

OPEN DOOR COLCHESTER

England & Wales · Charity number 1101675

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2004-01-22

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 25 Carus Crescent
Highwoods
Colchester
CO4 9FU

Phone 01206970727

Email opendoorcolchester@gmail.com

Website www.opendoorcolchester.co.uk

Activities

Objects: 1) ADVANCING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH; AND2) THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES, RESOURCES, AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT, WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THOSE IN NEED IN COLCHESTER.

Activities: Providing a "drop-in" centre where visitors can talk to Open Door helpers and be befriended. Visitors receive help and advice with their problems (usually by linking them with the relevant local agencies). Limited amounts of financial assistance (in kind where feasible) are available at the Director's discretion in suitable cases. These services are provided in a Christian context.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing, Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** COLCHESTER, ESSEX
- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£56,428	£57,977	-	-
2023-12-31	£58,531	£53,509	-	-
2022-12-31	£52,787	£46,853	-	-
2021-12-31	£33,328	£43,734	-	-
2020-12-31	£45,002	£33,425	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brenda June Reade		2016-09-06
Elizabeth Ikuesan		2025-02-03
Peter Hurstell		2016-09-06
Tola Abbey Sode		2025-11-30
William Butcher LLB, LLM		

OPEN DOOR COLCHESTER

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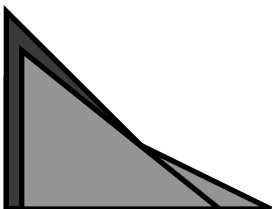
Accounts



Open Door - Colchester Annual Report 2024



Registered charity number: 1101675



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1. History and Background

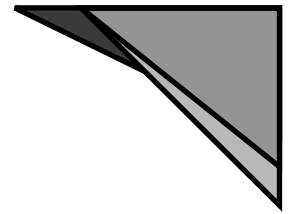
Open Door began in September 1986 when a couple of church members invited a few young drug users for coffee and biscuits. Recognizing the need for help, support, and a safe place, six volunteers initially opened the church vestibule for just two hours a week. This quickly expanded to four hours a week, and then three days a week. The volunteers welcomed people with various needs, offering listening, support, and relationship-building.

After five years in cramped conditions, a church lounge was built, including an office for confidential conversations and telephone use. During this period, three team leaders were appointed, one for each day Open Door was open, under the leadership of the Director.

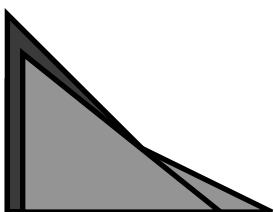
Listening and counselling, both formal and informal, were central to Open Door's mission. It provided an informal setting where guests could come and go as they pleased, sit quietly, or talk with a team member. Grounded in prayer from the beginning, the team met each morning to pray. Many people found faith in Jesus through Open Door, and many others benefited emotionally and practically from their involvement.

The charity faced many challenges, as guests often came from difficult situations. Several guests from the rough sleeping community passed away, and there were ongoing battles with various addictions. However, there were also many success stories of overcoming addictions. Some issues required signposting to specialist support, such as Beacon House for emergency medical assessment, Citizens Advice Bureau for legal needs, Social Services for safeguarding issues, Colchester Night Shelter and Colchester Borough Homes for housing, and Open Road, GP surgeries, and rehab providers for mental health and wellbeing support.

Christmas lunch, featuring turkey and Christmas pudding, has been a joyful occasion for guests, often including gift-giving. Nine years ago, further opportunities were developed for guests to explore and express their Christian faith. Open Door opened every Tuesday for a Bible study (Tuesday@Twelve) and Sunday for a service (Sunday@One). These quickly grew in popularity, providing an accessible form of church for those uncomfortable with typical services.



Despite changes over the years, including different directors and managers, Open Door's core mission has remained unchanged. It continues to be a place where anyone can be welcomed, served affordable food and drink, treated with dignity and respect, listened to, and supported through their challenges. Guests may be homeless, unemployed, hungry, addicted, elderly, lonely, or struggling with mental illness. Thousands have been served over the years, and the charity trusts that many thousands more will continue to be served in the future.



2. Chairman's Letter

I am delighted to open this year's report by extending my deepest thanks to our dedicated trustees, passionate volunteers, and committed staff. Your collective efforts have been nothing short of extraordinary, especially as Open Door has embraced a season of growth and transformation. Together, we have made significant strides in shaping a future that reflects the evolving needs of our community.

New Beginnings and Renewed Leadership

The close of last year marked a new chapter for our Board of Trustees. I was honoured to accept the role of Chair and am pleased to have welcomed Elizabeth Ikuesan as our newest trustee. With a revitalised board bringing fresh perspectives and continued wisdom, I am confident we are well-positioned to build on our foundations and chart a strong course forward.

Responding to Change with Purpose

This past year brought with it opportunities for reflection and renewal. While we transitioned away from our contract with Colchester Borough Homes and experienced shifts in programme attendance, these moments prompted us to take a thoughtful look at our operations. Rather than viewing these changes as setbacks, we embraced them as catalysts for positive transformation.

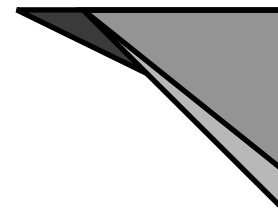
Our strategic restructuring was driven by a desire to ensure Open Door remains responsive, sustainable, and firmly rooted in the needs of those we serve. This process has strengthened our ability to deliver core services effectively while preparing us to meet future challenges with confidence.

Our Impactful Work Continues

Thanks to the steadfast generosity of our donors and partners, we have continued to deliver vital services to those who need them most. Key areas of support include:

- Practical housing assistance
- Emergency food provision
- Welfare, health, and addiction support.

These programmes continue to reflect our mission; to serve with dignity, compassion, and practical care.



A Leadership Transition with Gratitude

Our director Lee M'cDade announced that will be moving on to work with SASRA. In September. We are sincerely grateful for his leadership over the past two years, during which he guided Open Door through important transitions with strength and care. Looking ahead, Kaoru, our manager, will continue to play a pivotal leadership role. Her deep understanding of our work, combined with her compassionate and steady approach, is deeply valued by all of us at Open Door.

Volunteers: The Soul of Our Service

Our volunteers, many of whom come from local churches, continue to provide an irreplaceable presence. They offer a warm, café-style environment where guests are welcomed, listened to, and supported one-on-one. Their kindness and dedication create a space that feels like home to many. A heartfelt thanks goes to our trustee, Peter Hurstell, whose consistent support, leadership, and administrative care have strengthened our team and operations over the years.

Our Trustees and Advisors: Guiding the Way

Our board of trustees remains instrumental in guiding Open Door with vision, integrity, and strategic oversight. I am continually grateful for their thoughtful governance and willingness to lead by example. Behind the scenes, our advisors and supporters share their expertise and wisdom generously; a quiet but powerful force propelling our mission forward.

Celebrating our Donors

To our incredible donors: Individuals, partner organisations, and grant funders; thank you. Your generosity empowers everything we do and directly transforms lives. Because of you, we continue to offer hope, hospitality, and healing to those who walk through our doors.

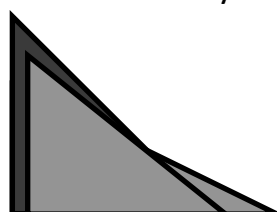
In closing

To our staff, volunteers, trustees, advisors, partners, and friends: thank you for standing with us. Your belief in Open Door and in the people, we serve fuels our work and our hope. Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate community; one where everyone is seen, valued, and supported.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Dr Babatunde Soetan

Honorary Chair, September 2025





3. Report on the Public Benefit

The aims of Open Door are two-fold:

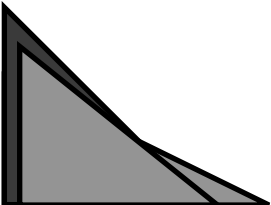
1. **Provision of Facilities and Support:** To improve the conditions of life for those in need in Colchester by offering facilities, resources, and practical support.
2. **Advancing the Christian Faith:** To provide opportunities for guests to explore and express their Christian faith.

In 2024, these aims have been central to Open Door's work.

Tuesday@Twelve ministry has been key in advancing the Christian faith, offering informal and accessible opportunities for guests to engage with their faith. Everyone is welcome at these events and encouraged to participate as much as they feel comfortable.

Emotional and practical support is primarily provided through regular drop-in sessions, open to anyone. Guests are treated equally, regardless of their circumstances or past. We refer guests to appropriate agencies they might not be aware of, assist with phone calls and form-filling, and serve food and drink at very reasonable prices. A willing listening ear is always available.

Many people have found significant help through Open Door. For some, it is the only agency in Colchester they access. We provide a community and safe space for those who are lonely and offer crisis support for those in need.



4. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 follow this report and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

We are incredibly grateful to have received a £10,000 donation from DNA Networks, which has made a significant contribution to our work.

We also deeply appreciate the ongoing support of Colchester Baptist Church, both through financial contributions and by generously allowing us to use their premises free of charge. The continued encouragement from other churches in Colchester and the surrounding district is also highly valued. Our work is sustained not only by organisations but also by individuals. We currently benefit from around 35 regular monthly donations, ranging from £5 to £300, with an average monthly total of approximately £400. This consistent giving plays a vital role in enabling us to deliver our services. We are also thankful for all donations and grants received.

Finally, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Michael Baker FCCA for his professional and diligent work in independently examining these accounts once again.

Grant Duminy
Honorary Treasurer

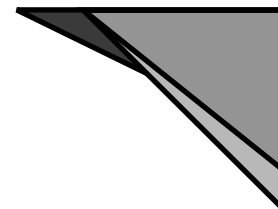
September 2025

5. Accounts: Open Door Colchester

Accounts for the period 1st January – 31st December 2024

1. Receipts and Payments: General Fund

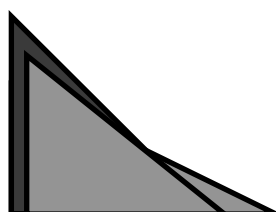
	2024	2023
Receipts		
Donations and Grants		
Colchester Baptist Church	4,500	12,500
Other Churches	11,286	10,605
Other Bodies	20,075	26,530
Individuals	6,623	7,040
Total Donations and Grants	42,484	56,675
Receipts from Activities		
Sale of Refreshments	1,497	1,570
Total receipts from Activities	1,497	1,570
Other Income		
Other Income	273	28
Legacy	12,112	0
Interest on Deposit Accounts	62	258
Total Receipts	56,427	58,531



Payments	2024	2023
Direct costs of supporting Guests		
Food and Refreshments	1,861	1,836
"Compassion" payments	223	1,317
Total Direct Costs	2,084	3,153

Costs of running Open Door – Colchester

Salaries, Pension and National Insurance	53,998	46,997
Staff training costs	78	1,190
Telephone line rental, calls and broadband	693	671
Insurances	547	547
Purchase of Equipment	517	879
Administration materials, etc.	60	72
Total Running Costs	55,893	50,356



Total Payments

57,977	53,509
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Increase (Decrease) in Funds over the Period

-1,551	5,022
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Balance brought forward from the previous Period

39,189	34,168
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Balance carried forward

37,638	39,190
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Richard Green Special Needs Fund

