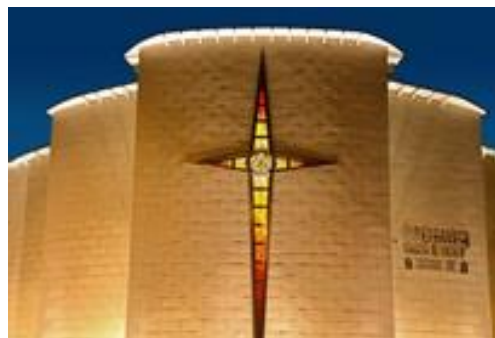


Worksop
(Methodist and United Reformed)



Annual Report **2022/2023**



Prepared for
Annual General Meeting
15th October 2023
The Crossing Church
Registered Charity No. 1140500

The Crossing Church
Newcastle Street, Worksop, S80 2AT
www.thecrossing.co.uk

Administrative Information

The Crossing Church, Worksop is a single congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) and is part of the wider Methodist & United Reformed Churches. The Crossing Church is situated on Newcastle Street, Worksop, S80 2AT.

The members of The Church Council are recognised as the Charity Trustees. Those who served during the Church Year 2022/23 are: -

Chair: Revd Julie Coates

Church Council Members:

Deacon Emily Hoe-Crook

Annette Westerby (Treasurer)

Annette Barker (Safeguarding Officer)

Anne Taylor (Clerk)

Rev Bob Heathcote

Iris Franks

Griff Wynne (passed away Nov 2022)

Richard Peake (appt March 2023)

Kath Jordan (appt March 2023)

Margaret Merrills (appt March 2023)

The Crossing Church's governing document (Constitution, Schedule & Ecumenical Vision Statement) was last updated November 2019.

This AGM Report, including the reports from all groups & sections within The Crossing Church, relates to the Church Year & Financial Year 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023.

This annual report, together with the content of our independently examined accounts for the same year (when issued) will serve as the Trustees' Annual Report (TAR), for Charity Commission purposes.

These accounts will be listed on the Charity Commission's website from early 2024 under Charity Number 1140500.

The Trustees of the Crossing Church are the "Church Council" who act as "Managing Trustees" and "Charity Trustees". We are grateful to those members of the church who have been prepared to accept these responsibilities as Church Council members during the year.

The Church Council is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in the "Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and has regard to it in the administration of The Church. This is assured by our Mission Statement.

Mission and Purpose

The purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith.

Our mission is to share the love of God and serve the local community

We seek to achieve this by:

- Offering a welcoming, caring place of worship, prayer and friendship
- Supporting the people of Worksop and District through a range of community events and activities

(please see the “Mission of The Crossing” document at the end of this booklet)

Policies

The Crossing has a current Safeguarding Policy and we comply with requirements for leaders and office holders to have current DBS enhanced checks and safeguarding training.

We follow safer recruitment practices.

Copies of this policy and the following are readily available:

Data Privacy Statement

Health & Safety Policy

Fire Safety Policy

Equality & Diversity Policy

Lone Workers Policy

Environmental Code of Practice

Risk Assessments covering Fire, COSHH, Electrical, Manual Handling, etc.

Plus, many more policy & procedure documents relating to the operations of a busy Church and Community Centre.

All legislative health & safety checks are made including:

Lift Maintenance & LOLER certificate

Fire Alarms & Equipment regular maintenance & testing

High wire & lightning conductor testing

Gas safety Certificate

PAT Testing & Full electrical inspection

SWAB Testing & de-greasing of café extractors

Chair's Report

Dear Friends,

I commend to you the articles in this report. As ever it is encouraging to read through the articles and to be reminded of all that we have experienced during the last year.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a report – and to Anne for editing the finished product. Thank you too to the volunteers who, as you will see, have contributed many hours of service to the work that is described in these pages.

The report mentions those who faithfully served God through this church community and who have now been promoted to glory. We owe a great deal to those whose vision and leadership enabled the building and flourishing of The Crossing. It is our task now to honour their memory and to add to their legacy.

Interspersed through this booklet are some word clouds that we created part way through the year to help us reflect on the different aspects of our life together – which words jump out at you from these images?

I look forward to our Annual Church Meeting, which will take place as part of our worship gathering on Sunday 15th October. This gives us an opportunity to engage in conversation about the work of God at The Crossing and to see what we learn from one another as we grow in our faith and discipleship.

Grace and peace, Julie



WordItOut

Deacon's Report

This last year has, from my perspective, been a positive one where The Crossing Church congregation has knitted still closer together, engaged in community events and deepened in its discipleship collectively and individually.

The Visionaries group has discerned the way forward, beginning events and opportunities for children and families in a prayerful and care-full way, not diving in unprepared but taking each step at a time. Encouragingly we have started to get young families coming sporadically to worship services, and we have sought to make them feel a tangible sense of welcome and belonging, in part through the purchase of a children's trolley with toys, books and games which is available in the new children's area each Sunday.

The Crossing, for the first time, hosted a stall at July 2023's PRIDE event, leading to helpful conversations and a few expressions of interest in our events and the fact that we offer same-sex marriage services. Following that three people came to the newly re-launched Café Church service the following day. I am deeply encouraged by the Visionaries assertion that we are called to take the love of God into the community, not simply expecting folks to come to us. On the back of the successful PRIDE stall, we have been invited to provide similar at Worksop's Charter Day in October this year, and for subsequent events. We are gaining a reputation for openness and inclusion.

