



**Rugeley  
Community  
Church**

*Community Valuation Report - 2018*

[www.rugeleycc.org.uk](http://www.rugeleycc.org.uk)

Rugeley Community Centre  
Burnthill Lane  
Rugeley  
WS15 2HX

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Our aim is to be church family living out the love of God in all we do and to all we meet



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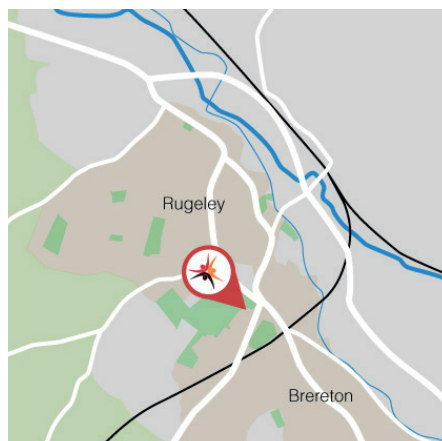
# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Introduction

Rugeley is a historic market town in the county of Staffordshire and is situated between the towns of Stafford, Cannock, Lichfield and Uttoxeter. The population as at the 2001 census was 22,724. The town, historically known as Rudgeley or Ridgeley, is listed in the Domesday Book.

Rugeley Community Church was established in Rugeley in the mid-1970s and has become an integral part of the local community. Formerly known as Rugeley Evangelical Free Church, the name was changed at the end of 2000. From 1994 to 2015 the Church operated out of its own building in Frank Rogers Walk, Springfield Estate Rugeley

In 2014 when Staffordshire County Council was seeking to close its Youth and Community Centre in Burnthill Lane Rugeley the Church responded with an offer to run the Community Centre on a lease and a term of 15 years for the lease was agreed. The Church commenced to run the Centre from the beginning of April 2015. The old building was sold later in 2015.



The Rugeley Community Centre is open Monday to Friday 9am until 5pm with Monday to Thursday evenings open for pre arranged bookings. From October to April the full sized sports hall is booked Monday to Thursday evenings by local sports clubs.

In 2017 the church agreed a value to buy the building from Staffordshire County Council but the legal documentation on the sale has been held while the council sorts out various boundaries around the building.