Donation received

0	0
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Payments made

0	650
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Balance carried forward

155	155
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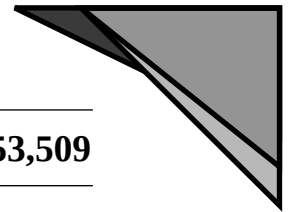
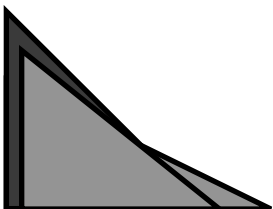
Balance of all Funds

37,793	39,345
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2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities - 31st December

2024	2023
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Bank balances, etc., held



CAF cash account	33,141	34,693
Deposit with the ADFC		0
Epworth cash plus	4,942	4,652

Liabilities

Prepayment of grant	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
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Total Assets

<u>39,345</u>	<u>39,345</u>
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Representing balances on Receipts and Payments Accounts

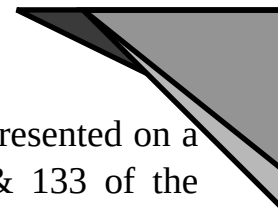
General Fund	38,083	39,190
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Richard Green Special Needs Fund	<u>155</u>	<u>155</u>
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Total Funds

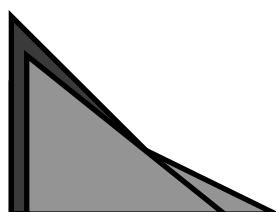
<u>38,238</u>	<u>39,345</u>
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Notes on the Accounts



1. **Accounting policy:** in view of its size, Open Door's accounts are presented on a "receipts and payments" basis in accordance with Sections 132 & 133 of the Charities Act 2011.
2. **Status:** Open Door – Colchester became a Registered Charity (No 1101675) on 22nd January 2004.
3. **Donations and grants:** large donations and grants given to Open Door are listed in the Treasurer's Report. Other Churches and bodies in and around Colchester continue to provide much-appreciated support, both in money and prayer.
4. **Gift Aid Income Tax refund:** many individual donations have been made under the Gift Aid Scheme.
5. **The Richard Green Special Needs Fund:** This fund arose from specific donations – its purpose is to help Open Door buy items such as sleeping bags, tents, etc., for guests with needs. Mr Green has generously continued these donations.
6. **Borrowings:** Open Door owes money to no one. The Director, Manager, and Team Leaders are provided with floats, from which they make small grants and loans to guests.
7. **Insurances:** Open Door holds insurance coverage for public and employer liability, trustee indemnity, and legal expenses. Insurance cover for buildings and contents is held by Colchester Baptist Church, on whose premises Open Door operates.

1.





6. Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Executive Committee (as Trustees) and members of Open Door Colchester (Charity no. 1101675) on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 set out on the preceding pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Executive Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Committee considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,

- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records by section 130 of the Charities Act.
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

28th May 2025

Signed: Independent Examiner



MG Baker FCA, 118 Chapel Road, West Bergholt, Colchester, C06 3EZ.





7. Management and Constitution

Open Door – Colchester was constituted as a charity separate from Colchester Baptist Church on 25th November 2003 and registered with the Charity Commission on 22nd January 2004 (registered number 1101675).

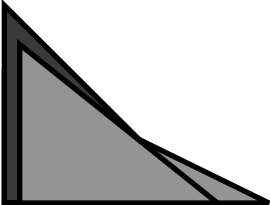
Open Door is managed by an Executive Committee of between 5 and 12 members, including.

- Honorary Officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) elected at each Annual General Meeting
- Ex Officio, the Senior Minister for the time being of Colchester Baptist Church
- Nominated members who are practising Christians and the majority of whom are members of Colchester Baptist Church, appointed by the Deacons of that Church.

Membership of the Executive Committee and Trustees in 2024

- Dr Babatunde Soetan, Honorary Chair
- William Butcher, Honorary Secretary
- Grant Duminy, Honorary Treasurer
- Peter Hurstell, Safeguarding
- Brenda Reade
- Sandra Stockwell, Fundraising
- Elizabeth Ikuesan

Open Door is overseen by part-time Director Lee McDade, who manages the day-to-day activities with support from Kaoru Magee, the full-time Drop-in Manager. The centre operates on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with groups of volunteers coordinated by three team leaders. The centre currently has around 23 volunteers and welcomes 80–100 visitors each week. Operating in a café-style drop-in format, Open Door provides a welcoming environment offering a wide range of support — from a listening ear to practical assistance with everyday challenges. It serves as an important community hub, fostering connection and support among residents.





8. Financial Policies

Investments

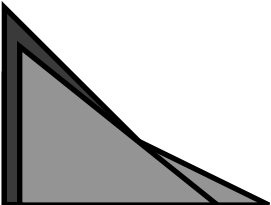
The investment funds possessed by Open Door – Colchester have been small and are not held for the long term. Hitherto, the Trustees have considered it appropriate for funds not immediately needed for current expenses to be placed on deposit. These funds are placed in an account with the Affirmative Deposit Fund for Charities (ADFC) operated by Epworth Investment Management (associated with the Methodist Church) and the CAF/ Shawbrook Bank to gain interest while retaining immediate access to the funds. A current account is held with the CAF Bank to manage the day-to-day needs of Open Door.

Reserves

We currently have a balance of £4,942 in interest-bearing deposit accounts.

Grants and Loans

Open Door – Colchester does not make significant grants to individuals (or organisations). Small sums of money to assist with living expenses, delays in receiving benefits, etc., are provided for individual guests in appropriate cases at the discretion of the Director, Manager or Team Leaders. When feasible, these sums are provided in the form of loans and repayment terms agreed with the Guest. Otherwise, the money is given without strings attached.



OPEN DOOR COLCHESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1101675

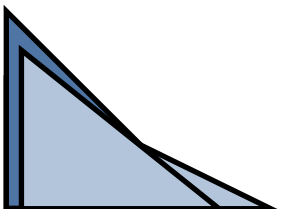
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Open Door - Colchester Annual Report 2023



Registered charity number: 1101675



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1. History and Background

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After five years in cramped conditions, a church lounge was built, including an office for confidential conversations and telephone use. During this period, three team leaders were appointed, one for each day Open Door was open, under the leadership of the Director.

Formal and informal listening and counselling were central to Open Door's mission. It provided an informal setting where guests could come and go as they pleased, sit quietly, or talk with a team member. Grounded in prayer from the beginning, the team met each morning to pray. Many people found faith in Jesus through Open Door, and many others benefited emotionally and practically from their involvement.

The charity faced many challenges, as guests often came from difficult situations. Several guests from the rough sleeping community passed away, and there were ongoing battles with various addictions. However, there were also many success stories of overcoming addictions. Some issues required signposting to specialist support, such as Beacon House for emergency medical assessment, Citizens Advice Bureau for legal needs, Social Services for safeguarding issues, Colchester Night Shelter and Colchester Borough Homes for housing, and Open Road, GP surgeries and rehab providers for mental health and wellbeing support.

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Thousands have been served over the years, and the charity trusts that many thousands more will continue to be served in the future.

2. Chairman's Letter

I am pleased this year to publicly acknowledge the efforts of both central and local government in supporting the most vulnerable members of our community. Our collaboration with Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) continued in 2023, focusing on preventing and relieving homelessness in Colchester. The Open Door team, working alongside CBH, successfully supported over four hundred individuals at risk of homelessness with interventions such as:

- **Emergency Accommodation:** Night Shelter and Private Hotels.
- **Housing Support:** Practical assistance, safeguarding, and specialist advice from organisations such as CAB and Shelter, as well as loans.
- **Welfare Emergencies:** Providing food, clothing, and access to the Colchester Foodbank, along with health and addiction support.

Through the Drop-in Centre, organised activities, and partnerships with local government organisations. Open Door remains committed to making a difference in the lives of our visitors, regardless of their background and circumstances.

Staff and Volunteers

The role of the Chair is made so much easier by a brilliant team of capable volunteers and experienced team leaders led by two enthusiastic and passionate staff members, Lee (Director) and Kaoru (Manager). Their dedication, kind-hearted, friendly, and welcoming personalities make Open Door a wonderful place to visit and belong. I am pleased to report that the new team leaders have settled in extremely well, and it is hard to remember when they were not here! Volunteers provide most of the support to clients on a one-to-one basis, offering a listening ear and a safe space in an environment many call home.

Trustees & Advisors

I want to thank all the trustees who play a vital role in ensuring good governance and a safe environment. I am particularly grateful to the trustees for stepping in when required so that Open Door can be fully resourced. I thank Mike Baker for his due diligence in the independent examination of Open Door's Annual Financial Accounts.

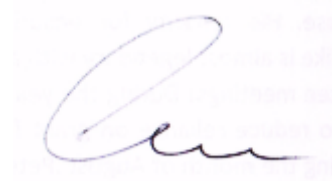
Donations

We are grateful to all our stakeholders who have generously continued to resource the running of Open Door. Your individual gifts and grants have enabled the Open Door team to make a significant difference to all the guests at Open Door Colchester.

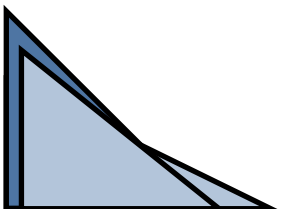
Passing the Baton

This year marks ten years since I took on the role of Chair. Dr Babatunde Soetan has kindly offered to take on the role at the AGM. Baba has a real heart for the visitors of Open Door and will provide excellent leadership and guidance to Lee, Kaoru, and the Trustee team. It has been a real privilege to serve with remarkable leaders and volunteers seeking to make a difference in the lives of those often most in need.

Keep up the brilliant work!



Tim Rose, Honorary Chair, September 2024



3. Director's Report

As I write this, I have been in post for two years as the Director of Open Door Colchester (opendoorcolchester.co.uk). It is a role that has taken me into some deep valleys, where I have also had mountaintop experiences.

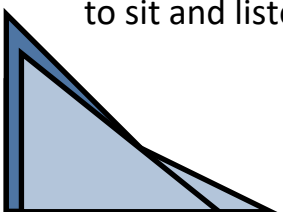
The level of complex needs and lifestyles never ceases to amaze me, and with the increase in Mental Health problems and severe addictions, our work can be very tough. This is why we meet and pray before each session; we would not even attempt to face some of the challenges in our own strength, so our small prayer time before we start each day is vital and bonds us as a team. All are welcome to pray with us before our sessions.

Folk come to Open Door for several reasons; some may come for advice or referrals, some may come for a listening ear, or they may be lonely and vulnerable. We have seen a considerable increase in folk who have complex mental health needs. Some come because they are in some sort of physical need, and others come because they know we, as a Christian Charity, also offer the chance of spiritual refreshment through Bible study or prayer, which is so important to me. Prayer can so often be a force multiplier. Our links with Beacon House (beaconhouseministries.org.uk) and the street link workers from Colchester Borough Homes (thestreetlink.org.uk) are solid as we assist each other with vital pieces of information, making sure no one gets left behind or forgotten about.

As other Directors have said, Open Door must not divert too far from our main objective: offering our guests a befriending service. Guests may find themselves at a particularly tough time in their lives due to a change in their circumstances; Open Door has always been a lifeline that has contributed to rebuilding their lives or at least walking the journey with them. We long to see peace and progress in the lives of our guests. And offer a place of rest and security.

