

**WHAT'S
GOING
ON IN**

Hope in North East Cheshire



**Thirty-nine Churches
working together in
mission in our communities**

**Proclaiming the Gospel through Social Action in
Macclesfield and Bollington and the surrounding villages**

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Hope in North East Cheshire

Hope in North East Cheshire (Hope) encourages shared initiatives in mission and service and organises joint gatherings for worship and prayer. It also responds to requests for information, help and funding, working closely with many voluntary organisations, a number represented here, and the statutory authorities.

Incorporating Churches Together in Macclesfield and Bollington, and affiliated to Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Hope was established in 2009 bringing together some thirty-nine Churches of many denominations in Macclesfield, Bollington and the surrounding villages. The Church Leaders meet regularly for prayer, worship, fellowship and discussion, while small groups of Leaders and lay people plan Hope's priorities, review progress and relationships, and manage its finances.

Hope involves lots of volunteers, many from the local Churches, in a wide range of initiatives which any one Church would find difficult to sustain. It encourages like-minded people to come together to respond to their calling and to share their passions to make things happen for the benefit of the community.

[Proclaiming the Gospel through Social Action in Macclesfield and Bollington and the surrounding villages](#)

If you would like to know more or get involved, visit the website at www.hinec.org.uk

Initiatives managed by Hope

Street Angels

Street Angels have been working successfully with the management of the Town Centre, CCTV Operations and the Police since June 2012. They provide a calming presence on the streets of Macclesfield late at night, offering those working around the town centre and those leaving bars, clubs and restaurants who become vulnerable a secure place so that they can get home safely.

Based at the United Reformed Church on Park Green, Street Angels are listening, caring and offering practical help like flip-flops and water to all, whoever they are and whatever their situation. Linked to the national Christian Nightlife Initiatives Network, Street Angels are making a really positive impact on crime and antisocial behaviour throughout the country.



WHAM nightshelter

Winter Homeless Accommodation in Macclesfield

The objective of WHAM is to 'Begin the end of the homeless experience' by providing winter weekend accommodation from late December to late March at Churches in and near Macclesfield town-centre. Each host Church, staffed by volunteers from both its own membership and other Churches, provides shelter for a weekend at a time on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights with evening meals on Friday and Sunday and breakfast on each day. The Saturday evening meal is provided by the Treehouse Food Kitchen (see page 7). While WHAM is only a partial solution to the homeless problem, it covers the worst of the winter at times when least assistance is available elsewhere.





Open the Book

'Open the Book' was started in Bedford in 1999 by a group concerned that many children did not hear Bible stories regularly, since they no longer attended Sunday School. However, if the group were invited into schools, this situation could be changed. In 2014, 'Open the Book' came under the auspices of The Bible Society and is now a national, non-evangelical project in over 6,000 schools in the UK reaching over 300,000 children. The stories are based on the 'Lion Storyteller Bible' and are primarily aimed at children up to the age of eight.

Ten years ago, five local people started visiting two primary schools in the Macclesfield area. Now there are three teams with members from seven different Churches visiting a total of fifteen primary schools sharing Bible stories with more than a thousand children. Not all the schools are covered, so more teams are needed!

The volunteer teams use mime, puppetry, drama or collages with props and costumes to help bring the stories to life. Whenever possible, the pupils are involved, dressed in simple costumes provided by the teams. The local schools are particularly welcoming and the children are enthusiastic about these assemblies which are very special for both the children and the volunteers alike!



Refugees Welcome

Hope has been involved in supporting Syrian refugees through the recently formed charity Refugees Welcome. Those who are interested in knowing more or getting involved should consult the Hope website for the email address to contact.

Other initiatives supported by Hope

Eco-Church and Fairtrade in the Community



The Eco-Church Group believes in sustainable communities by supporting local independent businesses and avoiding, whenever possible, on-line and out-of-town shopping. It seeks to work with the whole community to develop local renewable energy sources. Community-owned energy sources could lead to an end to the exploitation of the poorest in society. The Group also campaigns for improved and accessible public transport and better provision for pedestrians and cyclists, raising the quality of the environment for everyone.

The Fairtrade Group engages with global trade justice issues through involvement with Macclesfield Fairtrade Town Group. This raises awareness as one way of addressing global poverty through empowering farmers and producers in less economically developed countries. It encourages individuals and organisations to make a difference by using products certified with the Fairtrade Mark which guarantees producers a fair deal.