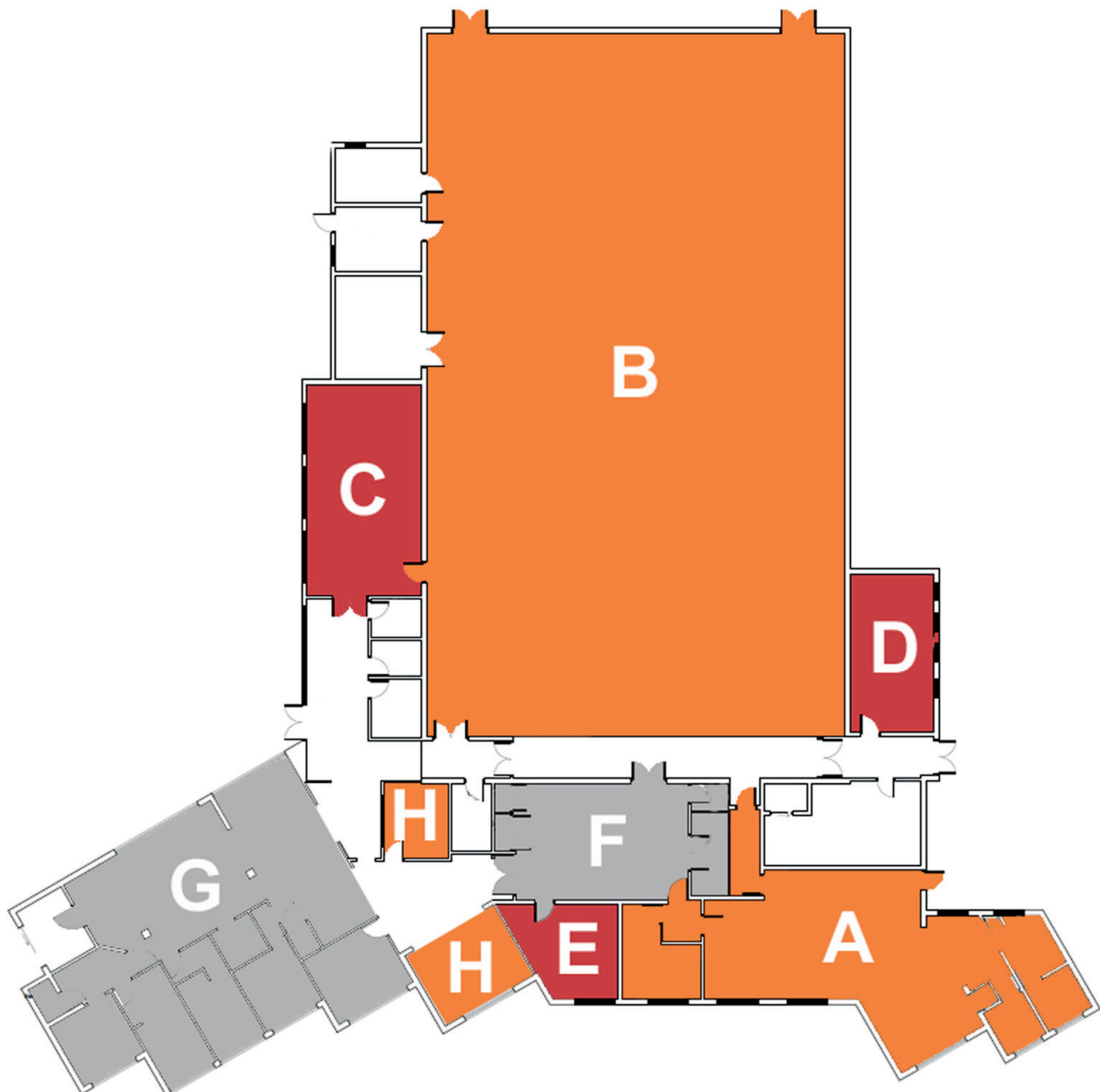
When the building was taken on by the church there was very little use of the building other than by Voyage Day Care which supports vulnerable young adults with learning difficulties (and Voyage still use the building in 2018). Since then work has been done to increase usage of the building. With data collected in 2017 estimating over 19,000 people have attended the Centre.

The Centre currently consists of:

- a) An area used by Voyage Day Care on an exclusive basis
- b) A Sports hall that will accommodate 3 Badminton Courts or a full 5-a-side football pitch or 250 delegates
- c) The Peartree Room that will seat 30 people
- d) The Talbot Room that will seat 20 people
- e) The Brereton Room that will accommodate 10 people
- f) The Art Room which can be used as a space to greet people
- g) A reception area and offices used by Centre staff and the Church Pastor
- h) A small kitchen and informal seating area

Even though the Church does not have a large membership, it has focused on working with other community minded organisations to deliver an ever increasing choice of activities and support services. Many of the hire rates have not increased in the 3 years since the Council ran the centre and a lower price is still offered to not for profit organisations.

The church meets in the main hall each Sunday and uses 2 of the rooms for activities for youngsters during part of the service. The church also holds many of its mid-week meetings in the appropriate smaller meeting rooms.



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### 1:2 Objects of the Church trust

The objectives of the charitable company as stated in the specified articles are as follows...

- the advancement of the Christian Faith in accordance with the doctrines (defined in the trust documentation) and the worship of God in this country and elsewhere by any means whatsoever, the preaching and proclamation of the Christian Gospel and the teaching of Christian doctrine and principles and the pastoral care of Christian people.
- the relief of persons who are in conditions of need hardship or distress or who are aged or sick.
- the advancement of education on the basis of Christian principles.

### 1:3 Mission and Vision of the Church

The Church mission is to be

“A church that brings hope and restoration to everyone in our community, town and region, as family, on mission together”

This has been shortened for everyday use to:

“Our aim is to be Church family living out the Love of God in all we do and to all we meet.”

This is the daily outworking of the Church’s mission.

The Church vision is summed up in these five words:



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### 1:4 Working in partnership

The Church Leadership recognises that with a small membership and a large facility it needs to work with others who share their values. Rugeley Community Church is continuing to develop ever stronger relationships with other Churches, community organisations and other support agencies.