We do not underestimate the importance of having a friend to journey with through the low times. That is why I, like other directors, am so immensely proud of our staff and volunteers. They give their time, energy, and compassion at least one day a week (some give more) to support our guests.

Their sacrifice for others is admirable and worthy of highlighting in my report. We are always in need of new volunteers, so if you or anyone you know could spare an hour to sit and listen to a weary soul, you would be most welcome to do so.



As I have said, discipleship is still a huge part of what we do here at Open Door Tuesday at 12. It allows our guests to learn more about the Bible, and we always attempt to make it applicable to our lives. It is astonishing to see those with mental health-related issues engage. It is incredible to witness those who lack confidence read aloud. It is phenomenal to hear people from all walks of life recall different stories and events from the Bible and share what each verse means to them. The Tuesday at 12 fellowship is the pearl of our week at Open Door.

The structure of each session is simple: a short time of prayer and worship, Bible study, a talk and a discussion. My style is very informal, and I try to create an environment where everyone feels comfortable and welcome. We have worship and prayers, we open the scriptures, which we discuss, and then we have a good quality devotional to finish, as well as another cup of tea and usually something sweet to go along with it! As I have alluded to previously, we long to see true peace and progress in the lives of our guests, which I believe comes through much prayer and proclamation, patience, and partnership. With the complex needs we come across, we realise that some of our guests are probably the best they are ever going to be, but we trust in the Lord, who can transform the most complicated of lives.

Foodbank

Working in partnership with Colchester Foodbank as a satellite hub <https://colchester.foodbank.org.uk/locations/> in the Colchester City centre is a privilege. Being in the centre of the town means that those who live nearby without vehicles can easily access the service. We provide food to hundreds of people who are in need every year. Post-Covid, more individuals and families find themselves on the breadline due to the rise in fuel and energy prices. We could never say that providing for so many people is a “success,” but we are grateful that we can help throughout this tough time. Working alongside Foodbank allows Open Door to further support people by offering them more than just food. By spending time with people, we can help find the root of the problem and help them accordingly to move towards a better life.

As the Director, I value your support and assistance. We give God all the glory for what he continues to do through this ministry.

Lee McDade. Director



4. Report on the Public Benefit

The aims of Open Door are two-fold:

1. **Provision of Facilities and Support:** To improve the conditions of life for those in need in Colchester by offering facilities, resources, and practical support.
2. **Advancing the Christian Faith:** To provide opportunities for guests to explore and express their Christian faith.

In 2023, these aims have been central to Open Door's work.

The **Sunday@One** and **Tuesday@Twelve** ministries have been vital in advancing the Christian faith, offering informal and accessible opportunities for guests to engage with their faith. Everyone is welcome at these events and encouraged to participate as much as they feel comfortable.

Emotional and practical support is primarily provided through regular drop-in sessions, open to anyone. Guests are treated equally, regardless of their circumstances or past. We refer guests to appropriate agencies they might not be aware of, assist with phone calls and form-filling, and serve food and drink at very reasonable prices. A willing listening ear is always available.

Many people have found significant help through Open Door. For some, it is the only agency in Colchester they access. We provide a community and safe space for those who are lonely and offer crisis support for those in need.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 follow this report and should be read alongside the accompanying notes.

We thank the Colchester Borough Council for their invaluable grants over the past few years. We are also fortunate to have received a generous £10,000 donation from DNA Networks.

The ongoing support from Colchester Baptist Church, through both donations and the provision of their premises free of charge, is deeply appreciated. We also value the support from other churches in Colchester and the surrounding district.

We are immensely thankful for our talented volunteers who regularly dedicate their time. Additionally, due to the generous contributions from our supporters, we benefit from approximately 35 individual monthly donations, ranging from £5 to £300, averaging £600 per month. Donations from the Baptist Insurance Company and other donor grants are also greatly appreciated.

Lastly, we are again grateful to Michael Baker FCCA for his diligent work examining these accounts.

Grant Duminy
Honorary Treasurer

September 2024

6. Accounts: Open Door Colchester

Accounts for the period 1st January – 31st December 2023

1. Receipts and Payments: General Fund

	2023	2022
Receipts		
Donations and Grants		
Colchester Baptist Church	12,500	5,000
Other Churches	10,605	750
Other Bodies	26,530	38,236
Individuals	7,040	7,765
Total Donations and Grants	56,675	51,751
Receipts from Activities		
Sale of Refreshments	1,570	891
Total receipts from Activities	1,570	891
Other Income		
Other Income	28	0
Interest on Deposit Accounts	258	144
Total Receipts	58,531	52,786

Payments	2023	2022
Direct costs of supporting Guests		
Food and Refreshments	1,836	2,037
"Compassion" payments	1,317	1,520
Total Direct Costs	3,153	3,558
Costs of running Open Door – Colchester		
Salaries, Pension and National Insurance	46,997	41,405
Staff training costs	1,190	236
Telephone line rental, calls and broadband	671	584
Insurances	547	547
Purchase of Equipment	879	437
Administration materials, etc.	72	87
Total Running Costs	50,356	43,295
Total Payments	53,509	46,853
Increase (Decrease) in Funds over the Period	5,022	5,934
Balance brought forward from the previous Period	34,168	28,234
Balance carried forward	39,190	34,168

Richard Green Special Needs Fund

Donation received	0	0
Payments made	650	0
Balance carried forward	155	805

Balance of all Funds

39,345	34,973
---------------	---------------

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities - 31st December

	2023	2023
Bank balances, etc., held		
CAF cash account	34,693	39,699
Deposit with the ADFC		0
Epworth cash plus	4,652	4,454
Shawbrook Bank	0	0

Liabilities

Prepayment of grant	0	-9,150
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Total Assets

39,345	34,973
---------------	---------------

Representing balances on Receipts and Payments**Accounts**

General Fund	39,190	34,168
Richard Green Special Needs Fund	155	805

Total Funds

39,345	34,973
---------------	---------------

Notes on the Accounts

- 1. Accounting policy:** in view of its size, Open Door's accounts are presented on a "receipts and payments" basis in accordance with Sections 132 & 133 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2. Status:** Open Door – Colchester became a Registered Charity (No 1101675) on 22nd January 2004.
- 3. Donations and grants:** large donations and grants given to Open Door are listed in the Treasurer's Report. Other Churches and bodies in and around Colchester continue to provide much-appreciated support, both in money and prayer.
- 4. Gift Aid Income Tax refund:** many individual donations have been made under the Gift Aid Scheme.
- 5. The Richard Green Special Needs Fund:** This fund arose from specific donations – its purpose is to help Open Door buy items such as sleeping bags, tents, etc., for guests with needs. Mr Green has generously continued these donations.
- 6. Borrowings:** Open Door owes money to no one. The Director, Manager, and Team Leaders are provided with floats, from which they make small grants and loans to guests.
- 7. Insurances:** Open Door holds insurance coverage for public and employer liability, trustee indemnity, and legal expenses. Insurance cover for buildings and contents is held by Colchester Baptist Church, on whose premises Open Door operates.

7. Management and Constitution

Open Door – Colchester was constituted as a charity separate from Colchester Baptist Church on 25th November 2003 and registered with the Charity Commission on 22nd January 2004 (registered number 1101675).

Open Door is managed by an Executive Committee of between 5 and 12 members.

- Honorary Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) elected at each Annual General Meeting
- Ex Officio, the Senior Minister for the time being of Colchester Baptist Church
- Nominated members who are practising Christians, and the majority of whom are members of Colchester Baptist Church, were appointed by the Deacons of that Church.

Membership of the Executive Committee and Trustees in 2022

- Tim Rose, Honorary Chairman
- William Butcher, Honorary Secretary
- Grant Duminy, Honorary Treasurer
- Peter Hurstell, Safeguarding
- Brenda Reade
- Sandra Stockwell
- Darren Greenfield

The part-time Director controls the day-to-day work of Open Door, Lee McDade, assisted by the full-time drop-in Manager, Kaoru Magee. Open Door continues to take full responsibility for Sunday@One (an informal Sunday service) and Tuesday@Twelve (an informal Bible Study). Open Door operates on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays with group helpers led by Team Leaders. There are approximately twenty volunteers.

8. Financial Policies

Investments

The investment funds possessed by Open Door – Colchester have been relatively small and are not held for the long term. Hitherto, the Trustees have considered it appropriate for funds not immediately needed for current expenses to be placed on deposit. These funds are placed in an account with the Affirmative Deposit Fund for Charities (ADFC) operated by Epworth Investment Management (associated with the Methodist Church) and the CAF/ Shawbrook Bank to gain interest while retaining immediate access to the funds.

A current account is held with the CAF Bank to manage the day-to-day needs of Open Door.

Reserves

We currently have a balance of £4,652 in interest-bearing deposit accounts.

Grants and Loans

Open Door – Colchester does not make significant grants to individuals (or organisations). Small sums of money to assist with living expenses, delays in receiving benefits, etc., are provided for individual guests in appropriate cases at the discretion of the Director, Manager or Team Leaders. When feasible, these sums are provided in the form of loans and repayment terms agreed with the Guest. Otherwise, the money is given without strings attached.

9. Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Executive Committee (as Trustees) and members of Open Door Colchester (Charity no. 1101675) on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 set out on the preceding pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Executive Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Committee considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,

- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records by section 130 of the Charities Act.
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

20th September 2024

Signed: Independent Examiner

MG Baker FCA, 118 Chapel Road, West Bergholt, Colchester, C06 3EZ.

OPEN DOOR COLCHESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1101675

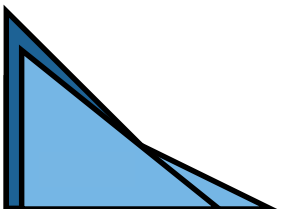
Accounts



Open Door - Colchester Annual Report 2022

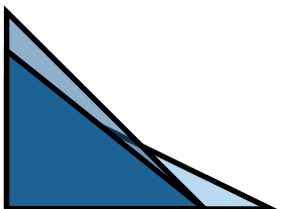


Registered charity number: 1101675



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1. History and Background

Open Door began after some church members invited a few young drug users for coffee and biscuits. In response to the obvious need for help, support and somewhere to go, Open Door was born in September 1986. Six volunteers initially opened the church vestibule for just two hours a week. This quickly became four hours a week, then three days a week soon after. The volunteers could welcome people with a wide variety of needs and listen, support and form relationships. After five years in cramped conditions in the vestibule, it was decided that a church lounge would be built. This building project also included an office that enabled confidential conversations and the use of a telephone. During this period, three team leaders were appointed, one for each day that Open Door was open, all under the leadership of the Director.

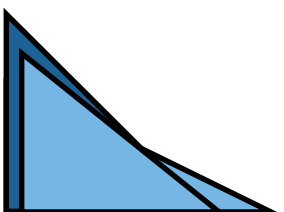
Listening and counselling, formal or informal, were at the heart of what Open Door offered. It is a very informal setting where people can come and go as they please. Guests can sit quietly on their own, or one of the team will always be happy to talk with them.

