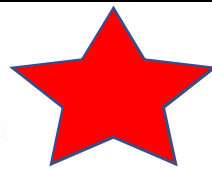
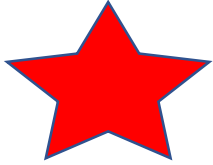


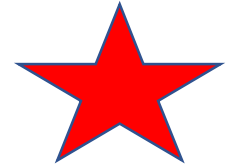
**CHURCH  
ON THE BUS**



**Immanuel**  
**God with Us**



**Winter 2021**



## **We motor on – even without a bus!**

**CotB in Matlock** have settled into our new home above Cornerstone Christian Bookshop. This “Upper Room” is perfect for our meetings: airy, welcoming, and spacious, giving a feeling of safe distance between people. Also, they have installed new heaters which are very efficient and welcome as winter approaches.

We provide sandwiches, cake, hot drinks and, sometimes, fruit, with extra sandwiches taken home for later. The basic toiletries we offer are popular!

We are very grateful to the team of volunteer staff, who work in the actual shop downstairs, for the helpful and supportive way in which they greet our guests when they arrive and leave, sometimes after browsing in the shop! This is a very important back-up to what we do and is much appreciated.

Christmas will be celebrated with a pie and pea lunch, followed by mince pies and carols, on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Helen and Natalie, from Zest for Events in Wirksworth, are generously blessing us with this feast, as they used to do before the pandemic halted everything.

**CotB in Chesterfield** has continued to serve our guests, since the bright days of August and the varied temperatures of the Autumn. Initially this was outdoors, by the Town Hall, but as the darkness crept up



and the cooler evenings arrived, we moved to The Hub on Low Pavements; thank you to Derbyshire Voluntary Action for making this possible.

This venue was very suitable; it was easier to manage at a time when guest and volunteer numbers were smaller than in the past. It was also good to be in a place where guests, who may be new to CotB and this location, were able to walk straight in from the street. From Monday November 29<sup>th</sup> we will back at Grace Chapel ahead of the start of the Winter Provision for the priority homeless on December 1<sup>st</sup>. More about this overleaf.

*Getting ready at The Hub*

## We Need You!



We rely entirely upon individuals and organisations who provide support in various ways. During this time of Advent and Christmas you may remember how Jesus and his family were homeless. It may be that as you prepare for this special time, at your home, in your fellowships and congregations you could consider what you might be able to help us with this Christmas, or beyond in 2022. Here are some ways you can start, or continue, to do this.

### Are you involved with a group who could help us?

As an organisation, **St Anne's Church at Baslow** has supported CotB since the early days when Captain Alan Parkes went to talk to their Mothers Union about the work that had been set up from the bus, in Chesterfield.

Since then, this group have not stopped giving. They have provided donations of clothing, sleeping bags and toiletries

Food, left over from celebrations, which could be kept, has been taken to Chesterfield, along with donations of tea, coffee, and biscuits; suitable clothing has been set aside from Bring and Buy sales; also, St Anne's has responded to special appeals, as well as keeping the on-going work of CotB in peoples' minds through the church magazines and internal notice boards. Financial support has also been given, particularly from special services at Christmas.

On coming to the house, they saw the child and Mary his mother and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts....

Matthew 2 v.11

**Why have they seen this as important?** Richard and June Powell, who have regularly taken donations from Baslow to Chesterfield, provided the answer to this. "When we visit Chesterfield, we often see people in need. Their circumstances contrast greatly with our own here in the parish of St. Anne's. We have seen the same people as guests of CotB, enjoying hospitality. We feel it is important to give this support."

**Where two or three gather a lot can be achieved:** The Methodist church in Baslow has also supported CotB since the early days. Though a small fellowship of more mature people, their help has been invaluable and has been based on the desire to, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can."

Although unable to volunteer at events, this faithful group have donated blankets, sleeping bags and clothing, as well as money. They have responded generously and helpfully to the needs of their neighbours. In recent months many things have changed for this group, but they remain committed to supporting CotB, and we are very grateful for that.

These two congregations are helping to support people like John, who shared a little of his experience at a recent session in Chesterfield.

"Other street people told me about Church on the bus and that I could get help there. This was several years ago – there was an orange bus then. After I first visited the bus, I left the area and travelled around but have come back this year."