In addition to relationships with other churches in the locality, Rugeley Community Church is also connected to Churches and church leaders in Liverpool, Wolverhampton, Kent and the North of England. It is also a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

Working with other community-based organisations is also important. The following organisations currently have a working relationship with Rugeley Community Church:

- Churches Together (Rugeley and Brereton)
- Voyage Day Care (supporting young adults with learning difficulties)
- Rugeley Foodbank (Trussell Trust)
- Various youth and adult football clubs (who use the hall October to Easter)
- St Giles Hospice
- Phoenix Club (for over 50s) Art and Badminton Groups
- Talent Match – job coaching for the under 25s
- Midland Psychology
- Local Pupil Referral Unit
- National Citizen Service
- NHS and local Police

In addition, various other groups who deal with the well-being of marginalised people of our community use Rugeley Community Centre though the year. These groups include:

Hope Project CAMHS Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service  
St Giles Bereavement Counselling  
St Giles Wellbeing Programme  
Cannock Chase Safer Neighbourhood Panel  
Wellbeing & Recovery SSSFT  
Cannock Chase CCG  
Healthy Hearing  
Springvale Child Welfare  
Support Staffordshire  
SCYVS Stafford Community Youth Volunteer Services  
South Staffordshire Community Learning Disability Team  
NHS Anxiety Course  
Chaselea Pupil 1-1 Tuition (Excluded children)  
Everyone Health  
St Giles End of Life  
DMR Foster Agency



## 2. Leadership Team

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### 2:1 Church leaders

#### **Richard & Jacqueline Miller**

Richard & Jacqueline married in 1985 they have 2 grown up daughters. They have lived in Rugeley since 1999 swapping the 'South Downs' for 'Cannock Chase'. They took up full time leadership of the church in 2009. Jacqueline continues to work for the NHS as a Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist. Jacqueline has a vision for developing pastoral care and seeing health and Well Being outworked in the community through Rugeley Community Centre and Richard's previous experience in church leadership includes, Eldership in other churches, youth, small groups and most recently he has been active in promoting community participation.



#### **Andy & Jayne Fisher**

Andy & Jayne met at university and moved to Rugeley after their marriage in 2007. Andy and Jayne joined the church leadership in 2015. When they have some spare time at home, which is now rather limited with their two children, they both love being creative with DIY projects and interior design. Andy uses his Graphic Design skills to help with promotion of the Church and the Community Centre and Jayne sings and leads worship as part of the team.



#### **Dave & Wendy Barnsley**

Dave & Wendy's friendship began in the 70's at a New Year's Eve party and they have recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary. They have two married daughters and 5 grandchildren. In May 2012 they took a step of faith and moved out of a community they had lived in for 36 years to settle in Rugeley and very quickly became part of Rugeley Community Church family. They recently retired from their 'day jobs', keeping very active through spending time with family, exploring the countryside on foot or bike, hanging out with friends and supporting the developing Church Centre. For Dave and Wendy it can be said they would now not have the time for paid work! Dave has been spending 15 hours a week as acting Centre Manager and Wendy oversees the children's work. They have just masterminded Activate a summer club for up to 50 children (primarily focused at families without the money to pay for summer activities).



#### **Chris & Liz Fielding**

Chris and Liz are the newest members of the Leadership team, joining in early 2018. They married in 2003 and have two daughters, Izzy and Phoebe. Chris works in the fundraising team at Newlife, a Charity for Disabled Children, whilst Liz works in a high school kitchen. Chris oversees and regularly leads worship at Rugeley Community Church, whilst in his spare time he loves music, running, TV box sets and reading. Liz enjoys being creative, from cooking to sewing to cake making.





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## 2.2 Other key individuals

### **Bill & Sheila Douthwaite**

Bill and Sheila joined the Church in 2007. Bill still works as an accountant in Industry but Sheila retired after 17 years with a local hospice in 2013. They have been in charge of the Church Welcome team since 2009. Bill became a Director in 2014 and his focus is primarily on the longer term direction for the Church and Community Centre. Sheila became a Director in 2016 and is also the Church Treasurer.