The first Family Film Night saw 12 people welcomed for the first time into the Café space for craft activities, pizza and Disney's 'Encanto'. There is much enthusiasm to continue these events with increased publicity through schools.

Our involvement with Priory Primary School has deepened over this year, with us hosting their Christmas Concert, and they have booked again for this year. I take monthly assemblies, and for the first time organised an 'Experience Easter' event in school which saw the entire school over the course of a day engage with the complexities of the Easter story, and respond with interactive prayer activities. The school was extremely positive about the event, and would welcome further input.

Relationships with the uniformed organisations who meet at The Crossing have continued to flourish, with Brownies and Scouts receiving their Faith Badges, and celebrating a Christingle service in the lead up to Christmas last year (I look forward to the same this year).

On a sadder note, we have hosted several funerals through the last year, including four of our own beloved members – Griff Wynne, Nigel Westerby, David Jordan and Brenda Belfiore. We continue to hold their loved ones in prayer.

We have also celebrated numerous baptisms this year with a truly lovely atmosphere and new family contacts made, and conducted the wedding of Michelle and David May, which was a real joy.

Thanks to your prayers and ongoing support we continue to be a presence for good in the local community, which I aim to spread still further over the coming year. Thank you so much to everyone who works so hard to make all of the above possible – you are much appreciated. In addition, you as a church family have enabled me to proceed to Ordination this year, and supported me and Lisa in spectacular fashion – thank you, so much. It is a privilege to serve alongside you.

Emily Hoe-Crook.

Environmentally Friendly Church

At The Crossing Church we are working hard to increase our "Eco-Friendly" activities.

In the official accreditation system, we have achieved a Bronze certificate and we are working towards a Silver.

We have a number of collection points for items that can be recycled or re-used.

- Used plastic Milk Bottle tops (container in cafe kitchen) are collected and passed on to raise funds for Yorkshire Cancer Research. (via Sylvia)
- Used Glasses (container behind welcome desk) are collected to be re-used by the "Vision Aid Overseas" scheme via a local opticians.
- Toothpaste tubes & brushes (container behind welcome desk) are recycled via the Terracycle scheme.
- Empty Crisp packets (container behind welcome desk) These used to be recycled via the Terracycle scheme, but as most of our local supermarkets now have a collection point we encourage everyone to take these directly. We do however still provide the service for anyone who does not have transport.

Pastoral Support Team (previously Pastoral Visitors)

Since the last AGM Report we have had 4 members join our Church. Sadly, Griff Wynne, Nigel Westerby, David Jordan and Brenda Belfiore have passed away since the last AGM Report. Griff and David played a major part in the life of The Crossing Church, prior to and since its opening in May 2006. Nigel was also an active member of the church being the Company Secretary of the SEC and subsequently a member of the Church Council. Brenda Belfiore was also a longstanding member of The Crossing Church, although she had been unable to attend for some time, due to ill health. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of

their families at this time of loss, they will be sadly missed.

At the beginning of this year Mollie informed our meeting that she had made the decision to resign as a Pastoral Visitor. We thank Mollie for her many years of loyal service in this role – being a non-driver, this has often included lots of walking for her. She has also said that she will continue to support our team in prayer.

We still meet as a Pastoral Team of 7, on a regular basis and we thank Emily for her active involvement and for Chairing our meetings. At our last meeting, taking into account how the role of Pastoral Visitor has developed, it was felt we should change our title from Pastoral Visitors to Pastoral Support Team as this seems to better reflect our role. As a Pastoral Support Team we will continue to provide Pastoral Support to our Membership. We continue to thank Emily for her time and willingness to do hospital and home visits as the need arises.

On Sunday 1st October, Emily will be leading our Harvest Festival Service and during that service there will be a rededication of the Pastoral Support Team.

Janet Lincoln, Secretary Pastoral Support Team

Worship Group

For a number of reasons this group has not met for quite some time and tends to be hastily convened when the dreaded ‘OA’ term appears on the quarterly plan, which means ‘Own Arrangement’. When Jean Roberts was at the helm she would organise us by setting a date for a planning meeting and then allocating roles for various willing folk to play in producing an act of worship for the designated Sunday but of late the pattern of services has varied and the ‘Café Church’ group is doing a fine job planning and delivering some new expressions of worship.

There are still some ‘Own Arrangement’ services being planned from time-to-time and if required the Worship Group will be reconvened as required.

If any of you would like to be included in the Worship Group for service planning in the future please let me or Emily know.

Bob Heathcote .

Safeguarding report

This has been a very busy year for safeguarding paperwork, which I am slowly ploughing my way through.

A new handbook for safeguarding officers came out this year and I have begun reading it – slowly. We are now working to the two-year plan as set out in the Handbook.

After discussion with Alison Hill (District Safeguarding Officer) in February, it was decided that I needed help as there was so much paperwork to cover – especially in a Church such as ours. After discussion with Deacon Emily, it was decided that she would take over the reporting of any incidents and I would continue as Safeguarding Officer. Emily is responsible for chapter 2 in the handbook and I am responsible for Chapter 1, 3,4,5,6,7.

Alison and I worked on creating a safeguarding spreadsheet unique to our Church groups. This Safeguarding Risk Assessment form was sent out to all church-based groups. Thank you to all who filled in the spreadsheet and returned it. Only one group has yet to fill in a risk assessment. These have been filed on the Church SharePoint. Any safeguarding issues that arose from the risk assessments have, hopefully, now been covered especially register taking!!

I have nearly finished the role descriptions for all volunteers in Church roles and many volunteers, especially on the Welcome desk have been issued with badges. These badges should be worn at all times especially when fulfilling the role e.g. Steward, Welcome desk volunteer etc. Both the role descriptions and badges should be completed by the end of the year.

