



Cotgrave
Advice Centre
Over 30 Years of Caring



Annual Report 2021-2022

It seems amazing to me that we have now been back in All Saints' Church for over 5 years. In some ways it seems we have been here always but I remember when we opened 35 years ago in the old Church Hall, now owned by Church Farm. We have certainly come a long way from then but looking at the forms completed in those early days the problems are the same.

We work tirelessly to help our clients in a holistic way as their needs and problems can be extremely complex. Some problems are easier to deal with but others take time and some clients have become friends and will pop in to let us know how they are getting on. The majority of our work is based around welfare benefits and debt, filling out forms and organizing repayment of debts. Our Solicitors are still doing sterling work with our clients and have been able to offer twice monthly sessions when needed. This is a much appreciated service which brings clients in throughout Rushcliffe. We are also a J9 registered safe place for people being threatened with abuse.

We are currently implementing our Covid exit strategy to ensure we protect our clients and staff but work towards normal working conditions. We still provide masks for everyone to wear if they wish and provide hand sanitizer and use our screens if advisers want them and during bad weather keep the door shut but don't take temperatures or keep full details of visitors but ensure all surfaces are regularly cleaned. We will continue to respond to the needs of everyone and take on board all the Government guide lines. Our staff are still doing Covid tests before coming to each session and although some of us have contracted Covid it has not spread in Church at all so our precautions seem to be working well..

Our volunteers have been brilliant during the last two years and although we have had two move on to a food bank and another advice centre we have new volunteers with different skills to offer our clients. Our Management Committee are extremely supportive of everything we do and are happy to come to every meeting despite some short notice where things need quickly approving. The Advice Centre could not run without this support.

We are financially secure at the moment but as we have come to the end of the County Council Grant must look for new funding as this is only available on a one off system which means much more form filling for us which is very time consuming. Our Charity is still supporting us and we have been given £100 by the Cotgrave open gardens 2020 which is much appreciated. We look forward in the coming years to supporting people with the changing environment.

Jacky Shaw Manager
April 2022