### **Dave & Marie Webb**

Dave and Marie married in 1980 and have two grown up daughters. In the past, they have been involved in small group leadership, youth work and the Marriage Course. Dave and Marie had the vision for the Rugeley Foodbank and have implemented and managed the project since January 2012. Dave is also in charge of property maintenance on a full-time basis and oversees all practical aspects at the Community Centre



### **Alan Ball**

Alan was born and raised in Rugeley and has been in this fellowship for 34 years. He was a member of the Church youth group and this was where he met his wife Alison. They now have been married for 26 years and have two sons. Alan is one of the worship team leaders and part of the church's wider leadership team. Currently is the chair and co-ordinator for the directors of the Church and Centre.



## 2:3 Professional advisors

### **Independent Examiners**

### **Chartered Accountants**

Wynniatt-Husey Ltd  
The Old Coach House  
Horse Fair  
Rugeley  
WS15 2EL  
Tel: 01889 583211  
[www.wynniatt-huseyltd.com](http://www.wynniatt-huseyltd.com)

### **Bankers**

Barclays Bank PLC  
[www.barclays.co.uk](http://www.barclays.co.uk)

## 3. Community Valuation

This community valuation consists of 2 main elements...

Firstly, a list and brief description of the services and activities organised by Rugeley Community Church which directly benefit the local community and secondly, a financial assessment based on what the same service would cost to achieve if it were to be financed through local council resources.

### 3:1 Current Projects

#### Rugeley Community Centre – Burnthill Lane

Taken over from Staffordshire County Council in April 2015 when the Council was proposing to close the building the Church has been running it as a Community Centre ever since on a 15 year lease. Purchase of the building from the Council has been agreed in principle but is currently on hold pending discussions regarding the boundaries of the site.

The Centre is open from 9am until 5pm from Monday to Friday plus in the evening from Monday to Thursday for pre arranged bookings. From October to April the full sized sports hall is booked in the evening from Monday to Thursday by local sports clubs. Apart from the Sports Hall, room hire during the day is in excess of 50%, and also in the evening during the summer, with the largest room in use most mornings and afternoons.

The Centre is run by salaried staff (receptionist/ co-ordinators and a property maintenance manager) and by volunteers. To facilitate the vision for the building to becoming a community hub it will need to be expanded and the current part-time volunteer Centre Manager will need to be replaced with a full-time salaried person. While most of the hirers pay for the space they use (at approximately the same room rates as when the Council ran the building) a significant amount of space is provided free of charge for community activities such as Foodbank distribution, St Giles Bereavement meetings and specifically run Church activities



#### Foodbank - the provision of emergency food parcels.

Initially Rugeley Community Church started to distribute food parcels to local homes where a specific need had been identified. The contents of these parcels had been donated by the Church members.

During 2011 it was recognised that the scale of the need required a much greater response than had been thought. After discussion, it was decided to develop a "Rugeley Foodbank" that could provide ongoing support for people who find themselves in desperate short term need - this was done in partnership with the other local Churches.

Using the model which has been developed by "The Trussell Trust" the Foodbank was re launched in June 2012. Since then on average 10 tonnes of food has been distributed each year to those in need both in Rugeley and Brereton and the surrounding villages Food is collected from Tesco and the Co-op in Rugeley and a Waitrose store in Uttoxeter. In addition, many other organisations also deliver donated goods to the Centre.



### **Activate - summer club for primary school children and parents**

Activate was a new venture in 2018. It arose out of meetings on the needs of the community and was promoted by Wigan Leisure. Activate is very similar to Fit and Fed run in other areas of the country. It is specifically aimed at those families whose children receive free school meals (and by definition would not have the money to pay for children's activities in holiday time. Activate was run for 12 sessions (3 times a week for 4 weeks) lasting from 9am to 2.30pm. As a trail event numbers were limited to 50 per session and almost all sessions were fully subscribed with many children attending every session. As indicated in its name, Activate was focused on activities for the children (who otherwise might have been sitting all day in front of the TV or on a computer) plus providing healthy food.



### **Little Gems and Searchlight - Sunday morning children's group.**

Specifically for children between the ages of 3 and 11 split into three age groups, this is run to coincide with the weekly Sunday morning Church service.

