

light
project
peterborough

Revealing Jesus

Annual Review 2022-2023



Welcome from the Chair of Trustees and CEO

I am truly blessed and honoured to be involved with Light Project Peterborough. We've seen the number of those in need within the city increase over the past few years but together we have continued to provide support.

Hopefully, as you read through the following pages, you will be encouraged by the work the charity does. I'd like to thank you on behalf of Light Project Peterborough for your support and prayers.

With love,

Ann Green

Chair of Trustees



It's been amazing to continue receiving help from volunteers, supporters and partners. I'm also very proud of the team for their commitment and hard work to help others who are in need of hope and support.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Light Project Peterborough's achievements.

Many blessings,

Steven Pettican

CEO



Supporters

Your support is truly appreciated and without funders and supporters, we wouldn't deliver the same success from our projects.

We continue to work hard to engage with grant funders and build strong relationships within the community. We also receive financial support from donors who give regularly each month. These donations allow us to plan ahead so we can continue the work we do.

A MASSIVE thank you to all of our supporters over this time, but a few to give a special mention to are:

- **Addenbrookes Charitable Trust**
- **Bennetts Motorbike Insurance**
- **Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities**
- **The National Lottery**
- **NHS Charities Together**
- **Peterborough City Council**
- **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

did you know?



At the annual Peterborough Civic Prayer Breakfast, we bring together Christian and Civic leaders.



The Garden House

Coming to The Garden House is the first step for anyone who is sleeping on the streets in Peterborough and in need of support.

251
people
supported to
move off the
streets

In total, 629 people were supported and came to us for various reasons. Some had family breakdowns, and some lost their jobs. While others were fleeing from modern slavery or domestic violence. There's a different story behind each person and understanding this helps us to provide the best form of support.

An important part of our work is helping people progress into more permanent accommodation. This is achieved through supportive partners and the community pulling together. Working with others is always a key part of our thinking. With their help, we supported 251 people who were on the streets to find a secure place to live.

We help people feel positive about themselves again by facilitating haircuts, provide access to health services as well as fun activities. These include trips out to watch football and the World Superbike Championships. By working with partner organisations, such as Peterborough City Council Housing Needs team, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust, Cambridgeshire

"They've helped me so much! In just two days, they've helped by giving me lots of information, getting me on the system, and we're in the midst of looking at housing options for me. I'm so grateful to them!" – Evaldas

"I like coming to The Garden House as it means I'm not sat alone, I'm communicating with people, I'm not lonely or feeling depressed. Everyone here has been a big help." – Jimmy

"All of the staff at The Garden House have been exceptionally good; they've been kind, caring and helpful." – Roy

Constabulary and Aspire (CGL), we become a bigger support service - leading to a higher rate of positive outcomes.

With the support from HSBC's No Fixed Address programme, we helped 42 people to set up a bank account.

Operation Luscombe has continued at The Garden House. Acting as a hub for Peterborough and led by the Police, we bring together different partners who all have the same aim: to support people to move away from begging activities.

629
different
people
supported

did you know?

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On 8th October 2023, we will have run The Garden House for 5 years and we continue to work hard to find our long-term home!

”



Homeless Health Hub

As part of The Garden House project, our Homeless Health work carried on its journey of working with the NHS and the countywide Integrated Care System to address inequalities in health support for the homeless.

Our vision of a Health Outreach Bus continued its development and will be available to use from autumn 2023. It will feature state of the art facilities replicating a doctor's consultation room. There is also a ramp for wheelchair users and those with mobility issues. Treatments will include dry blood spot testing, flu vaccinations, basic eye tests, and minor medical treatments such as dressing wounds and treating infections. The bus will be sited at The Garden House and will be taken out to different venues and locations across the city.

Care services are onsite every week to give guests the opportunity to have health checks and gain the support they need with challenges such as addiction.

"It's great to finally know the bus is arriving. It's been a long time in the planning. Having a clinical space to see and treat more people that aren't currently accessing services is really positive and will make a big difference." – Dr Ruth Beesley, Homeless Health and Health Inequalities Lead from Boroughbury Medical Centre



651
one to one
drugs and
alcohol support
activities
secured

"The poor and the homeless won't always be forgotten and without hope."
Psalm 9:18 (CEV)

Aspire Recovery Service engaged 537 times with people between April 2022 and March 2023. They helped those who need advice with alcohol and drug use. There were also 114 engagements with Alcoholics Anonymous.

As well as Aspire and AA, we also worked with Boroughbury Medical Centre to set up GP registrations and provide check-ups for our guests. The NHS Integrated Care System offered vaccinations for flu and COVID-19 while Terrence Higgins Trust gave sexual health advice and support. For those with high levels of mental health needs, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust's Dual Diagnosis Outreach Team delivered one to one sessions at The Garden House.