Open Door has been grounded in prayer from the beginning, with the team meeting to pray each morning. Many people have come to find faith in Jesus through the work of Open Door, and many others have benefitted emotionally or practically from their involvement in the charity. There have been many challenging moments as guests are often in difficult situations. Several people have passed away significantly from the rough sleeping community. In addition, there have been ongoing battles with various addictions, but many success stories of addictions have been overcome. Some of the issues presented require signposting to ensure specialist support. i.e., Beacon House and hospitals for emergency medical assessment, Citizens Advice Bureau for complex legal needs, family matters, Social Services for safeguarding issues such as self-neglect, Colchester Night Shelter, Colchester Borough Homes for housing and Open Road, GP surgeries, rehab providers for mental health and wellbeing support.

Christmas lunch has been served to the guests with turkey and Christmas pudding for everyone. This is a joyful occasion to celebrate, and often give gifts to the guests.

Eight years ago, further opportunities were developed for guests to explore and express their Christian faith. Open Door opened every Tuesday for a Bible study (Tuesday@Twelve) and Sunday for a service (Sunday@One). These quickly grew and were popular with the guests, providing an accessible form of church for those who may not be comfortable with a typical church service.

While much has changed over the years at Open Door, and there have been different directors and managers, the DNA has remained unchanged. Open Door is still a place where anyone can be welcomed, served affordable food and drink, treated with dignity and respect, listened to, and supported through whatever challenges they face. There is no typical Open Door guest, but they may be homeless, unemployed, hungry, addicted, elderly, lonely or struggling with mental illness. Thousands have been served over the years, and we trust God that many thousands more will continue to be served in the years ahead.



2. Chairman's Letter

Chairman's Letter

The past year will be remembered as a challenging year for many valued visitors as COVID lockdown restrictions eased and hotel provision ended. It was extremely sad to report that six of our regular visitors passed away due to prolonged ill health, not helped by being homeless.

We were, therefore, particularly grateful to Colchester Borough Homes for engaging the Open Door team as part of a more comprehensive provision aimed at preventing and relieving homelessness in the community. The three greatest needs recorded this year are housing support (practical), welfare emergencies (food), and welfare support (health and addiction). The Open Door team of staff and volunteers are compassionate and have a natural ability to break down barriers and build trust with visitors and stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes and wellbeing goals.

Staff

Lee, our new Director, joined in October and has settled in well. The team are really enjoying his interpersonal skills and army language. Lee has already experienced several difficult situations on the forecourt, and his training in conflict resolution has been a real bonus and blessing. Our manager, Kaoru, leads the Open All Ours Project, and her leadership, practical insights and compassionate support are well and truly appreciated.

Volunteers

We were delighted to welcome new team leaders drawn from local Churches during the year, and I'm pleased to report that we are back to strength. The 23 volunteers play a massive part in ensuring everyone can access the right support and a listening ear in a café style setting. I especially want to thank Peter Hurstell for supporting Kaoru over the summer as we waited for Lee to take up the post of Director. He provided invaluable managerial and administration support. Thank you, Peter.

Trustees & Advisors

I want to thank all the trustees and, Pam Simpson for her safeguarding support, and Mike Baker for due diligence in the independent examination of Open Door's Annual Financial Accounts.

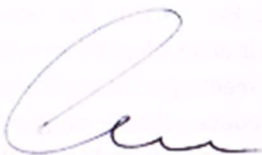
During the year, it was a tremendous honour to speak at the thanksgiving service for Rob Urand. To say thank you to Rob for his almost unparalleled contribution to Open Door over 20 years and to recognise the sacrifice that his wife Sandra made in supporting Rob as he served the visitors of Open Door as team leader and trustee. Rob Urand joined the team of volunteers in 2001, and through his professional expertise, he was instrumental in setting out the OD Constitution for charitable status. This enabled the trustees to gain grants to resource staff members and expand the work. Rob also became a trustee, providing good governance, financial management and, most importantly, feedback to the trustees as senior team leader.

There aren't many Accountants with considerable earning potential who retire at the age of 50 so that they can serve others. Rob was extraordinary.

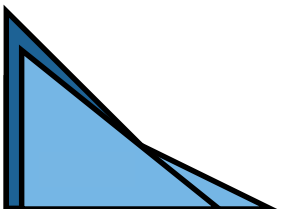
Thank you, trustees, volunteers, and advisors, for enriching the lives of literally thousands upon thousands of visitors to Open Door

Donations

We are grateful to all our stakeholders who have generously resourced the running of Open Door. Your grants, individual gifts, and grants have enabled the Open Door team to make a massive difference to all the guests at Open Door Colchester.



Tim Rose, Honorary Chairman, August 2023



3. Director's Report

As I write this, I have been in the post for six months as the new Director of Open Door Colchester. My name is Lee McDade. I have been a Christian since 1999 and have been in full-time ministry for the last 16 years, predominately working with the Military (SASRA). I became the part-time Director of Open Door and an associate minister of the Baptist Church in October 2022.

It was initially a tough transition from working with the Military back to a civilian role, but it has been incredible to see how God is working through Open Door and how the All Souls ministry has indeed impacted the lives of those who come along.

Folks come to Open Door for many reasons; some may come for advice or referrals, and some may come for a listening ear. They may be lonely and vulnerable; some come because they are in some physical need, and others come because they know we, as a Christian Charity, also offer the chance of spiritual refreshment through Bible study or prayer, which for me is so vital prayer can so often be a force multiplier. Our links with Beacon House, Colchester Borough Homes, and the night shelter are as strong as ever.

As other directors have said, Open Door must not divert too far from our main objective: offering our guests a befriending service. Some visitors find themselves at a grim time due to changing circumstances. Open Door has always been a lifeline contributing to rebuilding their lives. We long to see peace and progress in the lives of our guests.

The Open Door team do not underestimate the importance of having a friend to journey with through the low times. I am so proud of our staff and volunteers. They give their time, energy, and compassion at least one day a week to support our guests. Their sacrifice for others is admirable and worthy of highlighting in my report.

Foodbank

Working in partnership with Colchester Foodbank as a satellite hub in the Colchester City centre is a privilege. Being in the centre of the town means that those who live nearby without vehicles can easily access the service. We provide food to hundreds of people who are in need every year. Post-Covid, more individuals and families are on the breadline due to the rise in fuel and energy prices. We could never say that providing for so many people is a "success", but we are grateful that we can help throughout this challenging time.

Working alongside Foodbank allows Open Door to further support people by offering them more than just food. By spending time with people, we can help find the root of the problem and help them accordingly to move towards a better life.

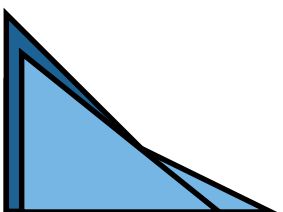
As I have said, discipleship is still a massive part of what we do here at Open Door and Tuesday@Twelve. It allows our guests to learn more about the Bible, and we always attempt to make it applicable to the situation. It is astonishing to see those with mental health-related issues engage. It is incredible to witness those who lack confidence read aloud. It is phenomenal to hear people from all walks of life recall different stories and events from the Bible and share what each verse means to them. Sunday@One also allows those who would not usually feel comfortable in a traditional church setting to feel safe in their environment. 10-20 people attend both meetings.

Hope Explored

Hope Explored looks at the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in Luke's Gospel; this three-session series shows that Christianity is about real hope: a joyful expectation for the future based on actual events in the past, which changes everything about my present. Hope Explored does not require a considerable time commitment from guests and is one of the easiest ways to introduce someone to Christianity. The Christianity Explored series is aimed as a follow-up course for those eager to explore the Christian faith more. It has been great to lead at least three sessions with some of our guests from Open Door. The structure of each session is simple: a short Bible study, a talk, and a discussion based on the talk. Style is very informal, and we try to create an environment where everyone feels comfortable and welcome, able to share their thoughts without judgment or embarrassment; the last three sessions have seen over thirty people attend.

As I have alluded to previously, we long to see real, true peace and progress in the lives of our guests, which I believe comes through much prayer and proclamation, patience, and partnership. I truly value your support. We give God all the glory for what He continues to do through this ministry.

Lee McDade
Director



4. Report on the Public Benefit

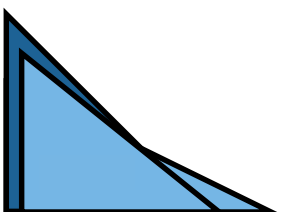
The aims of Open Door are two-fold.

- ✓ The provision of facilities, resources, and practical support, with the object of improving the conditions of life for those in need in Colchester.
- ✓ Advancing the Christian faith

These aims have been the focus of the work of Open Door in 2022. The Sunday@One and Tuesday@Twelve ministries have provided the main opportunities for advancing the Christian faith. These provide informal and accessible opportunities for guests to explore or express their Christian faith. Anyone is welcome to these events and is encouraged to participate as much as they feel comfortable.

The provision of emotional and practical support is primarily through our regular drop-in sessions. These are open to anyone, and everyone is treated equally regardless of their circumstances or past. We can refer guests to appropriate agencies that they may not otherwise know about. In addition, we regularly help with phone calls and filling in forms. We serve food and drink at very reasonable prices and offer a willing listening ear.

Many people have found great help from their involvement in Open Door; for some, we are the only agency in Colchester whose services they access. We provide a community and safe space to belong for those who are lonely, and crisis support for those who need it.



5. Treasurer's Report

The Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 follow this Report and should be read with the accompanying notes.

We are very grateful to the Essex Community Foundation and Colchester Borough Council for their grants to support specific aspects of our work.

The continuing support of Colchester Baptist Church (through a donation and allowing the use of their premises without charge) is much appreciated.

The support of other Churches in Colchester and District is valued by Open Door; we would also like to thank the talented volunteers who regularly give their time, but also because of the generous donations to our work over many years. We continue to benefit from around 35 individual monthly contributions ranging from £5 to £300, averaging £600 monthly.

Donations from the Baptist Insurance Company and other grants from Churches and businesses are much appreciated.

David Prentice retired from administering our payroll during the year, and his expertise, diligence and tenacity will be especially missed by the 'Treasurer'. Big thank you.

Again, we thank Michael Baker FCCA for his work examining these accounts.