The other job for this year is to complete Annual reviews for all those working on the welcome desk. This entails meeting individually with Welcome desk volunteers and filling in the relevant forms. Individual role descriptions are then completed and signed.

DBS checks are renewed every five years. All those due for review this year are currently being actioned.

We have had 2 safeguarding incidents this year which were both dealt with in-house through mediation and counselling.

My thanks to everyone who supports me in this role.

Annette J Barker

Staffing

The Crossing Church is registered as an employer with HMRC and employs three staff, these are :

- Garry Pritchard – part time caretaker (17hrs per week)
- Barry Williamson – part time cleaning operative (17 hrs per week)
- Laura Mazlum – part time reception & admin support.(20 hrs per week)

Our policy is to be a living wage employer.

These staff provide valuable support to our volunteer teams, and enable us to provide a professional service to the organisations who hire our rooms.

We are also heavily supported by the Trinity Methodist Circuit.

The Circuit Operations Manager , Richard Dearden takes the responsibility of line managing our staff and supporting our church council in many ways, particularly with regard to supervising property maintenance and day to day operations.

Singing with Dementia

This has been an encouraging year in many ways. Our numbers have picked up again after Covid and we have a steady number of 25 to 30 members attending our events, mainly due to the loyal support of the Activities co-ordinators at Victoria and Greenacres Care homes.

Because of our Community Commitment evidence we are very proud to have been recognised as a Dementia Friendly Church by the Alzheimers Society.

Our entertainers have varied from the usual support of Annie Fotheringham, Russ Weaver, Denise and Roger Marsden and our friends from the U3a to an appearance by Elvis and a special afternoon with Alison Carrington from our own congregation.

We held a Christmas Party at the end of November and were fortunate to gain a grant from The Foresters Friendly Society to fund this, thanks to Sylvia Heathcote. The highlight of the year was the Coronation Special. The room was packed with people singing patriotic songs whilst wearing crowns, tiaras, face masks and other appropriate dress. It was very emotional at the close when everyone who was able stood to sing God Save the King and wave their flags.

My thanks go once more to ALL the team without whom these events would not be possible. We were all very upset when Linda Lees, our Tombola Queen, reluctantly had to retire from her labours.

Linda you are wonderful and we are all very grateful to you for all your work and the enormous amount of money you raised. We love you and we miss you. Thank you to Iris Franks who has taken over so willingly.

After a short Summer break we meet again on September 20th. Due to various circumstances the dates between September and Christmas have been changed so please do check before attending.

Although the **Dementia** Cafe followed by the **Memory Cafe and Worship** did not attract the numbers we hoped for and therefore were not viable we are still trying new ways to encourage people to join us.

In June we held a **Film Afternoon** which proved to be more of an attraction. Summer Holiday starring Cliff Richard was enjoyed by more than 20 viewers (as

was the popcorn)

Many thanks are due to the long suffering and always helpful Richard Peake who was our projectionist for the afternoon. We have already been asked when the next one is and we are looking at dates, so keep an eye on the church notices.

Once again I am humbled by the support and generosity of all who give their time and gifts to ensure that this group continues. Thank you all. *Jean Roberts*



Shoe Box Appeal

This year we once again supported Link to Hope and thanks to Sylvia Heathcote obtaining a substantial donation from the Foresters Friendly Society we were able to fill 100 boxes, the generosity of our Church congregation and supporters enabled us to send £300 towards the cost of transport.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who received the boxes and many, many thanks to ALL who helped in any way for bringing a smile to so many people in need.

We would ask for your continued support this next year, for more details of the Charity please go to www.Linktohope.co.uk .

Many Thanks, The Shoe Box Team

Thursday Group

The Thursday group started in the 1960s and has been ongoing in one form or another since that time, it is a friendship group for ladies of ALL ages.

Our group meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday in the month 2.30pm – 4pm, with a break during July and August and last week in December.

We pay a subscription of £5 three times per year, we also have a voluntary Charity collection at each meeting , this year we were able to support the Crossing (£300),

the Bassetlaw Food Bank (£100) and the Lewy Body Society (£100).

We alternate the meetings at the crossing with afternoon coffee / cake out at various places and occasionally a meal.

During this last year we had 4 very different but very interesting speakers, David Sheridan, Vicky Owen, Angela Saxby and our very own Deacon Emily.

We start with a short devotional/prayer and end with refreshments – usually there is CAKE !!

Our programme for September 2023 to January 2024 is now available on the welcome desk, so Ladies please come along you will be very welcome,

Iris (President)

Grumpy Men's Group

The Grumpy Men's Group was started by our much-missed Griff several years ago and both in tribute to Griff and also because we all seem to enjoy this group we are continuing to meet in much the same way as it has always been.

This is one of those groups which have no agenda, programme or membership requirements save for the fact that all participants qualify as being 'Grumpy Men', according to others!

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 12.30pm and enjoy our regular diet of butties, chips and coffee (or tea). The butties comprise a bap (or bread-cake or plain teacake or whatever you wish to call it), either white or brown, with a filling of either sausage or bacon. These are lovingly prepared by a team comprising Russell, Janet, Christine, Iris or anyone else we can commandeer into this valuable and fulfilling role. Chips are purchased from 'Catch 44' along Newcastle Avenue and this monthly diet successfully shuts us up for about ten minutes after which the conversation can vary from local issues, international politics, finances, aches and pains, bin lorries, mining engineering, council business or even buses and trains! The subject matter is not pre-planned but just evolves.

