

The Shrewsbury Ark – Shrewsbury Christian Centre Association (SCCA)

Annual General Meeting, 6.30pm, July 23rd, 2025

At The Shrewsbury Ark Day Centre

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|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Welcome to our AGM and apologies | Actions or
Agreements |
| | <p>In attendance:
Emily Bell (Chair), Rev. Sarah Bullock (Patron, Bishop of Shrewsbury), Jonathan Davies (Trustee), Anton Goodwin (Charity Director), Mike Haffenden (Trustee), Marion Halfpenny (Volunteer, minutes), Richard Jenkins (Treasurer), Helen Mason (Support Worker), Clair Moelwyn-Williams (TCA), Sophie Peach (Guest), Ian Somerville (Trustee), and Annie Waddington-Feather (Trustee).</p> <p>The chair welcomed everyone to the AGM.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Julia Buckley (MP for Shrewsbury), Laura Fisher, Jill Robinson, Elizabeth Somerville, Jane Trowbridge (High Sheriff of Shropshire) and Alex Wagner (Mayor of Shrewsbury).</p> | |
| 2 | Minutes of AGM 2024 sign off | Minutes of
2024 AGM |
| | <p>Emily Bell proposed that the minutes of the last meeting be agreed as an accurate record, Annie Waddington-Feather seconded.</p> | agreed as an
accurate
record. |
| 3 | Chair Report – Emily Bell | |
| | <p>The Chair reminded the AGM of the charitable objectives of the charity. These now need to be demonstrated through quantitative evidence.</p> <p>The Chair reported on how The Ark is offering support to those who are ‘truly’ homeless – quality not quantity! The previous open door welcome to all was too chaotic to deliver the support the clients needed</p> <p>The Chair stressed the value of workers and volunteers in achieving this.</p> | |

The Ark needs to use FACTS to appear professional and support its work.

The national figures for homelessness are a third higher than last year. Everyone deserves a place to feel safe whatever their background. Basic needs can be met e.g. sleep deprivation has been addressed by installing 8 bunk beds in a quiet area. Practical help is given by workers and volunteers such as basic form filling and creative activities. There is work with other local partners – Shropshire Council, e.g. Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) worked with council to provide premises and due to extra funding winter provision was able to continue for 3 months.

Improving health outcomes for clients who have chaotic lives, time keeping issues. The Ark has provided 'in house' services GP clinic, hepatology clinic.

As a result, we can produce data such as:

- 3289 client interactions
- 122 unique clients
- 80 in supported housing
- 597 bed nights in SWEP and winter provision

The key outcomes are 66% supported in accommodation. This is £1.5 million saving to the public purse. £12,000 saving to the NHS. Every £1 donated provides £6 of social benefit based on housing.

In the wider community The Ark offers employment and volunteer opportunities. Governance through the Trustees, and development of a 'lived experience' group.

The full report will be available on line and will be shared with potential interested businesses and sponsors.

4 Charity Director's Report – Anton Goodwin

The Director thanked the AGM for their welcome. The Director stated he had been in post for 4 busy months.

The Ark Charity Shop had to be closed as despite best efforts with refurbishment etc. It was no longer profitable with the costs of the manager and assistant.

The car park has been secured with quality fencing and is now neat and tidy.

The need for beds was targeted as it was apparent clients who had been on the streets needed somewhere to rest in the day and the settees, benches were narrow and inadequate.

Funding was acquired for a kitchen refurbishment. This has now been used for re-equipping the kitchen which has made it more like a professional kitchen. This will enable the Ark to retain its 5 star hygiene rating.

In future Caseworkers will have specific roles 1) tenancy readiness, 2) drug and alcohol 3) mental health. It is hoped this will produce better data about successes.

The Ark needs a regular income to support day to day running costs, through monthly donations. The Friends of the Ark has been created. 2,000 friends are needed to make a difference. The reopening of no 70 will enable clients to have supported 3 to 12 month tenancies before moving to more permanent accommodation. There followed a discussion as to how the target of 2000 friends could be achieved. The need for printed as well as online materials to distribute to churches and other organisations. SB suggested that closer ties with the Repair Café could be of benefit.

5 Treasurer's report – Richard Jenkins

(1) Adoption of the Accounts as at 30 Sept 2024

The accounts will be available and on The Ark website. They have been examined by TCA accountants who were at the meeting – thanks from the Treasurer for their support.

The first post Covid years were a generous time for charities. However last year The Ark funds dropped by £96,000. There is more competition for grants and they are no longer easily available. The difficult decision to close the charity shop was made as not adding to funds.

The Ark owns the property which is an asset on which to build the future. There is a need to fundraise more 'aggressively'. The financial position is still resilient but not as good as last year. There is a need to manage costs. C. M-W. stated costs have increased but not as much as previously. What has been put in place should work but there are tough decisions to make.

A proposal to adopt the accounts was made by Jonathan Davies and was seconded by Ian Somervaille.

*(2) Appointment of TCA as Independent Examiners for 2024
Accounts*

Thanks to Clair Moelwyn–Williams and Sally Youngman for their excellent work.

Thanks were given to the Treasurer by the Chair.

A proposal that TCA accountants be appointed again was made by Richard Jenkins and seconded by Jonathan Davies.

6 Trustee Elections

(1) Trustees standing down with vote to re-elect

Mike Haffenden, Jonathan Davies, and Emily Bell were unanimously re-elected.

(2) Resignations

Jane Shaw

(3) Proposed New Trustee with vote to elect

Anne Thorne was proposed by Emily Bell and seconded by Jonathan Davies. This was agreed unanimously.

**7 Talk from Helen Mason Shrewsbury Ark Support Worker.
“More Than a Meal: Working with Shrewsbury’s Homeless.”**

Helen described how she had experienced homelessness both as a child and after a marriage breakdown. Helen has ‘lived experience’. This led to her work in a range of caring and supportive professions such as housing, care, trafficked children etc. and RESET before arriving at the Ark and becoming a support worker. Kindness, time and support helped Helen to progress from her own situation. The basics are very important warm shower, cooked breakfast, and lunch. Getting people in for food, sleep and showers provides them with some safety.

If a client is having a 'meltdown' they are really saying "help me". Clients need to be empowered with skills such as communication to sustain a tenancy. The important question to ask is "What do you want to do?" Helen was thanked for her contribution and honesty.

The chair took this opportunity to thank the dedicated staff and volunteers for all their work.

Thank you to those who have moved on:

The Chair thanked people who have moved on:

Ethan Green – Support Worker
Abbie King – Charity Director
Sue Kirkbright – Shop Manager
Orla Mc Cormack – Deputy Shop Manager
Jane Shaw – Trustee, Treasurer

Welcome to those who have joined in the last year:

The Chair welcomed those who have joined in the last year:

Anton Goodwin – Ark Charity Director
Chris Zacharek – Support Worker
Sue Kirkbright – Shop Manager
Barry Druce – Bookkeeper

10 Remembering those we have lost

Rev Sarah (Bishop) remembered those we have lost and we prayed for them:

Mr Barney Spicer
Mr Steven Horton
Mr Dave Nicholls
Mr Alexis De Naray
Mr Lee Page



The Shrewsbury Ark

Any Other Business

The following points were raised: -

- How we share our work with a wider audience, short reels, in website, new website coming up pro bono.
- Thanks to everybody involved in The Ark for their hard work and support over a tough few month.
- Focussed fundraising plan being put into place.

The meeting ended at 8pm