We are delighted that our partnership network has continued to expand and now includes Healthy You and the Greater Peterborough Network.



Volunteering makes a difference!

We're very grateful to all of our volunteers who help us to be who we are: a truly city-focused, city-change charity.

To see people wanting to provide their time to help others in the community is heartwarming and keeps driving us forward. During this period, 5,614 hours of volunteering were given.

People choose to volunteer for various reasons; some are retired and want to keep busy, some are taking a break from work, and others have lost a loved one. Making new friends helps a great deal with their grief. However, they all have something in common: the desire to help others.



5,614
hours of
volunteering
given during
2022/23



"Volunteering makes me feel useful and I can share the knowledge I gained in my working career to help those coming into The Garden House. I like chatting to the staff and guests as well as making friends with the other volunteers. It feels like a family here." – Carol

'Your Time' has been developed to give our volunteers the opportunity to provide feedback on their experience with us. They can suggest new ideas or improvements and they meet twice a year. We celebrated our volunteers by holding a Summer BBQ where staff, trustees, partners and supporters came together to say thanks. There was also a 'Curry and Carols' event in December where volunteers and Garden House guests attended. BBC Look East even came to film a news piece about the event!

Street Chaplains

The work of our Street Chaplaincy has developed since it was rebranded in early 2022. The chaplains have continued to go out onto the streets to listen, give out things like chocolate on special occasions and pray with those who need it. These small acts give some people new hope and reminds them that they are truly loved.

There are also night time chaplains who go out on Fridays between 9pm and 3am. These volunteers provide support to those enjoying the nightlife in Peterborough. They hand out bottled water, provide First Aid, help people into taxis and give out flipflops to anyone who needs alternative footwear at the end of their night.

We also decided to restart the 'pub chaplaincy' with the Draper's Arms pub in Peterborough. Every Friday morning, chaplains will be onsite available to anyone who would appreciate a chat. Overall, almost 1,000 hours of volunteering were given by our Street Chaplains.



did you know?

As part of our Street Chaplaincy project, we have volunteer chaplains who are active in Peterborough's Central Park. Every Friday, they offer a friendly smile and a listening ear to those wanting to chat. To help make the park a nicer place, they also collect rubbish. The chaplains are often thanked by many park users for this, which in turn, leads to conversations being formed.



Peterborough Night Shelter

The Peterborough Night Shelter project began in early February 2022 and involves providing emergency accommodation to help people move off the streets immediately. To make this project a success, we've worked hard with the UK central and local governments as well as Peterborough's church communities. Their support allowed us to provide 1,134 nights of emergency shelter between April 2022 and March 2023. We were also delighted to see 19 people move on from the Night Shelter units and into their own accommodation.

Each unit caters for one person and contains a single bed, shower, toilet, sink, a window, storage, and radiators. Guests are also given an emergency contact number should they need immediate help from us during the night.

We currently have four units, all secured and located at three church sites: Southside Methodist Church, Peterborough International Christian Centre, and Christ the Carpenter Dogsthorpe.

These church communities provide water and electricity for the units while volunteers prepare



1,134
nights of
emergency
accommodation
provided

"Before the Night Shelter, I felt hopeless and started to give up my faith in God. But as soon as I stayed in one of the cabins, the church made me feel welcomed and I was given opportunities to get involved and be a part of the community."
– Maria



a meal every night to each guest as well as clean bedding and toiletries. In total, our amazing volunteers gave 1,764 hours of their time. We are hoping to increase the amount of Night Shelters to seven by the end of 2023.

The Night Shelter project is different from all other accommodation as it does not rely on the complexities of housing benefits for people to be looked after. The shelter fills a real gap for those on the edge of society and in desperate need.

"It's been fantastic working with Light Project Peterborough, it's given the church a way of engaging and finding a purpose in serving the community." – Simon, Vicar at Christ the Carpenter Church



Peer Support

Peer Support is a group of volunteers we have supported whose lives have since improved. They now want to give something back and help others. Those involved have all had experience of sleeping on the streets, some form of addiction or issues with their mental health.

This enables them to be able to communicate effectively to those who come to The Garden House or during outreach as they understand what the person is going through. Seeing people who have been in a similar situation get back onto their feet and turn their life around, often inspires others to follow suit. 165 different people were supported by our Peer Support group who gave 473 hours of volunteering during this period.

