

Church@Car Boot Sale

PRESS RELEASE

9th OCTOBER 2011

Members of the Church @ Car Boot Sale Team presented £600 to the Essex Air Ambulance this morning. The team have been raising money, through a unique and surprising project, at the weekly Boreham Car Boot Sale.

Since the 29th May 2011 a group of Chelmsford Churches have set up camp at the weekly Boreham Car Boot Sale. Forget your image of traditional Church; this is all about Church being relevant for the 21st century. A team of volunteers have been providing top quality freshly ground coffee, cups of tea and a chance to relax for weary bargain hunters. Each Sunday the team also provide craft activities for children.

The not for profit project has been a huge success and since its inception hundreds of people have visited the tent and left with a positive experience of what Church can mean today. 50% of the takings have been given to the Essex Air Ambulance.

The team don't push Church onto anyone who doesn't want it, but there are people on hand if anyone wants to chat. This approach has been universally embraced by shoppers, stall holders and the local press.

The Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell says "This is where people are, so this is where the Church should be!"

Please contact Christopher Smith on 07834 590400 for further information.

Attached photo: Church @ Car Boot Sale team members presenting the cheque for £600 to Teresa James of the Essex Air Ambulance.

Ends.

NOTES TO EDITORS

- A photograph of the giant cheque being handed to the Essex Air Ambulance is attached to this email.
- The Church @ Car Boot Sale team will be returning next April to continue this low key approach to Churches serving the community.
- A new website has been launched www.churchatcarbootsale.org.uk and a facebook page is proving popular www.facebook.com/churchcarbootsale.
- People have enjoyed the provision of tables and chairs to either chat to each other or the volunteers. Regardless of whether they buy drinks.
- Many churches are working together to ensure that a varied team is on site each Sunday.
- Previous press coverage and a radio interview with the Bishop of Chelmsford stating his support for the venture are available on the website under 'PRESS'.