Grant Duminy
Honorary Treasurer
September 2022

6. Accounts: Open Door Colchester

Accounts for the period 1st January – 31st December 2022

1. Receipts and Payments: General Fund

	2022	2021
Receipts		
Donations and Grants		
Colchester Baptist Church	5,000	1,125
Other Churches	750	400
Other Bodies	38,236	16,915
Individuals	7,765	7,343
Total Donations and Grants	51,751	25,783
Receipts from Activities		
Sale of Refreshments	891	693
Sponsored Walk and Cycle Ride	0	1,863
Total receipts from Activities	891	2,556
Other Income		
JRC Grant	0	3,493
Interest on Deposit Accounts	144	146
Income Tax refunded on Gift-Aided Donations	0	1,351
Total Receipts	52,787	33,329

	2022	2021
Payments		
Direct costs of supporting Guests		
Payments and loans to or on behalf of Guests	0	0
Food and Refreshments	2,037	2,211
"Compassion" payments	1,520	0
Total Direct Costs	3,558	2,211
Costs of running Open Door – Colchester		
Salaries, Pension and National Insurance	41,405	38,687
Staff training costs	236	0
Telephone line rental, calls and broadband	584	369
Insurances	547	512
Purchase of Equipment	437	1,930
Administration materials, etc.	87	0
Miscellaneous Costs	0	15
Total Running Costs	43,295	41,513
Total Payments	46,853	43,724
Increase (Decrease) in Funds over the Period	5,934	-10,395
Balance brought forward from previous Period	28,234	38,629
Balance carried forward	34,168	28,234

Richard Green Special Needs Fund

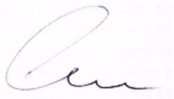
Donation received	0	0
Payments made	0	0
Balance carried forward	805	805

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities - 31st December

	2022	2021
Bank balances, etc., held		
CAF cash account	39,669	4,638
Deposit with the ADFC		0
Epworth cash plus	4,454	14,401
Shawbrook Bank	0	10,000
Liabilities		
Prepayment of grant	-9,150	0
Total Assets	34,973	29,040

Representing balances on Receipts and Payments Accounts

General Fund	34,168	28,234
Richard Green Special Needs Fund	805	805
Total Funds	34,973	29,039



Signed on behalf of the Trustee.
Tim Rose



Signed - Independent examiner.
Mike Baker FCCA

Notes on the Accounts

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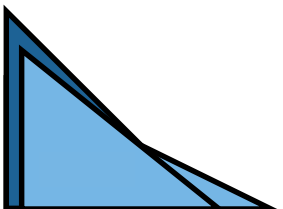
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- William Butcher, Honorary Secretary
- Grant Duminy, Honorary Treasurer
- Peter Hurstell, Safeguarding
- Brenda Reade
- Sandra Stockwell, Fundraising
- Darren Greenfield

The part-time Director controls the day-to-day work of Open Door, Lee McDade, assisted by the almost full-time drop-in Manager, Kaoru Magee. Open Door continues to take full responsibility for Sunday@One (an informal Sunday service) and Tuesday@Twelve (an informal Bible Study). The Director's hours cover part of this ministry. Open Door operates on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays with groups of helpers led by Team Leader Anne Jonas. There are approximately 23 volunteers.



8. Financial Policies

Investments

The investment funds possessed by Open Door – Colchester have been relatively small and are not held for the long term. Hitherto, the Trustees have considered it appropriate for funds not immediately needed for current expenses to be placed on deposit. These funds are placed in an account with the Affirmative Deposit Fund for Charities (ADFC) operated by Epworth Investment Management (associated with the Methodist Church) and the CAF/ Shawbrook Bank to gain interest while retaining immediate access to the funds.

A current account is held with the CAF Bank to manage the day-to-day needs of Open Door.

Reserves

We currently have a balance of £4,454 in interest-bearing deposit accounts.

Grants and Loans

Open Door – Colchester does not make significant grants to individuals (or organisations). Small sums of money to assist with living expenses, delays in receiving benefits, etc., are provided for individual guests in appropriate cases at the discretion of the Director, Manager or Team Leaders. When feasible, these sums are provided in the form of loans and repayment terms agreed with the Guest. Otherwise, the money is given without strings attached.

9. Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Executive Committee (as Trustees) and members of Open Door Colchester (Charity no. 1101675) on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 set out on the preceding pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Executive Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Committee considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,

- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the Report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

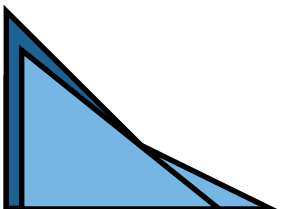
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 - to keep accounting records by section 130 of the Charities Act.
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

18th September 2023

Signed: independent Examiner



MG Baker FCA, 118 Chapel Road, West Bergholt, Colchester, C06 3EZ.



OPEN DOOR COLCHESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1101675

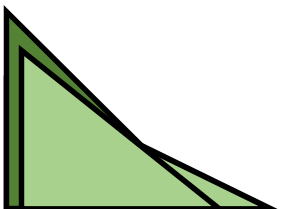
Accounts



Open Door - Colchester Annual Report 2021

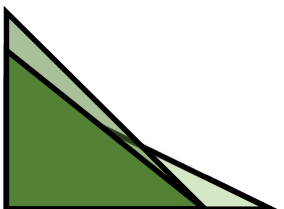


Registered charity number: 1101675



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History and Background

Open Door began after some church members invited a few young drug users for coffee and biscuits. In response to the obvious need for help, support and somewhere to go, Open Door was born in September 1986. Initially, six volunteers opened up the church vestibule for just two hours a week. This quickly became four hours a week, then three days a week soon after. The volunteers were able to welcome people with a wide variety of needs and could listen, support and form relationships with those they were welcoming.

After five years in cramped conditions in the vestibule, it was decided that a church lounge would be built. This building project also included an office that enabled confidential conversations to happen and the use of a telephone. During this period, three team leaders were appointed, one for each day that Open Door was open, all under the leadership of the Director.

Listening and counselling, formal or informal, were at the heart of what Open Door offered. It is a very informal setting where people can come and go as they please. Guests can sit quietly on their own, or one of the team will always be happy to talk with them.

Open Door has been grounded in prayer from the beginning, with the team meeting to pray each morning. Many people have come to find faith in Jesus through the work of Open Door, and many others have benefitted emotionally or practically from their involvement in the charity.

There have been many challenging moments over the years as guests are often in challenging situations. A number of people have passed away significantly from the rough sleeping community. In addition, there have been ongoing battles with various addictions, but many success stories of addictions have been beaten.

Drug addictions have often been a very common challenge experienced by guests. In recent years, mental health has become the dominant challenge faced by the guests to Open Door.

In 1994, Cornerstone came to life as a form of church for those who struggled with 'normal' churches. Until September 2018, they met weekly in the back room of the Odd One Out pub in Colchester.

A couple of years after that Beacon House was set up as a separate charity (originally named Open Door Primary Health Care Centre) that focussed entirely on those who were homeless or at risk of homelessness.

For over 20 years, a Christmas lunch has been served to the guests with turkey and Christmas pudding for everyone. This is a joyful occasion to celebrate and often give gifts to the guests.

In 2004, Open Door – Colchester was registered as its own charity with the Charity Commission. Strong links have remained between Open Door and Colchester Baptist Church, and they continue to allow the use of their premises free of charge.

Over seven years ago, further opportunities were developed for guests to explore and express their Christian faith. Open Door opened every Tuesday for a Bible study (called Tuesday@Twelve) and every Sunday for a service (called Sunday@One). These quickly grew and were popular with the guests providing an accessible form of church for those who again may not be comfortable with 'normal' church.

While much has changed over the years at Open Door, and there have been six different Directors, the DNA has remained unchanged. Open Door is still a place where anyone can come to be welcomed, served affordable food and drink, treated with dignity and respect, listened to and supported through whatever challenges they face. There is no typical Open Door guest, but they may be homeless, unemployed, hungry, addicted, elderly, lonely or struggling with mental illness. Thousands have been served over the years, and we trust God that many thousands more will continue to be served in the years ahead.

Chairman's Letter

Chairman's Letter

"Resilience" had undoubtedly been one of the underlying themes in 2021. The year started with another bout of 'lockdown' and finished the year operating 'at full steam' with the plan to open on an additional weekday – Tuesdays. However, support continued throughout lockdown, with staff and volunteers contacting guests to check whether they were 'OK' or if they needed any help. Critical issues encountered during lockdown included increased loneliness, poor mental health and bereavement. Food parcels were prepared and distributed through Beacon House during the second lockdown. Through God's wonderful provision of resources and a team of compassionate, resilient staff and volunteers, Open Door had again been able to fulfil its two charitable objectives as set out in its Constitution, providing services such as refreshments, listening, caring, signposting, and Christian-based support to those in need in the Colchester area.

Staff

In July this year, our Director, Rev Simon Heard, moved to take the lead role at Watford Baptist Church. We are grateful to Simon for his innovation and passion. Lee McDade joins as the new Director in October. Lee's experience at SASRA of dealing with the human condition, often among the vulnerable, has prepared him for his new role. His leadership skills and passion for life in all its fullness will undoubtedly be of great benefit to the team and guests. A big thank you to Kaoru for taking on increased responsibilities during the change of Directors and for shouldering the increased challenges of lockdown.

Volunteers

The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns resulted in around two-thirds of Open Door's volunteer staff (many of whom were vulnerable by age and health conditions) having to stand down / retire. However, an overriding culture of compassion has led to innovation, with many people coming forward to offer their services and help. We were delighted to welcome new team leaders drawn from local Churches' Hannah (Colchester Baptist), Anna (Orchard Baptist) and Nicky (St John's C of E). Long-term volunteer Dr Mary Isaacs recently moved to Chicago, and the visitors and volunteers will miss her happy disposition. Thank you, Mary.

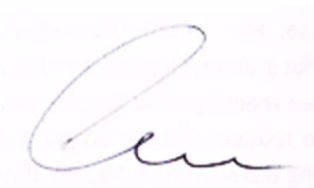
Trustees & Advisors

Ted Drake, our 'Honorary' Treasurer since 2004, stood down at the October AGM. We are exceedingly grateful to Ted for his sage financial management and oversight as a Trustee. His knowledge and wisdom will be greatly missed. Grant Duminy joined as a trustee and was appointed Treasurer at the AGM. Darren Greenfield joined as a new trustee. Rev Cole Maynard (trustee) resigned in December as he moved to a new church in Ipswich. A big thank you to Cole for his mentorship to the Director and his training skills and for being an enthusiastic Ambassador of the work of Open Door. I thank the trustees and Pam Simpson for her safeguarding support and Mike Baker for due diligence in the independent examination of Open Door's Annual Financial Accounts.

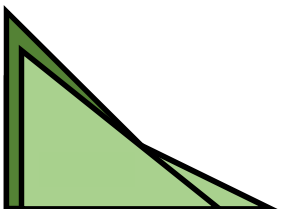
Donations

We are grateful to all our stakeholders who have generously resourced the running of Open Door. Your grants, individual gifts, and legacies have enabled the Open Door team to make a massive difference to hundreds of guests at Open Door Colchester.

Recognition and thanks are also due to Gerry Linderman, a guest of many years standing for his remarkable efforts and tenacity in raising funds for Open Door. In September, Gerry completed the Open Door sponsored walk of 8 miles around Alton Water and raised over £1,800- a personal best! Over the years, Gerry had proved to be Open Door's most significant individual fundraiser!



Tim Rose, Honorary Chairman, August 2022



Director's Report

Post-Covid

In the last report, I mentioned that we found ourselves having to adapt our services to help people in need due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Now we are “post-Covid”, we are aware that more people than before find themselves needing support for either practical or mental health needs.

Thankfully, we have extended our opening days to 5 days a week. For the first time ever, we have been able to open our café/drop-in on Tuesdays. This is one step closer to our vision to open every day of the week.

It is important that Open Door doesn't divert too far from our main objective: which is to offer a befriending service to our guests. Some people may find themselves at a particular difficult time in their life due to a change in their circumstances; Open Door has always been a lifeline that has contributed to rebuilding their life. We do not underestimate how important it is to have a friend to journey with through the low times. That is why I am very proud of our staff and volunteers. They give their time, energy and compassion at least one day a week (some give more) to support our guests. Their sacrifice for others is admirable and worthy of highlighting in my report.