The monthly gathering usually lasts for about an hour and a bit and the attendance has reached 13 or 14 at times and we fit neatly into the café space around the comfy chairs.

It is a fun group and is very therapeutic and tummy enhancing. If you are tempted to come along and if you qualify as a 'Grumpy Man' then you will be very welcome – so long as you don't take things too seriously. There is naturally a charge for these fine refreshments which is around the £6 or £7 mark and any profit made is added to Crossing funds.

Bob

Art Group

This group meets on a Friday morning from ten to mid-day.

We are a keen but fun-loving group who produce some beautiful work (as many of you may have seen on display in the Café)

Some members may say that they cannot draw or paint etc, and then they surprise themselves with their efforts.

Each works at their own pace and enjoys a challenge (after a groan).

New members are welcome – just let Terry know – Come along; then you, like the rest of the group, will discover that Art is fun and rewarding. *Terry Bray*

Model Transport Exhibition

We have now held six Model Transport Exhibitions at The Crossing and even through the years of Covid restrictions we managed to continue the pattern though we changed the time of year from January to September and this has been much appreciated by helpers and exhibitors alike though the 2023 event hit what felt like the hottest day of the year, but thanks to regular supplies of water and air-conditioning units, we coped and had another successful event.

I have to confess that I really enjoy these events as it gives an opportunity for those of us who are afflicted with enthusiasm for model transport in its many forms to see them on display and though my personal version of this affliction relates to buses, trams, trolleybuses and trains I still find the miniaturisation of transport in their context captures my imagination and that of countless others as can be seen from the faces of those who come along to these popular events.

Once one exhibition has taken place Russell and I try to get along to the other local exhibitions to see if there are any layouts and dioramas which would fit into the space we have at The Crossing and we try to assemble a variety of styles of layout with varying scales and eras they depict but we are often constrained by the availability of the exhibits and exhibitors and the expense of them being brought along to Worksop for one-day events (many model railway exhibitions are two-day weekend events).

As many of you are aware I have been involved with the Model Bus Federation since 1968 and we regularly have members support our events at The Crossing from as far afield as South Shields, Bishop Auckland, Stafford, Harrogate, Nottingham, Huddersfield and Dewsbury but this year we had visitors from much further afield including a member normally resident in Australia but who made Worksop part of his UK itinerary on his recent six-week visit.

But these exhibitions only happen because of the amazing support we get by lots of volunteers many of whom are church members but also friends who also help

in many ways.

These volunteers include those who work hard in the café, making cakes and sandwiches, serving them, and who present a smiling face to the customers. There are those who staff the paydesk, who look after the car parking for exhibitors and who operate the car park barrier (in all weather). There are many who help move the church furniture to create the space required, and then put it all



back again. There are those who distribute posters and fliers and who ensure local shops and other churches are aware of the exhibition, and there are many others whose help is invaluable and much appreciated, and then there are those who come along on the day and willing pay to be entertained, well refreshed, and who go away and tell everyone else what they have enjoyed.

Based on the success of these annual events and the good support of local enthusiasts, families and other visitors, we will have two such events in 2024, one in March and the other in September. Thanks you for your support.

Bob

Crafty Corner

The Crafty Corner meets each Wednesday 10.30 till 12.00, cost £2.50 to cover refreshments and contribute to Church Funds.

This group is going well at the moment, with 12 members joining us regularly. Most members are knitters and embroiderers, and bring their own projects to work on, but also there is lots of chat.

Last Autumn the National Trust asked if we would make poppies for a display in Clumber Park Church. We contributed around 90 poppies.

We also, over last summer, made a large collage for the McMillan cancer 'Eating Cakes Day' for last September. We made flowers in the purples and greens of the McMillan colours. It went on display at Hall Farm, in Weston.

Throughout the year we knitted squares, and made them into blankets for 'Warm Spaces' and the Shoe-box appeal. Thanks to all those who have given us wool to use for these projects.



This photo is from the World Wide Knitting day held in June 2023 in Worksop. Crafty corner members supported the day bringing attention to the art of knitting and crochet to the people attending the market. It was very successful, lots of interest, and donations were raised for Bassetlaw Food Bank. As a result we have been talking about a drive to make items for another charity as the group has in previous years.

We provide each other with friendship and practical advice for our crafts. (Thanks to Deidre for organising this event)

My special thanks go to Elizabeth, who volunteers every week and is an invaluable member of the group. Especial thanks, Elizabeth, for covering for me the times I have been unable to run the group,

Christine Wynne

The Card Stall

It is situated in the middle of the Café. We try to offer a good range of quality cards at a good price.

All the profit goes to benefit the Church and a card is much nicer than an e-mail ! Please continue to support us (we are a lot cheaper than the shops)

Margaret & Terry Bray

The Quizzes

As well as the monthly Word Search, Terry tries to produce three quizzes a year. One for Christian Aid, one for Action for Children and one for Church funds.

Only £1 per sheet – gets the brain working and (so I'm told) is a bit of fun.

Terry Bray

Music at The Crossing

I start this report with great sadness as I think of David Jordan and all he did for Music at The Crossing. Even after stepping down from organising concerts, he was a great help to me in what needed to be done whenever we had a concert at The Crossing. He will be sorely missed.

Although Music @ The Crossing does not exist anymore after David's retirement from the role, we still have concerts, but now they are booked by the choirs or bands themselves. The Church Council decided, because of copyright laws, to limit

the number of concerts we do to 6 a year.

