



# the hub

christian resource centre

UK Company 07126074 VAT No. GB984 5728 64

The Hub Christian Resource Centre Ltd.  
31-31a Stafford Street  
Walsall  
West Midlands  
WS2 8DG

t. 01922 279 227  
e. [info@enterthehub.co.uk](mailto:info@enterthehub.co.uk)  
w. [www.enterthehub.co.uk](http://www.enterthehub.co.uk)

For Immediate Release.

## **WALSALL CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP COMPLETES MAJOR RELOCATION — OPENS SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER**

**Friday 21st October 2011 - Walsall, England** — The Hub Christian Resource Centre Ltd. has today announced that it has completed its relocation to Stafford Street, and will be open to the public on Saturday 22nd October 2011.

Nearly 2 years after the closure of *Wesley Owen*, and the subsequent birth of *The Hub* Christian retailing in Walsall is undergoing yet another major development. The Hub, which vacated its former shop, in *The Crossing at St. Paul's* in Walsall town centre less than one week ago—ringing up its final sale there at about 4:00pm on Saturday 16th October—has completed the refitting of 31-31a Stafford Street in just one week, and will open this Saturday

Although renovation of the former White Mountain store—which had sat empty for over 12 months—had been ongoing for several weeks, the fact that the Staff and volunteers have completed the transformation, with no outside contractors, is nonetheless testament to their passion for the shop, their mission to keep Christian books, music, cards, gifts and resources on the high street of Walsall, and the belief of all of those who volunteered, that Christian retailing is important, and the service offered is worth preserving.

“First and foremost, we must thank each and every person who has helped us throughout these last weeks and months. Without our numerous volunteers, drivers, painters, decorators, handymen and women and well-wishers, as well as those who have supported us in prayer and financially, this move would not have been possible.” said Director Luke Hughes-Bunger. “We must also thank God. Without him, there would be no reason for The Hub to even exist. It is because of Him that so many people have given so much and have continued to support the work we do.”

The move, which has been on the cards for several months, is in response to numerous factors, including the ongoing recession, increasing costs, the seismic shift in the layout of Walsall's town centre, and a desire to diversify and beyond what would have been possible at *The Crossing at St. Paul's* to name just a few. “The move came about for a variety of reasons,” said Luke “You can't put your finger on any one thing which made us say 'go'. Everything just fell into place, and just at the right time, to make it possible, which is often how we have found God to move in these circumstances.”

“The recession is real, and shows no signs of letting up. We cannot simply bury our heads in the sand and hope the storm will pass. If we believe that there is still a place for Christian bookshops on the high street, which we do, then we must be proactive in finding ways to secure the survival of our shop.” He added. “It's a buyers market right now, and the cost savings which can be achieved by moving just a few minutes away from the town centre, is very significant.”

The Hub leaves *The Crossing* which has been the home to Walsall's Christian bookshop since *St. Paul's* converted the ground floor to a shopping centre more than 14 years, and moves to Stafford Street, the home of *The Beacon* Walsall's first independent Christian bookshop.

“It's sort of like coming full circle” said Christine Bungler, also a director of the shop. “As Walsall's layout once again changes, and development continues in this part of town following major investment in the area by Tesco, Walsall College and Walsall Housing Group, it seems fitting that The Hub is able to return home to the same street where it all began with *The Beacon*, more than 40 years ago. Once again, an independent Christian Bookshop sits pride of place on Stafford Street.”

“Moving also gives us a freedom to diversify, and to grow beyond the confines of 'The Crossing' our home since we opened in February 2010.” Said Luke. “That's not to be disparaging towards our former landlords. They have been fantastic—everything we could want in a landlord in many ways—however the fact remains, much of what The Hub would like to do is already offered by *St. Paul's*. By moving, rather than reducing the Christian presence in the town, we are actually increasing it. *St. Paul's* will continue to minister to the people of

the town, through the great work they do, and The Hub can minister to different people, in a different part of town."

In addition to all of their current offerings, the new property—nearly one-and-a-half times larger than the shop at The Crossing—will allow for the creation of a "Quiet Space" which the owners hope will be staffed by volunteers who's purpose is to talk, pray with, and offer support and guidance for those who need it, as well as being a great location to meet with friends and to grab a drink of tea or coffee, which The Hub will also begin serving shortly after the grand opening.

"The move offers The Hub a great opportunity to keep spreading the message, and to grow as a business." Said Rev. Evan Cockshaw, Vicar of St. Thomas Church, Aldridge. "We have been using The Hub since they opened, and it's a great resource for the whole community - not just church-going Christians. You cannot underestimate the power of God's love to impact people's lives, and the value of great Christian resources. It's not just a shop selling Bibles, it supplies all manner of resources for people at any stage of life or faith, helping people overcome all types of problems and celebrate all aspects of life. We're very excited to see what the future holds for The Hub, and to watch how God uses the shop next."

The Hub is not leaving The Crossing empty however. Trevor Appleton, owner of Heaven Sent cards and gifts, which already let's two of the units in The Crossing, has for some time been discussing the possibility of increasing the size of his shop to both broaden the range of products he stocks, and better display those he already has.

"Heaven Sent is very popular, the flagship store of The Crossing in many ways." Said Luke. "When we heard Trevor and his team were interested in taking over the shop if we moved, we were delighted. The last thing we wanted was to leave The Crossing in any financial difficulty, and Heaven Sent will be the perfect tenant for Unit 6."

In addition to their current shop, Heaven Sent will operate Unit 6 as an annex, allowing them to better display a much wider variety of products than they are currently able to.

"The staff at Heaven Sent really know their customers, who are very loyal to them. They have an amazing collection of products, each one is immensely popular. Unfortunately, the shop they have is really too small to do it justice." Luke added. "It has a great atmosphere, but it is also quite cramped. I'm sure there is are many things that Trevor and the team have wanted to do for some time that they have had to shelve because there is just not space to do it. Every square foot that is available is used to it's fullest potential. By adding Unit 6 to their already thriving shop, we are sure that Heaven Sent will be able to go from strength to strength."

To celebrate their grand re-opening, The Hub will be offering a free copy of "Swimming in the Red Sea" a Novel by Jason Garner to everyone who visits the store between the 22nd and 25th. Additionally, they are offering 10% discount to all customers who spend £15 or more during this time, in addition to the great promotions already in store, including 3-for-2 on many books and christmas gifts, 2 for £20 on many CDs and a fantastic selection of fiction books for just £6 each.

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Luke Hughes-Bunger, Director:- [info@enterthehub.co.uk](mailto:info@enterthehub.co.uk) or 01922 279 227

[About The Hub.](#)

Born out of the ashes of the collapsed IBS-STL empire, The Hub is an independent Christian bookshop based in Walsall, England. The Hub exists to equip and resource the Christian community of the West Midlands and assist in the gospel mission of local churches. The Hub prides itself on offering a friendly, helpful, face-to-face service, and hope that the knowledge and expertise it provide makes it a must-visit destination for anyone in need of quality Christian resources. The Hub also aims to provide support, information and advice to anyone who needs it regardless of their background or circumstances.

Their website is [www.enterthehub.co.uk](http://www.enterthehub.co.uk) and our telephone number is 01922 279 227.

Their address is:

The Hub Christian Resource Centre Ltd.  
31-31a Stafford Street  
Walsall  
West Midlands  
WS2 8DG