Kintsugi Hope

It is nationally recognised that the pandemic has further contributed to an already growing rise of mental health issues in the UK. This prompted us to think about offering to our guests, a wellbeing peer support group. Over the last few months 6 of our volunteers have been trained up as Kintsugi Group Leaders.

The first group that we hosted was initially attended by 8 people, 5 of whom stayed the course. People really felt that it was beneficial in maintaining their mental wellbeing. Due to the success of the first 9-week session, we have decided to run another course in spring 2022.

Foodbank

It is a privilege to work in partnership with Colchester Foodbank as a satellite hub in the Colchester Town Centre (soon to be a city). Being in the centre of the town means that those who live nearby that are without vehicles can easily access the service. We provide food to hundreds of people a year who find themselves in need. Post-Covid, more individuals and families find themselves on the breadline due to the rise in fuel and energy prices. We could never say that providing for so many people is a “success”, but we are grateful that we are able to help throughout this tough time. Working alongside Foodbank gives Open Door an opportunity to further support people by offering them more than just food. By spending time with people, we can help find the root of the problem and help them accordingly to move towards a better life.

Discipleship

It is fundamental that we do everything to help and support people with whatever practical need they might be facing. However, we often find that even though people get back on their feet, they still feel something lacking in their life. One of my most treasured verses from the Bible is taken from the famous Psalm 23, “the Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing”.

Many of our volunteers have had similar experiences to that of some of our guests. At one point, life was lacking in some way, but now we experience the hope of knowing God. Many can attest to the meaning and purpose Jesus brings to their lives and want others to experience the fullness of life that Jesus promised. We don't ever want to force people to believe what we believe, but we simply share our own testimony in the hope that God can too.

Tuesday at 12 offers our guests the opportunity to learn more about the Bible, and we always attempt to make it applicable to our lives. It is astonishing to see those with mental health-related issues engage. It is amazing to witness those who lack confidence read out loud. It is phenomenal to hear people from all walks of life recall different stories and events from the Bible and share what each verse means to them. Sunday at 1 (The Circle) also gives those who wouldn't usually feel comfortable in a traditional church setting to feel safe in their own environment. Both of these meetings are attended by 10-20 people.

A Big Thank you

We are so grateful to **Colchester Baptist Church** for their constant support of the work of Open Door. They allow us to use their Church lounge as a drop-in centre and also provide a substantial donation each year.

Likewise, we are grateful to all those who give regular donations each month. These small donations together make a huge difference to the running of this service.

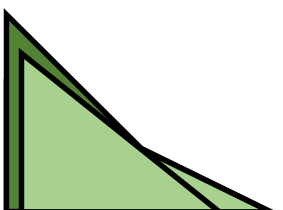
We continue to thank **Essex County Council** for their support to us in helping with support those who suffer from mental health-related issues or loneliness.

I want to thank **Essex Community Foundation** for obtaining a grant so that we could open the extra day for our guests.

We look forward to working closely with **Colchester Borough Homes** in 2022 to help prevent homelessness. Thank you to the team that works closely with our manager.

Thank you to **MIND**, who releases Hannah one day a week to spend time talking to our visitors.

Rev Simon Heard, April 2022.



Report on the Public Benefit

The aims of Open Door are two-fold:

- ✓ Advancing the Christian faith; and
- ✓ The provision of facilities, resources, and practical support, with the object of improving the conditions of life for those in need in Colchester.

These aims have been the focus of the work of Open Door in 2019. The Sunday@One and Tuesday@Twelve ministries have provided the main opportunities for advancing the Christian faith. These provide informal and accessible opportunities for guests to explore or express their Christian faith. Anyone is welcome to these events and is encouraged to participate as much as they feel comfortable.

The provision of emotional and practical support is primarily through our regular drop-in sessions. These are open to anyone at all, and everyone is treated equally regardless of their circumstances or past. We can refer guests to appropriate agencies that they may not otherwise know about. In addition, we regularly help with phone calls and filling in forms. We serve food and drink at very reasonable prices and offer a willing listening ear.

Many people have found great help from their involvement in Open Door, and for some, we are the only agency in Colchester whose services they access. We provide a community and safe space to belong for those who are lonely and crisis support for those who need it.

Client Stories

If you have any problem, this is the right place for talking: no discrimination, no judgement.

Your place is the best place for helping people. If you need attention, the staff are here for you.

Marius, Guest

If I am feeling down, the staff will talk to me which makes me feel better.

Carol, Guest

This place has helped me a lot. You get help and things like that. They help people with their mind.

Dennis, Guest

It is very good what you do here, you help people a lot. If it weren't for people like you there would be a lot of people who wouldn't have anywhere to go.

Kevin, Guest

Everybody helps me, they listen to me. They know about my disabilities. I have friends here.

I really like Sunday@One and Tuesday@Twelve, they make me think more. I learn more about the Bible

Gerry, Guest

I have been coming since 2001 now and have found it a place of great help and of friendship. Nowhere else in town can you get tea & coffee for 10p. It has been a great help over the years.

Bob, Guest

If I'm honest, I think it is the most rewarding experience I have ever had

Tim, Volunteer

Treasurer's Report

The Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 follow this Report and should be read with the accompanying notes.

We are very grateful to the Essex Community Foundation and Colchester Borough Council for their grants to the value of £16,900 in support of specific aspects of our work.

The continuing support of Colchester Baptist Church (through a donation and allowing the use of their premises without charge) is much appreciated. The support of other Churches in Colchester and District is valued by Open Door, primarily for 20 talented volunteers who regularly give their time, but also because of the generous donations to our work over many years.

We continue to benefit from around 35 individual monthly donations ranging from £5 to £300 and averaging £600 a month and from Gerry Linden's fruitful fundraising activities.

Donations from the Baptist Insurance Company and donor grants are much appreciated

We are again grateful to David Prentice on Payroll and Michael Baker FCCA for his work in Examining the Accounts.

Grant Duminy
Honorary Treasurer
July 2022

Accounts: Open Door Colchester

Accounts for the period 1st January – 31st December 2021

1. Receipts and Payments: General Fund

	2021	2020
Receipts		
Donations and Grants		
Colchester Baptist Church	11,250	1,100
Other Churches	400	1,859
Other Bodies	16,915	23,000
Individuals	7,343	11,322
Total Donations and Grants	25,783	37,281
Receipts from Activities		
Sale of Refreshments	693	613
Sponsored Walk and Cycle Ride	1,863	0
Loans refunded by Guests	0	291
Sale of cards, etc.	0	7
Total receipts from Activities	2,555	911
Other Income	0	19
JRC Grant	3,493	0
Legacy	0	5,000
Interest on Deposit Accounts	146	484
Income Tax refunded on Gift-Aided Donations	1,351	1,307
Total Receipts	33,328	45,002

Payments	2021	2020
Direct costs of supporting Guests		
Payments and loans to or on behalf of Guests	0	656
Food and Refreshments	2,211	2,228
"Compassion" payments	0	168
Total Direct Costs	2,221	3,052
Costs of running Open Door – Colchester		
Salaries, Pension and National Insurance	38,687	37,024
Staff training costs	0	283
Telephone line rental, calls and broadband	369	312
Insurances	512	535
Purchase of Equipment	1,930	1,622
Administration materials, etc.	0	677
Miscellaneous Costs	15	105
Total Running Costs	41,513	40,558
Total Payments	43,734	43,610
Increase (Decrease) in Funds over the Period	-10,395	1,392
Balance brought forward from previous Period	38,629	37,237
Balance carried forward	28,234	38,629

Richard Green Special Needs Fund

Donation received	0	0
Payments made	0	30
Balance carried forward	805	805

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities - 31st December

	2021	2020
Bank balances, etc., held		
CAF cash account	4,638	2,534
Deposit with the ADFC		0
Epworth cash plus	14,401	26,900
Shawbrook Bank	10,000	10,000
Cash and Cheques	0	0
Total Assets	29,039	39,434

Representing balances on Receipts and Payments Accounts

General Fund	28,234	38,629
Richard Green Special Needs Fund	805	805
Total Funds	29,039	39,434

Notes on the Accounts

- 1. Accounting Policy:** in view of its size, Open Door's accounts are presented on a "receipts and payments" basis in accordance with Sections 132 & 133 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2. Status:** Open Door – Colchester became a Registered Charity (No 1101675) on 22nd January 2004.
- 3. Donations and Grants:** large donations and grants given to Open Door are listed in the Treasurer's Report. Other Churches and bodies in and around Colchester continue to give much-appreciated support, both in money and prayer.
- 4. Gift Aid Income Tax refund:** many individual donations have been made under the Gift Aid Scheme. The tax reclaims in respect of donations made in 2021 are included in these accounts.
- 5. The Richard Green Special Needs Fund:** this Fund arose from specific donations – its purpose is to help Open Door buy items such as sleeping bags, tents, etc., for Guests with particular needs. Mr Green has generously continued these donations.
- 6. Borrowings:** Open Door owes money to no one. The Director and Team Leaders are provided with floats out of which they make small grants and loans to Guests.
- 7. Insurances:** Open Door holds insurance cover for Public and Employer's Liability, Trustees' Indemnity and Legal expenses. Insurance cover for buildings and contents is held by Colchester Baptist Church, on whose premises Open Door operates.

Management and Constitution

Open Door – Colchester was constituted as a charity separate from Colchester Baptist Church on 25th November 2003 and registered with the Charity Commission on 22nd January 2004 (registered number 1101675).

Open Door is managed by an Executive Committee of between 5 and 12 members, including

- Honorary Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) elected at each Annual General Meeting
- Ex Officio, the Senior Minister for the time being of Colchester Baptist Church
- Nominated members who are practising Christians and the majority of whom are members of Colchester Baptist Church, appointed by the Deacons of that Church

Membership of the Executive Committee and Trustees during 2021

- Tim Rose, Honorary Chairman
- William Butcher, Honorary Secretary
- Ted Drake, Honorary Treasurer (until October AGM)
- Grant Duminy Honorary Treasurer (from October AGM)
- Revd. Cole Maynard, Senior Minister of Colchester Baptist Church
- Peter Hurstell, Safeguarding
- Brenda Reade
- Darren Greenfield (from May)
- Sandra Stockwell, Fundraising)
- Rob Urand (until April)

The part-time Director controls the day-to-day work of Open Door; Reverend Simon Heard, assisted by the almost full-time drop-in Manager, Kaoru Magee. Open Door continues to take full responsibility for Sunday@One (an informal Sunday service) and Tuesday@Twelve (an informal Bible Study). The Director's hours cover part of this ministry. Open Door operates on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays with groups of helpers led by Team Leaders Hannah, Anna and Nikki. There are approximately 20 volunteers in total

Financial Policies

Investments

The investment funds possessed by Open Door – Colchester have been relatively small and are not held for the long term. Hitherto, the Trustees have considered it appropriate for funds not immediately needed for current expenses to be placed on deposit. These funds are placed in an account with the Affirmative Deposit Fund for Charities (ADFC) operated by Epworth Investment Management (associated with the Methodist Church) and the CAF/ Shawbrook Bank in order to gain interest while retaining immediate access to the funds.

A current account is held with the CAF Bank to manage the day-to-day needs of Open Door.

Reserves

We currently have a balance of £24,401 in interest-bearing deposit accounts.