In 2022/ 2023 we had 5 concerts. Ryton Chorale thrilled audiences with their November 2022 concert and then followed up with their annual Messiah concert in March 2023.

Anson Male Voice choir came in September 2022 and filled the hall. They returned in November 2022 along with the Major Oak Pop Choir. The Crossing was full of audience and choir members (65 in all)

In July this year Simply Swing – the U3A swing band – came and entertained us with an afternoon of music through the years. Tea and coffee were available and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

There are two concerts in line for the rest of this year – Musicality Singers will be bringing their Christmas Concert on Friday 15th December and, we hope that The Major Oak Pop Choir will return on Saturday 9th December - watch the window and magazine for more information nearer the date.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who come along to these concerts and help me to make the evenings enjoyable and to run smoothly. Without them there wouldn't be any concerts.

To finish I would like to thank Jenny Peake who took over the role of organist since David was taken ill. She is doing a brilliant job. Thank you, Jenny
Thank you all for your support whether as a volunteer or as audience. *Netty*

Church Fayres

It has become our regular pattern to hold two Fayres during the year, these were on 5th November 2022 & 20th May 2023. These were both really busy events, bringing many people into The Crossing, and raising much needed funds for the Church.

The stalls are usually a mix of local craftspeople bringing their wares for sale, our own church folk who have special talents and many “pre-loved” items looking for a new home, be they books, plants, jewellery, accessories, bric a brac etc.

Not forgetting homemade cakes & preserves, greetings cards, art work etc.

We also have a number of our groups raising funds for their own group (such as the Cubs and Scouts and Dementia Singing) and others raising funds for local charities (such as the MS Society)

These events are an ideal time for us to open our café once again, and provide refreshments for stallholders & attendees alike and although busy & tiring our fantastic team of catering volunteers all agree that it is lovely for the café to be

“buzzing” again, and filled with the smell of cooking pork (hot pork rolls) or bacon.

Our next event will be a Christmas Fayre on November 25th.

Anne Taylor & the Fayre team.

Community Café

Our Café space and kitchen has continued to be used for a variety of purposes throughout the year, some arranged by our own volunteer team and others by third parties and local charities.

The regular coffee morning from 10am – 12noon every Friday morning has become more & more popular and we have a number of regular customers who meet up every Friday. It is manned by a wonderful team of volunteers who serve on a rota basis. (we could always accommodate a few more people)

We serve Fairtrade Coffee & Tea and lots of lovely homemade cakes (made by a few dedicated volunteer cake bakers)

New volunteers are welcome, both to serve and or wash up, and to provide homemade cakes on a regular basis. If we have a few more people helping once a month, it would really help.

During this year we were contacted by the North Notts College Flex Team with a request to run a coffee morning on Wednesdays, with a start date in March this has gradually built in popularity, and is now getting busier.

This is a “Partnership project” with the church providing all the supplies (including homemade cakes) and the Staff & Students from North Notts College providing the volunteers.

This is a valuable training activity for students who have additional needs, giving them skills that they will be able to use in the workplace once they leave college.

So please come along & support your church by purchasing coffee & cakes on Wednesday & Friday mornings (both are 10am -12noon)

Our Community Café Team have also provided drinks stations & buffets on occasions during the year, these have been for organisations using our rooms for meetings, conferences, training events etc and occasionally for funeral teas.

The busiest days have been when we open the café for a full day in conjunction with our fundraising events (Church Fayres & Model transport day etc)

On these days we plan light lunches as well as our usual coffee morning menu, on these days we are very busy, and raise much needed funds for the ongoing work of the church.

In November we decided to keep our café space open on Friday afternoons as part of the “**Warm Spaces**” initiative. This has developed in the spring to “**Friendship Afternoon Tea**” with a team of volunteers serving hot drinks & cakes/snacks/sandwiches. This is all on a donation only basis, as the main purpose is to provide safe space for anyone to attend, rather than a fundraising activity.

We say a particular “Thank-You” to the Foresters who provided us with a grant of £200 which enabled us to purchase some new equipment, Tea-pots, Toaster, Cake covers etc. and thanks to Sylvia for applying for this funding on our behalf.

Our Café space has also been used for many valuable projects during the year:-

- Every Tuesday Lunchtime we host the Methodist Homes for the Aged, older peoples lunch club. This is a very welcome and well attended regular event.
- BCVS & YMCA continued to organise a joint project around healthy eating and cookery lessons for the YMCA hostel users. This is a shorter project , usually in 6 week blocks and funding has been given.
- Every Thursday we host the Notts MIND Wellness Café.
- Also some of our regular groups who have submitted reports to this publication also use our café space , which was not really possible when the Café company was open.

Financial Report 2022-2023

The accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023 are ready to take to the accountants Williams Knowles & Co, for preparation and independent examination. Below is a copy of our Statement of Accounts and Sub Account Summary for Property.

There was a net deficit in the movement of funds as at the 31st August 2022 of **£21953**. Please see the SOFA included within the accounts and reports prepared by William Knowles for 2020-21 (this includes depreciation for buildings).

There was a deficit of **£996** as at the 31st August 2022 (the difference between receipts and payments during 2021-22).

At the end of this financial year 31st August 2023 (2022-23), the difference between receipts and payments is a surplus of £35301. The Crossing Church received a bequest of £39426.40 from the estate of Anne Kelly in July. This bequest will be transferred to TMCP (since it is more than £20000) but we will be able to draw funds from the trust when needed, during the next financial year. There is also £9687.64 restricted and designated funds held within the CAF cash account and CFB deposit account, included within this surplus.