One of our aims is to see the children integrated into the wider church family as much as possible and it is for this reason that they join with the adults for a time of worship before moving into their various groups. This program includes singing and music, creative arts and recreational activities usually based around a biblical theme that helps develop the character of the children.



### **Soul Light - Friday evening youth group**

We provide a monthly youth event for the young people of our Church and their friends (11-18 years). This free event has an emphasis on building friendships and learning how to support and encourage each other in a safe environment. It also provides an opportunity to engage with the wider Church to encourage appropriate friendships across different age groups.

In the past year we have run film nights, game nights, walks and cookery activities.



### **Soul Survivor Youth Camp**

This annual 4-day national event is for young people and families and is run at Staffordshire Show Ground in August.

In a combination of tents and caravans the young people are accommodated on site and have a full schedule of events and activities throughout the week.

These include...

- seminars based on Biblical themes to help them mature and develop
- creative opportunities - centered around music and dance
- indoor and outdoor sports
- involvement in social action projects
- socialising





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## **Access English - teaching English for whom it is not their first language.**

This continuing initiative is focused on helping those who are part of the local community and want to overcome the language barrier. Access English delivers lessons in English to small classes in an easy going, fun and friendly atmosphere in the Church building. The lessons are specially tailored for speakers of other languages and are based on the National Standards of the “Skills for Life” levels in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (“ESOL”) Core Curriculum; produced by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The Core Curriculum is based on the National Standards for adult literacy developed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and shares the basic principles laid down in the National Curriculum for schools.

The courses focus on speaking, listening and responding skills, skills of reading and understanding and also the skill of writing to communicate. There is no charge for these Courses which are open to all, subject to availability.



### **3.2 Pastoral Care in the Community**

Pastoral Care is the practical expression of the Church’s concern for the everyday and ultimate needs of both its members and the community. In many ways the love and resources poured into the Community Centre facility, Foodbank, youth work and Access English are all examples of this.

This section on Pastoral Care is more aimed at individual situations where people have reached the point where they feel they cannot meet their needs themselves. Sometimes this can be done in small groups where by sharing and fellowship individuals can give and receive support and encouragement. The Church runs Connect groups for this purpose.

For other individuals, couples or families the issues are more personal and private and these are met on an individual basis.

#### **Connect Groups** (group pastoral care and support network)

The Connect Groups (previously called Fellowship Groups) are aimed at allowing individuals to support each other. The groups may meet for a few sessions (as few as 6) covering a particular area, or may be ongoing (e.g. a weekly men’s group). One of their purposes is to facilitate the building and strengthening of relationships as they eat, pray and discuss together.

There can be as many as 6 Connect groups taking place at any one time (apart from during the Summer Holidays and at Christmas). Some groups meet weekly, others meet fortnightly.

It is also one of the main ways that the church members can benefit from pastoral care and support. This has an additional benefit to the town of Rugeley as a number of the members are also part of the local caring community. These include...

- education
- school governors
- health services
- police service

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### **One-to-one Pastoral Care in the Community** (a responsive approach by the Church pastoral team)

When looking at the implementation of care in the church (or wider community) we work from a basis of meeting any person's need at the point where they cannot help themselves or have not the means to do so. This may be done through the Church or through signposting to a relevant agency

This has historically had four primary functions:

- 1. Healing** – involving the idea of moving through an “injury” to wholeness
- 2. Sustaining** – the support and care of a person over a period of time
- 3. Reconciling** – the restoration of damaged relationships
- 4. Guiding** – assisting people to make wise and prudent choices

Each case will be different and need different skills (and time) from the person supporting.

In practical terms 1to1 Pastoral Care in the Community may involve:

- Taking someone to a hospital appointment
- Befriending and providing a listening ear
- Talking through marriage difficulties or other family issues
- Help with moving house
- Help with finding employment
- Bereavement support
- Small DIY jobs

### **Avery Care Home** (fortnightly visit to local care home for befriending and support of residents)

Since being approached by ‘Attend’ (a national charity that supports and expands the roles volunteers play in creating healthy communities) in the Summer of 2017, nine members of Rugeley Community Church have trained as ‘Friends of Horsefair’ volunteers. This group plus others from the Church visit the home at least each fortnight for a couple of hours to just provide company, a listening ear and prayer if they want it.

