



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS SO
THEY MAY SEE THE GOOD DEEDS YOU DO
MATTHEW 5:15-16

YOUR INSPIRE YOUR CHURCH

MAY 2019 'OPENING UP YOUR HALL'

COG is launching a monthly awareness campaign to highlight the great outreach work that is happening across the UK. For five months in 2019, we will be sending all UK ecclesias an interesting story to hopefully encourage and inspire your ecclesia to do the same. At the end of the campaign we hope to make these into a booklet.

EDINBURGH'S STORY

For quite a number of years, we had been concerned about the use, or rather the non-use, of our ecclesial premises. We are in a prime position, very near the centre of Edinburgh, with train and bus stations just up the road, and many buses stopping virtually at our door. Yet for most days of the week our rooms were unused.

There were of course some periods when we were busy; when we took part in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, or held coffee mornings, a weekly cafe or other one-off events.

But when Alcoholics Anonymous approached us about holding a weekly meeting there on Saturday evenings, we were in two minds. Would we come on Sunday to be greeted by the smell of stale cigarettes and alcohol?

Their leader spoke to us about how they operate, and we were struck by the similarities to our own outlook on life (the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous have more details.)

Be generous with your space and offer your hall. This 'gift of grace' opens up links and opportunities with your local community that makes your neighbours view you in a new way!

Many churches open their doors to the homeless in the winter months and there will be a scheme local to you that you can join. Head to www.cchp.org.uk to find out how this works in Cambridge.

Other events are requested, as people get to know our premises. We regularly host the AGM of Edinburgh Direct Aid, and recently agreed to a request from one of the Mums who comes to our PEEP toddler groups to use a room for a breastfeeding support group.

Other events have been Pilates or Yoga classes for a few weeks; the YWCA have used our premises for some of their training; and when it was our turn to accommodate the local World Day of Prayer meeting, our hall was full.

How much work is involved?

We provided the various 'Openers', as they are called, with their own sets of keys, so they come and go without any input from us. AA hold meetings at least once every day, meaning there is more work for the cleaner to do. Sometimes when we arrive on Sunday mornings there is a bit of tidying up to do after their Saturday meeting, which is an open meeting and can have 30 or more people attending.

Our experience has been incredibly positive. From fledgling beginnings so many years ago the church is now an incredibly important hub for AA in Edinburgh.

OUR NEW WEBSITE!

We are pleased to launch our new website! We now have all our info and resources in one place for you to access. This will include a link to our blog which is updated regularly.

GET TO KNOW US:
Understand our vision
& read about our latest
appeals



RESOURCES: Apply for grants & promotional packs to get your projects off the ground.

CONNECT with your area reps and with us on social media

OUTREACH IDEAS FOR MAY

HOT LUNCHES
OPEN UP YOUR CAR PARK
ALLOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR IN!

ENGLISH SPEAKING CLASSES
LINK WITH LOCAL CHARITIES
AND FUNDRAISE FOR THEM!

christadelphianoutreachgroup@gmail.com
www.cog-uk.org