Cash at bank as at 31.8.23 is £90916.14, this includes £9687.64 of designated and

restricted funds held within the CAF cash and CFB deposit accounts. This positive cash flow enables us to be solvent through to the end of the 2023-4 financial year. Receipts from lettings/rent/Acorn/community café invoices still do not cover property expenditure. The Church Council/Operations Manager and Methodist District continue to search for funding and ways to balance the budget and give long term security.

Within the cash held, there is money held for flowers/gardening/Singing with Dementia; a grant from Notts CC and money released from a TMCP fund which must be used for work with Youth and Children. The Church continues to be supported by the Model Bus Exhibition and its members; especially donations from the restoration of models sold Worldwide! Once again, The Church is incredibly grateful for all the many donations it has received from the congregation, members and Church groups including our Guiding groups. Thank you also for the continued support of Sunday offerings from members including those who pay by our preferred method of SO/Bank transfer.

The reserve account balance is now £14360.55. This includes a provision transferred from SEC funds for redundancies, since the Church now employs the caretakers and the receptionist.

Budget and Actual Comparisons for the year show that Congregational and Property income were greater than budget – rental income increased above budget and previous years actual figures. Ministry spend exceeded budget, this now includes receptionist costs and seated exercise costs which had not been budgeted for in the church budget. Property spend continues to be high but was less than budget, some property repairs were carried over to the next financial year. Electricity was still on a fixed rate until the end of the year (it has now increased dramatically as we start the new financial year). Please ask AW for a copy of the budget/actual comparison for a more detailed breakdown.

The Community Café has been successful financially. We must thank all the volunteers for their hard work, enabling the Church to provide a community café for the public on Fridays and Wednesdays; also, funeral teas, concert refreshments and refreshments for and after Church services.

The Flower fund balance at Bank is **£-22.03** and Cash £72.43. Thank you to those who have donated time and money to the flowers in Church.

If you have any questions / queries with regard to the accounts or require a further breakdown of specific areas, please do not hesitate to ask.

With God's help and our prayers, I hope that we can continue to move forward, so that we can improve our work in the Church and community in line with our mission.

Annette Westerby.

THE CROSSING CHURCH GENERAL ACCOUNT			
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2023			
RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	2022/23		2022/23
Offerings	28189.92	Offering Wider Church	30900.00
Donations (1)	51664.49	Donations (8)	0.25
		Service expenses (9)	796.75
Printing income (3)	58.90	Stationery/postage (10)	82.01
Gift Aid (4)	7939.50	Printing expenses (11)	2610.08
Interest (6)	1585.49	NOTTS CC YMCA GRANT	0.00
Grants	2594.93	Sundries (12)	3876.55
Wedding/funeral fees	200.00	Community Café	1789.52
Sundries (7)	233.22	Bank charges/interest	272.45
Seated Exercise	3596.70	Youth Work	0.00
Youth Work	0.00	Training	504.00
Training	0.00	Seated Exercise	2925.00
Flower fund	110.00	Property expenses	92089.73
Property Income	62475.49	Marketing/Advertising (13)	0.00
Other fundraising	0.00	FOTC Fundraising costs	240.26
FOTC fundraising	5042.15	Receptionist/Vol Co-ordinator	9130.32
Community Café	6294.04	Flower fund	309.78
	169984.83		145526.70

Operating Income - Expenditure = £169984.83 - £145526.70 = £24458.13.

This is a surplus thanks to the generous donation from a bequest of £39,426.43.

TFR from SEC inc restricted/grants			
Funds receipts	11533.45	CFB transfer re funds	1600.00
External Orgs (5)	2811.73	External Orgs (5)	2030.75
Card Sales	581.30	Card Sales	548.45
Disbursements	2876.92	Disbursements	2781.24
	17803.40		6960.44
Total of all receipts	187788.23	Total of all payments	152487.14
		Surplus/Deficit	35301.09
	187788.23		187788.23

BALANCE STATEMENT			
Flower fund	59.73	Balances held as:	
CAF Bank balances at 01.09.22	12335.60		
Petty Cash at 01.09.22	29.82		
CFB Deposit at 01.09.22	43271.92		
	55697.07	Flower Fund	72.43
		CAFBank - main	12919.03
		CAFBank No 2 A/C	1725.00
Add surplus/deficit to date	35301.09	CFB Deposit	76272.11
		Petty Cash	9.59
Balance at 31.08.23	90998.16		90998.16

BALANCES ON FUND ACCOUNTS		31/08/2022	28/02/2023	31/08/2023
Benevolent Fund		90.59	91.77	93.75
Crossing Music Fund		90.38	91.56	93.54
Designated Funds	CFB	1397.32	1415.34	1317
Reserve Account		12301.27	12459.9	14360.55
	from SEC for Redundancy	1600.00	1600	

Notes:			
Money held at CAF bank >Designated funds/Disb/restr			
Flower fund	-22.03	Restricted	
action for children	0.00		
NottCC Café	29.58	restricted for equipment including microwave /pannini m/c	
Gardening fund	30.00	restricted.	
1/2 term meals	102.00	200 from worksop football and 100 from Mr Eden 178 for bassetlaw food	
Foodbank	0.00		
Cupboard	51.44	Restricted? Balance designated 21.36 used less 127.20	
Singing with Demer	457.49	to CFB 1055.14	
Grant NOTTS CC	2147.77	restricted for YMCA project Church and SEC monies	
Dementia Café	77.35		
donation	10.00	restricted for chairs counselling room	
Vestry donation	520.00	restricted.	
Link to Hope	89.00	for 2023 shoeboxes	
Warm space	3521.30	inc Bking Blokes monies	
Childrens space	0.00 *	restricted donation	
Total	7013.90		