Just Drop-in

Formed in 2000 by Churches Together in Macclesfield, Just Drop-in (JDi) is a vibrant charity that in 2017 was presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for voluntary groups. Providing a range of services to children and young people from Macclesfield and the surrounding areas, JDi seeks to support those who have or are facing multiple disadvantages and those experiencing challenges with their emotional health.

Removing red tape and promoting quick and easy access to all its services for those aged from 12 to 25, JDi offers free counselling, an information and support service, a life-skills kitchen diner 'MyPad' and Foundations Early Help and Friendship Groups for 12-18 year olds. As well as managing a range of life-skills projects, JDi is also an active partner within the multi-agency Cheshire East Emotionally Healthy Schools Project.





ROAR

Reach Out and Recover

ROAR is a not-for-profit organisation offering service users a safe, secure and stable environment in which they can start to tackle their addictions and personal issues. Based in Macclesfield, ROAR has accommodation with thirty-five beds offering a safe, secure, stable and supported residential environment. Those who follow the programme are offered a two-year pathway to a new life from early-stage twenty-four hour support, through next-steps accommodation leading to their own independent tenancies.

Those accessing ROAR are shown compassion and given hope and a place where they can begin to believe in themselves. ROAR empowers people to take control of their lives and helps them to develop practical skills whilst working in the community. They are allocated tasks and responsibilities based on their strengths and skills working in partnership with other community- based organisations.



Silklife Foodbank

Silklife Foodbank was started by Silklife Church in December 2010; it acts as the foodbank for many of the Churches in Hope who regularly donate food given by members of their congregations. Food is also provided by many other organisations in the area including through donation boxes in local retailers.

Silklife Foodbank provides emergency food relief to people in Macclesfield and the surrounding area who are in desperate need. Working with local agencies, other charities and related organisations, which it values very much, Silklife Foodbank offers food parcels to any people who may otherwise go hungry making sure, through a referral process, that the food is going to the right people. A team of volunteers, for which it is particularly grateful, help to collect, sort, pack, and deliver the food parcels throughout the town.

Treehouse Food Kitchen

Established in 2013 and based at Elim Christian Life Centre in Macclesfield, Treehouse provides hot meals, drinks, sleeping bags, bedding, toiletries, underwear, socks and clothing to the homeless, socially isolated and those in financial difficulty in Macclesfield on Saturday evenings. Volunteers work tirelessly to support these vulnerable people giving their time, and their skills and experience. Treehouse also provides a non-judgemental listening ear and refers many people to other statutory and voluntary organisations like those mentioned in this booklet.

Treehouse is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers and supported by many churches, businesses and individuals in the Macclesfield area.



Cheshire Streetwise

Cheshire Streetwise was set up in 2014 as a Community Interest Company offering basic assistance to marginalised people. This includes a soup kitchen at Elim Christian Life Centre and a place to come and chat and socialise in a friendly environment getting out of the cold and away from other temptations.

Streetwise provides a 'gateway' for finding and obtaining services, counselling and practical help. It offers support in job searching including CV writing and application completion as well as basic skills and computer training. It also runs the Macclesfield Furniture Reuse project, the successor to Furnaround, with a shop on Mill Street and storage facilities, a workshop, and a showroom on Gilchrist Avenue. Everything Streetwise does is concentrated on making the community a better place in which to live.





Cre8

Youth and Community Programme

Cre8 started in 2005 and became an independent charity in 2011; it was presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for voluntary groups, in 2015. From very small beginnings on the Moss Rose Estate in Macclesfield, Cre8 has grown to be a significant part of the neighbourhood with a variety of innovative and often life-changing activities including a nationally-recognised music project, alternative education provision, youth clubs, bike workshops, residentials and outreach to those with whom it is difficult to make contact.

Cre8 believes that the things which corrode and gnaw away at the emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing of a community can be resolved by the people and the skills from within that community. Cre8 models Christian living, with prayer, work, learning and sharing food at the heart of everything it does.



The Hope Centre

The Hope Centre is a café and Christian resource centre selling books, cards and a variety of gifts situated in Park Green, Macclesfield. Its logo is 'Living, Loving, Serving and Sharing'; those who work there seek to share the love of Christ in all they do together. People from all walks of life come to enjoy the obvious warmth and welcome, some sharing their problems for which a listening service is provided.

A highly professional and dedicated manager oversees the volunteers and controls the retail aspects. The volunteers come from many different Churches giving a half day or more of their time each week. Opportunities to volunteer are given especially to those wishing to gain retail skills, improve their English or experience the world of work and to those with special needs.



Want to know more or get involved? Visit the website at www.hinec.org.uk



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