"I value and enjoy the warmth of the welcome as well as the hot drinks and food. In winter it is good to get out of the cold for a while and to have chit chat and company. I tell other people to come here for the experience and the friendly people. I would like the people who do this to know that it helps us out loads." If you are part of a group or organisation which could support CotB email [churchonthebus@gmail.com](mailto:churchonthebus@gmail.com).

### **We need individuals too.**

Paul found out about CotB from a colleague at work who was collecting clothes for a donation; not long after he joined as a volunteer. Paul says, "I find it both personally rewarding to be able to give something back and find quite humbling the gratitude our guests have for the provision, with a hot drink, food and a willing ear to listen." He is keen to encourage others to join as volunteers, "There are no specialist skills needed; you are part of a team who work together and are very welcoming. It doesn't matter if you can only spare hour or so once or twice a month – every little helps."

If you could spare some time to help with our hospitality, please email [churchonthebus@gmail.com](mailto:churchonthebus@gmail.com)

### **Could you help provide support for the Homeless in Chesterfield this winter?**



The last time Chesterfield churches were able to run a Nightshelter was in 2019/20, as in 2020/21 Covid prevented us repeating the project and instead the Derbyshire Local Authorities set up provision at Mount Cook Activity Centre. That was a success and this year, as we are again prevented nationally from running communal sleeping provision, and because businesses are now operating as normally as possible, there are no facilities like Mount Cook. Therefore, the Local Authorities are providing basic accommodation places across the County from 1<sup>st</sup> December until 31<sup>st</sup> March to provide individual sleeping facilities; within this Chesterfield Borough Council has allowed for an average of 10 rooms a night. Derby City Mission, who are overseeing the operational support across the County, have asked CotB to take a lead role in the practical arrangements for Chesterfield. A project management team has been formed from some of the management team from the 2019/20 project and some of the Trustees from CotB. The aim will be to provide our homeless guests with one hot and healthy meal a day and the opportunity to relax and build relationships with us before they return to their accommodation.

Holy Trinity church are providing a lunchtime session each Thursday where agencies will be present and able to provide support. Holy Trinity will also host a session each Saturday evening.

Grace Chapel are hosting evening sessions from Monday to Friday and a lunchtime session each Sunday. On Monday and Thursday evenings, the sessions will be a hybrid of the regular CotB guests, and the Winter Provision guests. On Sundays, the session will be a hybrid of the regular Grace Chapel Soup Kitchen guests and the Winter Provision guests. All the other sessions will just be for the Winter Provision guests.

***We do need more volunteers across all days except Mondays as this cannot happen without hands and hearts to help.*** There are different ways to do this and as a volunteer you could:

- Be involved with preparing and cooking the meal.
- Help to serve and clean up after the meal.
- Be a welcomer on the door and/or in the room to befriend and support our guests.
- Help to support behind the scenes.

***We also need people, churches, or other organisations, to become prayer partners for this project and to support the project financially.*** To express interest, please contact Ian Macleod using the email: [churchonthebus@gmail.com](mailto:churchonthebus@gmail.com).

# GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD

*His LOVE endures FOREVER!!!*

- Thank God that Cotb, in Chesterfield and Matlock, was able to welcome guests again.
- Thank God for our venues and the people who have welcomed CotB in Matlock and Chesterfield.
- Thank God for the donations of food, clothing and other resources which help to meet the needs of our guests.
- Thank God for all of our volunteers, in whatever capacity, and the way they honour him through their efforts.
- Thank God for our guests.

## Please Pray For

- The organisation of the Winter Provision that partnerships would work well.
- A way of working through whatever restrictions may have to be applied.
- People to volunteer.
- People who have volunteered – for strength and health and energy.
- For resources to meet practical needs.
- For wisdom and compassion to meet mental and spiritual needs.
- That everything we do will show the love of Jesus.

## Different Ways You Can Give Financially

**Regular or one-off donations** – can be made to our Co-op Bank Account: The Church On the Bus. Sort Code 08 92 99 – Acc. 65923339

**Just Giving Page -**

<https://www.justgiving.com/church-onthebus>

**Amazon Smiles** – if you use **Amazon** please login to your account through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) this allows you to purchase your goods in the same and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to your nominated charity, which could be CotB

**Give As You Live** – this website gives you access to many major retailers and high street stores. When you shop through this site a nominated charity receives a donation from the retailer – you can nominate CotB <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>