SUB - ACCOUNT SUMMARY FOR PROPERTY: YEAR ENDING 31.08.22

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	2022/23		2022/23
Rents	52175.12	Gas	13634.52
		Electricity	9728.70
Property Recoveries	907.87	Circuit loan -BMS - repayments	1200.00
Donations	770.00	Telephones	3157.36
Trfr from design'td fund		Water	811.55
Vandal damage paym't		Insurance	4399.20
Staff costs recovered		CCLI Licences	351.89
Acorn lease payments	7200.00	Service contracts	6233.58
Sundry items		Ongoing maintenance	22618.53
Community Café invoices	1422.50	Town Centre Security	0.00
Sale of IT services		URC Hall costs	0.00
TMCP		Sundries	72.00
		Cleaning eqpt/services	3012.84
TMCP		Caretaker costs	21390.56
Acorn insurance pyts		Window cleaning	438.00
Rate refund		Grant Work	0.00
Circuit loan re BMS		IT Eqpt and other IT	1494.60
		New equipment	682.88
		Rates	445.86
		Business waste	2417.66
		Community Café	0.00
Total	62475.49	Total	92089.73

2022-2023 Donations to External Organisations.

Action for Children from Terry's Quiz	72.00
All We Can earthquake appeal cash collected 12/2/23	160.00
Bassetlaw Food bank donations	360.00
Christain Aid - Donations to Syria/Turkey Earthquake	265.00
Christian Aid - Donations in memory of Griff Wynne	170.00
Christian Aid - Donations to Terry's Quiz	62.00
DEC Pakistan Flood Appeal	200.00
The Lewy Body Society	170.00
Part Growth T / A LINK TO HOPE shoeboxes	300.00
Christian Aid M Merrills sponsorship money & donation	300.00
R Brit Legion knitted poppies sale	12.00

Note:- The Baby & Toddler Group accounts are not included in the above. These were Income - £1518.79, Expenditure - £1518.79 leaving a cash balance of £1407.44 at 31st Aug 2022. (22-23 accounts, when received are reported to District.

Resources and Property Group

Background and Membership: The R&P group was formed in 2004, before the Crossing was completed and opened. The group acts on behalf of the Church Council in dealing with property based matters. Significant matters are reported to Church Council and decisions are requested from them where a strategic, sensitive or policy issue arises. The group has also made decisions relating to the recruitment and employment of caretaking posts which are direct employees of the Church. These matters are, of course, kept largely confidential.

In the last year membership has consisted of Rev. Julie Coates, Margaret Merrills, Richard Peake, Annette Westerby. Annette is a member on an ex-officio basis as Church Treasurer. Carl Andrews assists, bringing his valuable professional expertise, and Richard Dearden, Trinity Circuit Operations Manager, makes a significant contribution to the Crossing's property issues. There is a vacancy for a Property Secretary.

Finances: The R&P group operates within the several budget headings covering property and related matters. The group receives updates on the spending position relative to the budgets. Authority to spend outside the terms of an approved budget has to be obtained from Church Council.

Significant events and decisions: For much of this year the group has functioned without formal meetings, to avoid taking up the time of some busy people. Decisions have been taken via e-mail discussions. Recent issues have included damage to the rear fire exit (an attempted break-in), water leaking in on the east wing landing, the heating boilers and related systems and air handling units. Many aspects of the building are subject to regular inspection and maintenance with significant associated cost.

Conclusion: There is an ongoing process of balancing what we have to do and would like to do with the resources available. Over the years various 'blue sky' ideas have been discussed around what we would do if we could. How ever impossible many things seem now, we should not lose the vision which led to the building of the Crossing in the first place.

On behalf of the Resources and Property Group I should like to thank everybody involved with property, both employed staff and the many volunteers, who contribute in so many ways.

Richard Peake for Resources and Property Group

Closure of The Crossing Social Enterprise Co. Ltd. (SEC)

Following on from the decision, made last year by the SEC Board & the Church Trustees, to close the SEC and therefore simplify our governance structures the practical tasks were put into place during this financial year.

Interested parties have all been informed and the appropriate paperwork has been signed & sent to companies house & the charity commission to dissolve the SEC as both a company & a charity. The Company is now listed as dissolved via voluntary strike off, 3rd October 2023.

All accounts were finalized & closed with the final balances & responsibilities being passed to the Church.

The final accounts were for the period Sept 2021 to Jan 2023 (17 months) and are available for anyone who would like a copy (they can also be found on the charities commission website)

The final balances transferred to the Church Account were:

- £8117 general funds (includes SEC projects remaining balances)
- £2277 restricted funds “Baking Blokes” (this had been a historic grant from Tesco & permission has been given to re-allocate to warm spaces)
- £1000 restricted funds for the YMCA cookery lessons project.
- TOTAL - £11394.

These have been allocated in the Church Accounts, and it is to be noted that the church will still have a solicitors bill to pay out of the general funds, for the work required in winding up the SEC.

Anne Taylor

Volunteering

As a Church, we are a “Volunteer led” organization and as we interact with other local charities & community groups, this is very relevant.

Most of our volunteers are Church members but many are from the “wider community”. People volunteer for many different reasons, but most because they want to “make a difference” to the local community and the many groups and events that are hosted at The Crossing definitely achieve that.

Most of the community groups that meet at The Crossing are entirely led by volunteers and many have included reports in this booklet.