A few of the Care Home residents have attended the occasional event at the Community Centre.

### **Other Support**

The Church provides a variety of additional support both in conjunction with other organisations and through the direct work of its own members.

The Church looks to tithe its room rental income by providing free or subsidised space to support organisations where funding is not otherwise available to pay for the space and a community need is recognised but funding is not otherwise available to pay for the space and which without support would not be able to function. One such organization that receives this support is St Giles Hospice who run a bereavement support group one morning a week in one of the Centre rooms.

Another new initiative in 2018 has been the launching of a film club once a month. The church has a licence to show films but it is not allowed to charge, so admission is free. The idea is to provide social contact for more mature members of the community.

Members of the Church have also put on 2 free Christmas meals in 2017, one for the carers employed by Voyage Day Centre, the other for the single members of the Church who would not have family to go to on Christmas Day.

Many other good works from the Church as a whole or by its members are only known to those who have been supported.

### 3.3 value of current projects

The community valuation has been split into two parts:

the value of inputs less income for projects

£190,502

and

the value of free space provided at the Community Centre for certain activities

£16,550

(please refer to appendices a and b for more detail)



## 4. Looking Forward

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Our Vision Statement guides our focus going forward in the same way as it has in the recent past and it has not changed. That Vision is:

### Love

To demonstrate how much God loves each person for who they are, irrespective of their personal circumstances

### Facilitate

That the Community Centre will be a resource to both the community we live in and the Kingdom of God

### Regenerate

To participate in the spiritual regeneration of the town of Rugeley and the surrounding villages and area through the working out of God's love

### Serve

To be intentional in being a catalyst for change by working with others in serving (together) our community

### Connect

We seek to be locally focused with global connections in demonstrating God's love.

Future plans are constrained by the fact that the Church only has the Community Centre on a 15 year lease (of which three and a half have elapsed). Much of what needs to be done in developing the Centre will be facilitated by purchasing the building from Staffordshire County Council and these discussions are well advanced. While every week is different, with the exception of the sports hall, the other rooms are on average in use over 50% of Monday to Friday mornings and afternoons. These bookings are sometimes only for two hours and the next booking will not start immediately afterwards, so actual room utilization overall is less than it potentially could be. Careful timetabling will be needed when demand for space increases. Centre staff do their best to be helpful and at present the Centre can satisfy most hirers needs.

It is the view of the Church Directors that there will be an ever increasing need for a larger building that can provide flexible space for Community organisations, whether they be council, police, NHS, charities or other community support organisations, where those organisations only use the space for a few hours regularly every week (and therefore do not want their own buildings). The Directors see the Community Centre developing into a Community Hub, providing services for the community close to the community it serves.

Our desire is that this Community Hub is a place of Well Being, Hope and Restoration

This expansion will also require the employment of a full time Community Centre Manager rather than relying on a part time volunteer as at present. That individual's task will not only be to run the existing Centre but working with other local organisations to create the plan for a larger building on the current site with a vision to:

Make Rugeley Community Centre the Centre of the Rugeley Community

This will require ever increasing co-operation with other Community Support organisations because much of the support will be provided by those organisations while Rugeley Community Church, with God's help, continues to "punch above its weight" by continuing to provide pastoral support in the community and a Community Centre Facility that is a pleasure for hirers and users alike.

That the Mission Statement, to be church family living out the love of God in all we do and to all we meet, is seen in action not just as words on a piece of paper.

## *5. Summary*

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Rugeley Community Church has for many years been active within the local community providing numerous activities and valuable care and support. The Community Valuation, provided by external advisors in 2014 and showing a value of £148,000, was the Church's first attempt to quantify that activity.

This updated Community Valuation quantifies the current activity and we are pleased to show an increase in value to £192,068, with an additional £16,670 from the gifting of free space (hours which are probably under estimated). This increase is a result of having moved premises in 2015, and also of the increased generosity of Church members together with support from members of other Churches, organisations and individuals. Our thanks to you all!

Thank you for taking the time to consider the contents of this document.