Grants and Loans

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- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
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Basis of independent examiner's statement

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Signed:

M. C. Baker

Date: 29th September 2022

MG Baker FCA, 118 Chapel Road, West Bergholt, Colchester, C06 3EZ

OPEN DOOR COLCHESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1101675

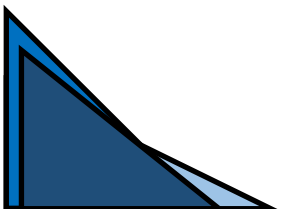
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Open Door - Colchester Annual Report and Accounts 2020

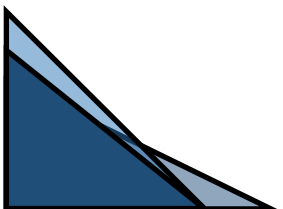


Registered charity number: 1101675



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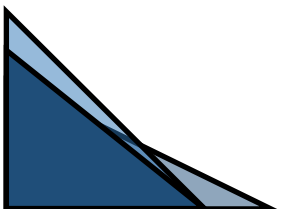
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There have been many challenging moments over the years as guests are often in tough situations. Several people have passed away, especially from the rough sleeping community. In addition, there have been ongoing battles with various addictions but with several success stories of addictions having been beaten.

At times, drug addictions have been a prevalent challenge experienced by the guests. In recent years, mental health has become the dominant challenge faced by guests to Open Door.



Take Away Lunches being served during the Lock Down



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A couple of years after that, Beacon House was set up as a separate charity (originally named Open Door Primary Health Care Centre) that focussed entirely on those who were homeless or at risk of homelessness.

For over 20 years, there has been a Christmas lunch served to the guests with turkey and Christmas pudding for everyone. This has been a joyful occasion to celebrate and often give gifts to the guests.

In 2004, Open Door – Colchester was registered with the Charity Commission as a separate entity. Strong links have remained between Open Door and Colchester Baptist Church, and they continue to allow the use of their premises free of charge.

Over eight years ago, further opportunities were developed for guests to explore and express their Christian faith. Open Door opened every Tuesday for a Bible study (called Tuesday@Twelve) and Sunday for a service (called Sunday@One). These quickly grew and were popular with the guests providing an accessible form of Church for those who again may not be comfortable with 'normal' Church.

While much has changed over the years at Open Door and seven Directors, the DNA has remained unchanged. Open Door is still a place where anyone can come to be welcomed, served very affordable food and drink, treated with dignity and respect, listened to and supported through whatever challenges they are facing.

There is no typical Open Door guest, but they may be homeless, unemployed, hungry, addicted, elderly, lonely or struggling with mental illness. Thousands have been served over the years, and we trust God that many thousands more will continue to be served in the years ahead.

Chairman's Letter

The Chairman's letter often and for excellent reasons starts with a very 'big' thank-you to the many caring volunteers (25+) that make Open Door such a welcoming and supportive drop-in centre.

2020 proved quite challenging with Covid-19 infections spreading and government restrictions forcing meeting places and cafes to close. How do you respond to meet the needs of clients who are often affected more than most? For some, the Open Door Community is their only family (see Stories on page 12). In addition, the Director and Manager had fewer hands to serve as many of the volunteers were at retirement age, and were forced to shelter. How the team rose to the challenge is wonderfully described in enclosed reports.

Staff. In July, we welcomed Simon Heard as Director, assisted by our newly appointed drop-in Manager Kaoru Magee. Simon and Kaoru have previously worked together at Open Door enhancing a great team spirit.

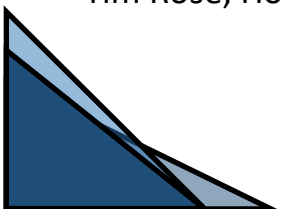
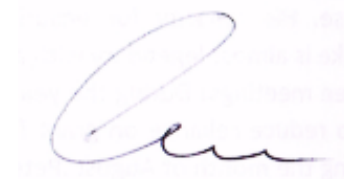
Volunteers. Rob Urand, Anna William and Diane Green announced that they are retiring. Words cannot express the debt of gratitude as each of these beautiful people have served Open Door for over 20 years. A tribute video from clients and staff is available on our website.

Trustees & Advisors. I am again grateful to the team of nine trustees and two advisers (Safeguarding & Independent Financial Examiner) who together ensure that the organisation is run with good best practice and flexible to serve the changing needs of the visitors. Mark Skull retired at the AGM after many years of loyal service providing invaluable practical support. Rob Urand announced his retirement as a trustee and team leader. We are most grateful to Rob for providing the trustee board with a deep insight into the visitors' needs and volunteer mentoring throughout his long tenure. Grant Duminy joined in December and took on the role of Assistant Treasurer. Peter Hurstell and Sandra Stockwell gained extra 'titles' (Safeguarding and Grant Funding)

Donations. The work relies entirely on legacy gifts, the generosity of donors, and individual gifts, as well as valuable stakeholder support to enable Open door Colchester to continue for over 30 years. A massive thank you to all our supporters

Best wishes,

Tim Rose, Honorary Chairman, June 2021



Director's Report

New Role as Director

I want to give thanks for the fantastic work of our previous Director Peter Dale over these last four years. Many people have recognised his calling to the Church of England to train to become a vicar. I am personally grateful to Peter for making my life easier by giving me sufficient instruction to hand over the Directors role.



Saying goodbye to Peter

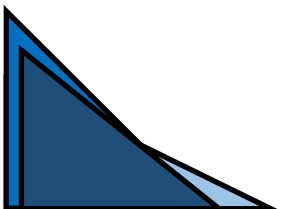
When I agreed to take on the role of Director, I could not have anticipated that I would be working under the condition of a global pandemic. Most of my vision for Open Door involves connection and interaction with people, getting alongside our guests, spending time listening and looking for ways to support and encourage. Many of our visitors rely on Open Door throughout the week for either sustenance, assistance or good company. However, most find themselves somewhat isolated with insufficient support in Colchester town due to the Government restrictions around Covid 19. Therefore, since I started in July 2020, we have tried to be consistently creative by looking at ways to remain open while keeping both guests and volunteers safe.

A Big Thank you

We are so grateful to Colchester Baptist Church for their constant support of the work of Open Door. The biggest blessing is that they allow us to use their Church lounge as a drop-in centre that has its own amazing caretaker Brian! The Church also has a relatively large car park/forecourt directly outside its building, which has been ideal for the work of Open Door throughout this pandemic (as we haven't been able to allow gathering in our building due to Government restrictions). We are also grateful to Colchester Baptist Church for all their support and annual donation. Likewise, we are thankful to all those who give a regular gift each month.



Opening after the Lockdown



Operation during Covid

Staff and Volunteers



We welcome Kaoru Magee as the new drop-in manager who took over from Graham Last. Kaoru is a deacon at Colchester Baptist Church but has been an avid advocate for Open Door and has given much of her time as a volunteer team leader and volunteer over the years. I was delighted to hear that Kaoru was joining us, as I know that she has such a heart and compassion for our guests.

At the start of the pandemic, the Government advise those who were either vulnerable or over 70 to self isolate. This included two-third of our volunteers, including our team leaders. Therefore, we had to campaign for more volunteers. We created a video subsequently posted on our Facebook and YouTube page and shown in some local churches. We were overwhelmed by the response - with 3,600 views online, we could bolster our teams to serve our guests each day adequately. We have recruited three new team leaders: Ann Jonas, Hannah Crome and Nicci Lambert, who work alongside our drop-on manager, Kaoru Magee. We also have an amazingly diverse collection of volunteers, all of whom are dedicated and have such a heart for people. We hope and pray that the volunteers who have had to isolate during the pandemic will be able to rejoin us, as the Open Door team and our guests miss them immensely. With that said, many of the volunteers have been able to maintain a connection with our guests by making regular telephone calls, recognising that isolation can cause anxiety due to loneliness for some.



Operation Forecourt

Throughout the summer and autumn months, we have operated as a café drop-in centre on the forecourt. The volunteers would offer table service to our guests while adhering to the Governments guidelines, serving on average 40 people each day. Not only were people able to be nourished, but they would get the support they needed through this difficult time. We purchased two large gazebos to shield our guests from the sun and protect them from the rain. This does give extra work for the volunteers, but it is worth it, as you can see from the photo, they are well used and enjoyed by our guests.



Takeaway Lunches

The forecourt has been a real blessing during the warmer months, but it became too cold to remain outside during October. We were looking at ways to utilise the hall in the Church building, but then the Government issued another lockdown.

For the remainder of the year, we offered “takeaway” lunches and support to our visitors. This was an essential service provided for those desperately in need. Thankfully, we were donated enough pheasant curry and stew to feed an army. On average, we have been able to feed about 20 people each day.

Every year in December, we have hosted a large banquet style Christmas dinner for our guests, which can seat up to 80 people. Even though this was impossible to achieve during the lockdown, we offered a “takeaway” Christmas dinner. We were also able to give out a Christian gift parcel to everyone who came. We are grateful to St Johns church and Sue Caulfield (from Halstead) for making up a total of 80 Christmas gift bags. All of the food and nearly all the gift bags were given out. Many of our visitors wouldn't have the luxury of such beautiful presents at this time of year, so it was lovely to be able to bless them this year.



We hope to utilise the forecourt through this difficult period. We will be looking to get some more appropriate and lighter furniture, with the possibility of another gazebo in the future. With that said, we hope and pray that we will be able to open up our indoor Café next year to spend more time chatting with our guests.

Challenging Times

As we come out of lockdown, we are aware that the needs will be greater than before. People have spent a significant amount of time in isolation, the need for interaction with others is paramount. We have noticed a significant increase in mental health issues due to solitude. Mental health awareness has always been at the heart of what we do; therefore, we will continue to look at ways to help people back to mental wellbeing. As the furlough scheme is removed and once the Government no longer house the homeless in hotels, people will need additional support. We will seek to work with other organisations to help meet this need.

Colchester Central Foodbank



One of the greatest needs in 2020 was people finding themselves in the predicament of not afford food for themselves or their families. We decided to team up with Colchester Foodbank to become a Foodbank satellite. We began our training in November and held our open day in the first week of

December. We were grateful to the Mayor and Mayoress, Mike Becket (CEO of Colchester Foodbank), Lee Sordis (Local councillor), Rev. Cole Maynard (Senior Minister of Colchester Baptist Church), and many others for a fantastic opening ceremony. We planned to open only one day a week to start, but it wasn't long before we decided to open



up three days a week. We are giving out up to 10 food parcels each day and helping others with smaller parcels as the need arises. Subsequently, Colchester Foodbank has moved their premises to Stanway (significantly further than their original base in Colchester). Therefore, we recognise the great need for having a Colchester Town Centre Foodbank. Going forward, we are looking to erect an outbuilding on the forecourt (subject to funds and permission) for storage and a hub to operate from.

Spiritual Need

We will always focus on giving practical support to our guests, and as I have mentioned before, this need will be far greater in 2021. We are also aware that the spiritual needs of our guests are just as important. Even though we have been able to keep in touch with some of our guests, many miss coming to our Tuesday Bible study and our Sunday time of fellowship, Sunday at One. We covet the day when we will be able to reignite these ministries operating from the building. However, we intend to make good use of the forecourt when restrictions ease. It is often said that, due to this pandemic, we have a blank canvas to work with. We intend to be sensitive to what God is saying, as spiritual needs arise, we want to point people to the One who can offer Salvation and wholeness. Sharing the love of Jesus remains central to everything we do at Open Door; we do not doubt that this love will be increasingly attractive to many people in our community.

