and support agencies. Groups were co-run with the Probation Service offering alternatives to custody for 15 years, (Anger Management, Alcohol Education, Motoring Offender Education). 3 Youth clubs were set up and staff were recruited to work alongside the Manager and volunteers. Training was accessed to enable professional work to be maintained and developed.

In the 90's relationships grew with the Drug Help Team across Shropshire and this established Kingswell as a local provider of Drug Support for families in the area. This work is now a significant service to local people. There are also groups for isolated people in the community, a pregnancy advice service, and a generic counselling team.

Kingswell is now a Charity and Company in it's own right, but is supported in prayer, through the provision of Directors, volunteers, prayer support and financial giving by Carreg Llwyd Church. In the coming years it is the desire of Kingswell and Carreg Llwyd Church to strengthen the outworking of the special relationship, to develop the work as partners, in line with the vision of two way bridge building. Anyone in a Management/Leadership position will be expected to lead/contribute to prayer/public church meetings, and to explain the way that the work fits with the outworking of an authentic Christian faith to inspire partnership working to Carreg Llwyd Church and other potential supportive Churches and organisations. In addition to having a sense of calling to be involved in this practical Christian work, we are looking for some evidence of transferrable professional training and a track record in tapping into funding streams to sustain it. This might be through trusts and charities or by contracting with relevant partners, it is a Key skill required of the Centre Manager.

Tudor Humphreys

Chair of Directors
Kingswell Centre

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