



THE HUB

CHRISTIAN RESOURCE CENTRE

Unit 6, The Crossing at St Pauls
Darwall Street
Walsall
WS1 1DA

UK Company 07126042

Rescued Christian Book Shop Reopens, Joined By Christian Band Phatfish.

WALSALL, ENGLAND, 26 February 2010 - One month to the day that Wesley Owen Books and Music locked its doors for the final time, The Hub Christian Resource Centre yesterday opened to the public. The new company was formed to continue the high street ministry of the store by a team of former staff members following IBS-STL's announcement that it was going into administration.

The store, which had previously also traded as Scripture Union and independently as The Beacon, is the first former Wesley Owen store to open independently. "It's sort of like coming full circle." Said Operations Manager and Director Luke Bunger. "Large national chains have obvious advantages at times, but when it comes to the local customers, it's hard to beat the service you get at a locally owned and operated store serving the needs of the community it exists in." He added, "People who remember it still speak of 'The Beacon' with great fondness, we hope they will have the same feelings towards 'The Hub'."

The shop was opened at 1:00 PM, with Rev. Mark Kinder of St. Paul's Church, cutting the ribbon. Rev. Kinder had been instrumental in generating support amongst Church leaders, and had been very supportive of the staff. Kinder took the time to thank the gathered crowd for being there, all who had supported the shop and the staff, before leading the crowd in a time of prayer and declaring the shop officially open.

Rev. Kinder said, "It's important to acknowledge everything that the staff have put in. Taking the shop from an empty shell to what you see today in just four weeks has taken a lot of hard work and dedication." He added "And none of this would have been possible without the support [the local community] have shown them."

The gathered crowds then got to see the newly refurbished unit. "It looks amazing" said local resident Mark Webb, "Hard to imagine that less than a month ago the shop had been stripped bare. If I hadn't seen it myself, I'm not sure I'd believe it was possible." The staff had intended to purchase the remaining stock from the administrators, but were unable to reach an agreement, and all stock was removed from the store immediately following the closure.

"We really need to thank all of the suppliers who have made this possible." Said Luke "Obviously, without stock we couldn't have opened, but every supplier we have worked with has really gone above and beyond to make sure we were ready for opening time." He went on to add "We are very pleased to announce that we are now CWR Premium Stockists, Lion Hudson Alliance members and IVP partners. We are very excited by the benefits this will provide to our customers. Special offers from all of these suppliers are available in store now."

At 3:00 PM the team were joined by Lou Fellingham and Jos Wintermeyer of top christian band Phatfish appeared in store, performing a 30 minute acoustic set and meeting with fans. Lou and Jos performed three songs, to a delighted crowd before leaving. The band were there not only to help open the shop, but also to promote their sold-out concert later that evening, and upcoming Passion for Life gig with Rico Tice at Birmingham Town Hall on 26th March 2010, for which tickets are still available.

"Phatfish were the icing on the cake to what was already a perfect opening day" said Retail Manager and Director Christine Bunger. "At times, even as late as yesterday, we were not sure we would be ready, but everything came together in the end. We're so glad to be open again. Opening today is the end of one journey but we know it is only the beginning of our story, and we're very excited about what the future has in store for us."

The Hub Christian Resource Centre Ltd exists to equip, resource and support the Christian community in the West Midlands and assist in the gospel mission of local churches. Offering Christian resources of all kinds, The Hub is a one-stop-shop for all the needs of the local Christian Community.

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