



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

**Shrewsbury Youth for Christ – Charity No: 1106486**  
**Annual Report to the AGM, 2 July 2017**

**Report from the Chair of Trustees**

You will find lots of detail in the Director's and Treasurer's reports below, so please do read them. For me 2016 has again shown how by praying, serving and giving we can be a part of God amazing plan to reach out to the young people of Shrewsbury. We have seen how God has used different people with different skills and in different situations to make a difference in the lives of the young people of our town. God has used assemblies and choirs, classrooms and clubs, mentoring and music, individuals and teams, experienced and first timers, young and not so young to great effect and it has been a joy to see. All of this has been ably directed by Hannah with very strong support from Andy.

The monthly prayer meetings continue to be an amazing source of support and encouragement. They provide us with an opportunity to visit many of our supporting Churches and to ensure the project remains focused on seeking God's will.

The Treasurer's report confirms the details of a strong financial position at the end of the year. However, our regular income remains lower than our expenditure, although the gap is closing. Relying on irregular one off donations prevents us from becoming complacent and reminds us of the need to continue to work on fund raising. It also means that we experience what it is like to trust in God and to be blessed by His provision. We thank God and all the individuals and Church groups who are able to support us in this way.

We continue to be blessed with a strong and committed group of Trustees and Council of Reference from many local Churches who together offer spiritual direction, extensive knowledge and experience and lots of practical support to the team.

As always my sincere thanks go to all those who have worked for and with s-yfc during 2016 – Hannah, Andy, Martin, Malesi, Ellie, the Trustees, the Council of Reference, Church partners, volunteer host families, the team at British Youth for Christ and the many volunteers who help in so many ways.

As is so often the case, a new year brings challenges and change. During 2017 Andy Lowe will be leaving the staff team but I am pleased that he will continue to work as a contractor for us on some key areas of work. As Andy moves on it will give s-yfc the opportunity to explore the gifts and passion of others who are being led by God to join us. Our commitment is to continue to do God's work with schools and local Churches in a way that honours Him and successfully brings the Good News to the young people of Shrewsbury.

*Martin Withington*  
*Chair of Trustees*

## Trustees who served from January 2016 to December 2016

- Martin Withington (Chair)
- Emma Broomfield (Secretary)
- Sara Short (Treasurer)
- Paul Kelly
- Joyce Hayward
- Fi Iddon
- Roy Ellis
- Roy Haworth
- David Summerfield

## Council of Reference who served from January 2016 to December 2016

- Andy Houghton (Chair)
- Lucinda Burns
- Chris Matthews
- Charles Crosland
- Simon Pierce
- Terry Hotchkiss

## **Centre Director's Report**

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven".

One of the things I love about living in Britain are the distinct and varying seasons (even the ones that I like to moan about). The changing seasons always remind me of the way that God works, never leaving us for too long in one place but continually changing us and the work he has for us. The seasons remind me that sometimes the ending of one thing simply makes way for the beginning of something new.

Both our work and our team saw some of these changes though 2016. Some activities came to an end and members of the team moved on, but we embraced the new beginnings that opened up for us. Our work at St Giles, teaching the Bible through music and drama, came to an end in September, the same month that our drama specialist, Martin, moved on. We thank God for the season that he had given us at that particular school and the way that He was able to so specifically use Martin's skills and gifts. A new member of the team joined us, Ellie Harper, just as a new opportunity was opening up for us at Mary Webb School. Just as perfectly as Martin's gifts fitted the work at St. Giles, so do Ellie's gifts fit the work at Mary Webb. We thank God for new seasons and his faithful provision in them.

The Spring term saw us being involved in a brilliant town wide initiative, Try Praying, which allowed us to hear first hand, through the filming of testimonies, the ways that God has worked through prayer. We were reminded of the blessing there is when Christians work together in unity and how privileged we are to work with a variety of churches and denominations throughout the year. The Summer term ended for us with a particularly special highlight, the Youth Gospel Choir singing at our first ever wedding, the wedding of one of our very own choir members! A special occasion that I'm sure will stay with us all for a long time.

Another highlight for us during 2016 was the launch of a brand new initiative, 'It's Your Move Plus', which was a follow-on from the work we do with year six students during the summer term. The pilot scheme was launched at the newly formed Shrewsbury Academy (an amalgamation of Sundorne School and The Grange School) and it was a privilege to be

able to spend time with the new year sevens as they started out their secondary school journey in a brand new school.

The work of Shrewsbury YFC would not be possible without our brilliant team of staff and volunteers. Our thanks go to Martin, who served so faithfully with us for two years and to Malesi, whose formal two years with us ended in September. I would also like to extend a huge thank you to Andy Lowe, who will be leaving us during 2017 but has been, and will continue to be, an incredible asset to SYFC, faithfully and wholeheartedly using his gifts to serve God through this organisation.

Lastly, I would like to add my thanks to so many of our faithful friends and supporters who have continued to support us so faithfully. We can only do what we do because of your prayer, your gifts and your support. Thank you for cheering us on so consistently and so enthusiastically.

*Hannah Moore*  
Centre Director

### **Treasurer's Report 2016**

I would like say what a joy it is to serve the Lord through SYFC: I treasure the opportunity to see the Lord's work in action and to feel Jesus' love through all the prayerful and financial support you each give. It is an absolute pleasure to work with Hannah and Andy. In 2015 we had run with a deficit of income over expenditure of nearly £8,000 such that we only just had our three months reserve left in December 2015. In 2016, the Lord's bounty has helped us turn that round to a £3,000 surplus such that we ended the year with £17,400 in the Bank (an excess of £5,000 over our reserve).

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Income	25,000	61,000	43,000	41,000	53,000	50,200	55,600	43,400	49,100	50,700	58,600
Exps	34,000	41,000	53,000	60,000	56,000	51,700	37,700	36,500	53,200	58,500	55,600
Reserve	15,000	35,000	25,000	6,000	3,000	1,500	19,400	26,300	22,200	14,400	17,400

In part this was due to Andy choosing to reduce his hours from 30 to 25 per week from September and the reduction of the team from four to two (plus local volunteers) at the end of the summer. But mainly I think we should thank Hannah and Malesi for their hard work in visiting Churches and other groups to raise awareness of SYFC and also Hannah for making Grant applications that brought in some valuable extra income. We saw regular monthly income from our supporting Churches rise from £522 per month to £668 per month as well as receiving some generous annual gifts from our Churches who give in that way and also a few unexpected bonuses.

The income (including gift aid that we now reclaim ourselves) from "individual" donors rose over the year as you can see from the income increase in that category from £35,103 to £38,127 and we welcome the new regular monthly donors that have come on board. Our individual supporters are still our main strength and provide a robustness that has made a significant difference to the ability of the Trustees to plan ahead: thank you all so much.

My thanks also go to all the Trustees for their patience in putting up with me and to Stanton for his valuable assistance and to David Smith for his expert auditing skills again. And finally thanks again to Hannah and to Andy; although our relationship with Andy is changing from employee to "contractor" we shall still enjoy sharing a part in his journey using his musical and other gifts for the Lord's work. And so the adventure continues.....

*Sara Short*  
Treasurer