Rev Simon Heard, March 2021. director@opendoorcolchester.co.uk

Report on the Public Benefit

The aims of Open Door are two-fold:

1. Advancing the Christian faith; and
2. The provision of facilities, resources, and practical support, with the object of improving the conditions of life for those in need in Colchester.

These aims have been the focus of the work of Open Door in 2019. The Sunday@One and Tuesday@Twelve ministries have provided the main opportunities for advancing the Christian faith. These provide informal and accessible options for guests to explore or express their Christian faith. Anyone is welcome to these events and is encouraged to participate as much as they feel comfortable.

The provision of emotional and practical support is primarily through our regular drop-in sessions. These are open to anyone, and everyone is treated equally regardless of their circumstances or past. We can refer guests to appropriate agencies that they may not otherwise know about. In addition, we regularly help with phone calls and filling in forms. We serve food and drink at very reasonable prices and offer a willing listening ear.

Many people have found great help from their involvement in Open Door, and for some, we are the only agency in Colchester whose services they access. We provide a community and safe space to belong for those who are lonely, and crisis support for those who need it.

Stories

I have struggled for 7 years as a rough sleeper and suffered from alcohol addiction (40 years), but now I have finally been housed in Colchester and am doing much better. I am grateful to Kaoru (our manager) for her help over the last few months.

Mary, Guest

I frequently visit Open Door and attend the Tuesday fellowship at 12pm. I was diagnosed with schizophrenia but manage it extremely well. I find that spending time at Open Door helps me and gives me the support I need.

Michael, Guest

I was a heroin addict when I came to Open Door and addicted to prescription drugs. I suffered with rejection from a child as my father left me when I was five years old. The volunteers took time to pray with me every time I came to Open Door. You never gave up on me. The discipleship on Tuesday and wisdom of the volunteers has helped me get my life back on track.

Claire, Guest

Gerry is an inspiration to everyone at Open Door. Even though he is wheelchair bound (he has cerebral palsy), it doesn't stop Gerry from helping Open Door raise money. Every year he raises well over £1,000.

Gerry, Guest

It made me feel vaguely human, it's a place where I feel safe to "let go" and to be myself. Everyone at Open Door is very open. The help is practical. Just talking to other humans is good practice.

Sara, Guest

The Guests are the best reason for working at Open Door. At last, I can read Matthew 25:31-46 and know that in our guests I am serving Christ. In addition, the guests teach me about life in its broadest sense. They are open, honest and direct. These journeys of faith are inspiring, walking alongside a guest who is discovering the action of Christ in their lives –
Wow! It is just brilliant!

Judith, Volunteer

Financial Policies

Investments

The funds possessed by Open Door – Colchester have been relatively small and are not held for the long term. Hitherto, the Trustees have considered it appropriate for funds not immediately needed for current expenses to be placed on deposit. These funds are placed in an account with the Affirmative Deposit Fund for Charities (ADFC) operated by Epworth Investment Management (associated with the Methodist Church) in order to obtain some interest while retaining immediate access to the funds.

The £25,000 deposit with the Shawbrook Bank matured in January 2020. £15,000 plus the accrued interest was taken into the Current Account and £10,000 placed in a further one-year deposit with the Shawbrook Bank.

No other investments are held.

A current account is held with the CAF Bank to manage the day-to-day needs of Open Door.

Reserves

The Executive considered in 2005 that it would be prudent to hold reserves equal to some six months' normal expenditure to allow for an orderly winding-up of operations should this prove necessary. The balance of funds at the end of 2019 exceeded this level, thus enabling the Trustees to have confidence for the future of Open Door.

No reserves for particular contingencies are held.

Grants and Loans

Open Door – Colchester does not make large grants to individuals (or to organisations). Small sums of money to assist with living expenses, delays in receiving benefits, etc., are provided for individual Guests in appropriate cases at the discretion of the Director, Manager or Team Leaders. When feasible, these sums are provided in the form of loans, and repayment terms agreed with the Guest. Otherwise, the money is given without strings attached.

Treasurer's Report

The Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 follow this Report and should be read with the accompanying notes.

God's blessing on the work of Open Door – Colchester very much continued to extend to our finances in 2020, particularly in the matter of donations and grants to support the work and despite the problems arising from the pandemic. We thank the Essex Community Foundation and Colchester Borough Council for their grants supporting aspects of our work. We are very grateful for the donations from the Baptist Insurance Company and the kind people using fundraising opportunities offered by the Wonderful Organisation, Givey Stripe and purchases on Amazon.

The continuing support of Colchester Baptist Church (through a donation and allowing the use of their premises without charge) is much appreciated. The support of other Churches in Colchester and District is valued by Open Door, partly because of the volunteer helpers who belong to them and the generous donations made to our work. These Churches and related bodies are included in 2020 St Helens Orthodox Parish; St Andrews Marks Tey Men's Breakfast, West Bergholt PCC, Aldham Church and St Johns Church. We continue to benefit from around 35 monthly donations varying in amount from £5 to £50 and totalling over £500 a month!

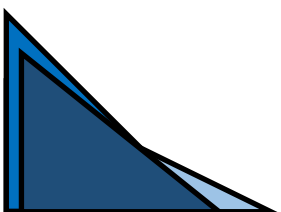
The Richard Green Special Needs Fund is shown separately. Restrictions on our activities arising from the pandemic resulted in few calls on the Fund during the year.

Bananas and Fruit Fund: a kind donor continues to give £20 a month to provide fresh fruit for guests. In 2019 and again in 2020, expenditure on fruit exceeded these donations, and it was thought better to include the donations and costs in the General Fund to avoid showing a negative balance.

One effect of the pandemic and the resulting lockdowns was the suspension of the Sunday@One services. During the services, collections had been taken to support a child in need via Compassion UK with monthly donations of £28. To ensure that the payments could continue, it was decided to send the payments centrally.

We are grateful to Michael Baker FCCA for his work in Examining these Accounts.

E A Drake
Honorary Treasurer
March 2021



Accounts: Open Door Colchester

1st January – 31st December 2020

1. Receipts and Payments: General Fund

	2020	2019
Receipts		
Donations and Grants		
Colchester Baptist Church	1,100	1,100
Other Churches	1,859	1,739
Other Bodies	23,000	1,515
Individuals	11,322	8,398
Total Donations and Grants	<u>37,281</u>	<u>12,752</u>
Receipts from Activities		
Sale of Refreshments	613	1,511
Sponsored Walk and Cycle Ride	0	1,273
Loans refunded by Guests	291	435
Sale of cards, etc	7	33
Total receipts from Activities	<u>911</u>	<u>3,252</u>
Other Income	19	37
Legacy	5,000	0
Interest on Deposit Accounts	484	139
Income Tax refunded on Gift-Aided Donations	1,307	1,182
Total Receipts	<u>45,002</u>	<u>17,362</u>

Payments**Direct costs of supporting Guests**

Payments and loans to or on behalf of Guests	656	783
Food and Refreshments	2,228	3,080
"Compassion" payments	168	0
Total Direct Costs	<u>3,052</u>	<u>3,863</u>

Costs of running Open Door – Colchester

Salaries, Pension and National Insurance	37,024	26,666
Staff training costs	283	222
Telephone line rental, calls and broadband	312	353
Insurances	535	535
Purchase of Equipment	1,622	454
Administration materials, etc.	677	980
Miscellaneous Costs	105	322

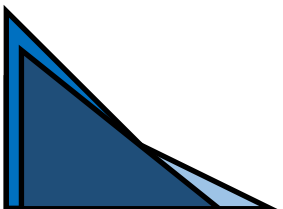
Total Running Costs	<u>40,558</u>	<u>29,532</u>
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Total Payments	<u>43,610</u>	<u>33,395</u>
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Increase (Decrease) in Funds over the Period	1,392	-16,033
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Balance brought forward from previous Period	37,237	53,270
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Balance carried forward	<u>38,629</u>	<u>37,237</u>
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Notes on the Accounts

1. **Accounting Policy:** in view of its size, Open Door's accounts are presented on a "receipts and payments" basis in accordance with Sections 132 & 133 of the Charities Act 2011.
2. **Status:** Open Door – Colchester became a Registered Charity (No 1101675) on 22nd January 2004.
3. **Donations and Grants:** large donations and grants given to Open Door are listed in the Treasurer's Report. Other Churches and bodies in and around Colchester continue to give much-appreciated support, both in money and prayer.
4. **Gift Aid Income Tax refund:** many individual donations have been made under the Gift Aid Scheme. The tax reclaims in respect of donations made in 2019 is included in these accounts.
5. **The Richard Green Special Needs Fund:** this Fund arose from specific donations – its purpose is to help Open Door buy items such as sleeping bags, tents, etc., for Guests with particular needs. Mr Green has generously continued these donations.
6. **Borrowings:** Open Door owes money to no-one. The Director and Team Leaders are provided with floats out of which they make small grants and loans to Guests. The total of the unexpended balances of these floats was some £217 at 31st December 2020.
7. **Insurances:** Open Door holds insurance cover for Public and Employer's Liability, Trustees' Indemnity and Legal expenses. Insurance cover for buildings and contents is held by Colchester Baptist Church, in whose premises Open Door operates.

E A Drake, Honorary Treasurer, March 2021

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Executive Committee (as Trustees) and members of Open Door – Colchester (Charity no. 1101675) on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 set out below.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Executive Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Committee considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the Report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records by section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

M. C. Baker

Date: 10th March 2021

MG Baker FCA, 118 Chapel Road, West Bergholt, Colchester, C06 3EZ

Management and Constitution

Open Door – Colchester was constituted as a charity separate from Colchester Baptist Church on 25th November 2003 and registered with the Charity Commission on 22nd January 2004 (registered number 1101675).

Open Door is managed by an Executive Committee of between 5 and 12 members, including

- Honorary Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) elected at each Annual General Meeting;
- Ex Officio, the Senior Minister for the time being of Colchester Baptist Church;
- Nominated members who are practising Christians and the majority of whom are members of Colchester Baptist Church, appointed by the Deacons of that Church.

Membership of the Executive Committee during 2020 was

- Tim Rose, Honorary Chairman
- William Butcher, Honorary Secretary
- Ted Drake, Honorary Treasurer
- Revd. Cole Maynard, Senior Minister of Colchester Baptist Church
- Peter Hurstell, Safeguarding Trustee
- Brenda Reade
- Sandra Stockwell
- Rob Urand
- Mark Skull

These are the Trustees of Open Door Colchester.

The day-to-day work of Open Door is controlled by the part-time Director, Rev Simon Heard, assisted by the almost full-time drop-in Manager, Kaoru Magee. Open Door continues to take full responsibility for Sunday@One (an informal Sunday service) and Tuesday@Twelve (an informal Bible Study). The Director's hours cover part of this ministry.

Open Door operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with groups of helpers led by Team Leaders Nicci Lambert, Hannah Crome and Anna Jonas. There are approximately 25 volunteers in total