165
people
supported by
Peer Support

"After Light Project Peterborough helped me, I wanted to give something back. It makes me feel good to be able to help others. I also really enjoy helping out with the gardening at The Garden House." – Marcel



Team members regularly went on outreach to provide food and drink to those living on the streets, supported with upkeeping our garden surroundings, and arranged Saturday Breakfasts. There were also art and poetry workshops held at The Garden House. In total, there were 63 social activities involving or led by Peer Support.

"The Project Workers saw potential in me and asked if I wanted to be part of 'Peer Support'. I've been able to connect and help others as I've also had the experience of sleeping on the streets, issues with drugs, as well as feeling isolated from society. The role has given me a routine and purpose again." – Jorge

We hold focus groups regularly, so we continue to learn, ask questions, and understand how to engage better with those who are in desperate situations. Those with lived experience become the 'Voice of the Voiceless', and their impact and ideas cannot be underestimated.

The desire from those who we have previously helped now wanting to support others breathes such positivity. It also coincides with our passion to encourage each other to make the city a better place for all.

**"Do to others
as you would
have them do
to you."**
Luke 6:31 (NIV)

did you know?

“

We run Across Peterborough, which supports churches and communities by sharing their amazing work. This is achieved through a website, magazine, and monthly newsletter.

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across Peterborough
sharing stories · building bridges

Quotes of support

"I first became aware of the fabulous work of Light Project Peterborough when coordinating the visit of Prince William to them during Covid - with his relentless passion for understanding and eliminating homelessness Prince William wanted to visit as Light Project Peterborough had been recommended to him as a beacon organisation working in the field."

After the visit I actively encouraged NHS colleagues to designate some of the NHS Charities Together funds allocated to our area for charitable purposes to support a health facility for the homeless and vulnerable in Peterborough. Consequently, a mobile facility, going to where people are, is now a reality and exemplifies Steven's ability to work successfully with an eclectic range of partners to secure a better future for some of the most vulnerable in our society."

Julie Spence OBE CSTJ QPM, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire



"Light Project Peterborough are an incredible organisation who work tirelessly to support some of our most vulnerable and in need people. Our teams work closely together to try and deter people from crime and anti-social behaviour, and this often comes at a time when people's lives are spiralling out of control."

The supportive, non-judgemental service offered is a critical factor in getting people back on track and we have numerous examples of where Light Project Peterborough have helped people escape human trafficking and modern-day slavery, or step away from crime and addiction. Steven and his team are a constant reassuring presence and genuinely make a difference, especially to those who are overlooked, forgotten about or dismissed."

Neil Billany, Superintendent, North Area Commander – Peterborough & Fenland Cambridgeshire Constabulary



"Light Project Peterborough and Steven in particular, has been a superb asset to our Churches in Peterborough, and from the surrounding areas. Some churches have faced great challenges in meeting the needs of those who are homeless, struggling with their mental health, or battling addiction. Light Project Peterborough has been a key partner in networking people together so that we can access support that is otherwise difficult to find. Other churches from the surrounding areas are aware of need in the city-centre but have not known how to provide support, be that practically or

as a prayer partner for the Street Chaplains. Light Project Peterborough therefore both meets immediate need and provides a path for new people to become involved."

Rev Dr Langley Mackrell-Hey, Superintendent Minister to the Peterborough Circuit of Methodist Churches



"Over the last year our partnership with Light Project Peterborough has become stronger than ever working together to support some of the city's most vulnerable residents. The passion and commitment of staff and volunteers at Light Project Peterborough always shines brightly and their non-judgemental, respectful, supportive approach truly complements our own delivery and what we are trying to achieve in the reduction of homelessness in Peterborough."

We are proud to have Light Project Peterborough alongside us as strategic partners and look forward to continuing successful outcomes for residents in specific work such as the Homeless Health Hub and Cost of Living support work that we are involved in as true trusted partners. Thank you, Steven and team, for all that you do!"

Matt Oliver, Head of Stronger Communities, Peterborough City Council

Fundraise for us

There are many ways for you to raise funds and help us to support those in need within Peterborough.

From bake sales to quiz nights and hiking challenges to skydives. There are also organised events, such as the Great Eastern Run. Get involved by setting up a fundraising page on [JustGiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com).

Become a regular donor

You can make a real difference every month by setting up a direct debit. Contact us for our bank details. Alternatively, you can set up a regular payment on [JustGiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com) via our website. On our homepage, click on the 'Donate' button at the top and then select the 'monthly' option. Choose how much you'd like to give and what day you'd like the money to be sent each month.



Our Vision:

To enable and equip the church and community to heal the broken-hearted, set free the oppressed, and bring good news to the poor.



SCAN ME

To donate and support our work, scan the QR code or contact us using the details below

Light Project Peterborough

The Garden House
Gravel Walk
Minster Precincts
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Registered Charity No. 1159764



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