We ask all our volunteers to “sign in” when they are attending The Crossing to volunteer in any capacity, this is predominantly for fire safety reasons (If you are not in the habit of doing this, please do)

One of our admin volunteers (Katherine) kindly transfers the hours onto a

spreadsheet and from that we can collate some statistics and answer the question “how many volunteers does it take to run a busy Church & Community Centre” Looking at these figures we have had at least 43 people regularly volunteering at The Crossing, giving an average of 325 hours per month in total (3900 hours for the year)– many are volunteering for around 20 hours per month, with a handful giving at least 50 hours per month.

These figures do not account for those who did not “sign in” or let us know how many hours that they have been working for the church when not in the building, admin etc. I estimate that if we accounted for these, then these figures would be almost doubled.

As you read through this booklet of reports, please know how valued all of the volunteers are, especially by the people who come along to all of our groups and events. None of it could happen without the whole “Crossing Community” working together to make it happen and the more of us who contribute with a small amount of time , the more that we will be able to achieve together.

So if you have not volunteered yet to take on a role, or help in whatever way you can, then please speak to one of the Church Council members to offer your help if you are able.

Anne Taylor

5th Worksop (Methodist) Rainbow Guides



Rainbows are the youngest members of Girlguiding UK, aged from 4 to 7 years old. Everything a Rainbow does helps her to develop and to think for herself, in a safe girl-only environment, taking part in a wide variety of activities, games and events but most of all, Rainbows have fun!

What a busy year we've had...

We started off in the Autumn term last year with the ‘Alphabet’ Challenge badge, completing lots of activities. We played balloon games, had a pizza party, tried hula-hoops challenges, made peg butterflies and Autumn leaf lanterns, made poppy garlands for Remembrance and even tried line dancing!

We also found out about helping others, raised money for Children in Need during our coffee evening and earned our ‘Influence’ Skills Builder badge.

We had fun making Christmas decorations and had a lovely evening with our Brownies and Guides and Deacon Emily sharing Christingle activities.

In the Spring we were working on the Global Adventures challenge and the ‘Feel

Good' Skills Builder badge.

We enjoyed exploring lots of festivals and different cultures. We found out about Australia day, celebrated Holi, celebrated Winnie the Pooh day and visited Mexico when we enjoyed eating Fairtrade chocolate!

We also celebrated our own World Thinking Day by finding out about Rainbows in South Africa and played the World Badge beetle game.

In April we were excited to finally be able to return to Rainbow Sleepovers, our first since Covid. We took our 8 oldest Rainbows to Ollerton Scout and Guide Centre and had a great time celebrating our Rainbow Birthday with games, crafts, baking and yummy food.

We spent the Summer term being Superheroes for our challenge badge and learning lots of new skills for our 'Live Smart' Skills Builder. We learned about sun safety and beach flags, water safety and how to be safe at home. We found out about real-life superheroes who help us and we had fun riding our scooters round our road safety circuit! We also learned to tie our shoelaces and tried some sign language.

We celebrated the Coronation with a Street Party with our Brownies and Guides too. Phew!

We also had a lovely sunny day out at Aston Springs Farm, meeting lots of new animal friends and enjoyed our end-of-term evening at Roughbreck, finding clues and following trails, doing crafts and drinking hot chocolate.

We're very proud to have presented Bronze and Silver Rainbow Awards to some of our Rainbows at the end of the Summer term.

In September, we waved our Young Leader, Alice, off to University in Lincoln for a new adventure, before some of our girls moved on to their next adventure in Brownies.

Rainbows at The Crossing continues to thrive and I would like to say a huge thank you to our fantastic Rainbow Team - Joanne, Sarah, Ilana and Stef – for all their help, support and good humour!
Katie Hagen - Rainbow Guide Leader

PS: Joanne and Sarah are being recognised at our County Awards in November for their commitment to our Rainbow Unit – they've done more than 35 years between them – congratulations and a massive 'thank you' to them both!

BROWNIES

Brownies are girls aged between 7 and 10. The girls are split into sixes where they can work together in small groups called sixes. At present we have 4 leaders Snowy Owl (Jean), Tawny Owl (Clare), Brown Owl (Chloe) and Barn Owl (Leanne).

During the last year 5 of our brownies have joined our Guides and we have welcomed 2 from our Rainbows and 1 girl new to girlguiding.

Again we have had a busy year and have worked for and gained badges over the last year. These include Painting, Jobs, Language and Mindfulness interest badges, Innovate and Influence Skills Builder badges. We have also done lots of unit meeting activities towards our Theme Awards. During the last year some of our Brownies have gained their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, 8 Bronze 4 Silver and 2 Gold. The girls need to gain 2 theme awards for Bronze, 4 for Silver and all 6 for Gold.

Apart from working for badges, we have also done lots of exciting things.

The girls have to organise an activity in order to gain their Gold Award, we have had 2 lovely evenings when girls have organised yoga and gymnastics. They all worked hard organising the evenings and enjoyed being in charge.

Some of our girls took part in the Remembrance Parade in Worksop, we paraded our flag from the Town Hall to the War memorial for a short service and then back to the Town Hall.

At the end of November we went to the Acorn to see the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk performed by The Young Theatre Group. This again was very good and enjoyed by all.

A few of the Brownies attended and took part in the service at The Crossing on Mothering Sunday. They sang a song about super Mums and helped to distribute the flowers.

Other evenings included celebrating Thinking Day in February, a Coronation Party with the Rainbows and Guides, making Mother's Day gifts, decorations for the Church Christmas tree, chocolate nests, bookmarks and cards at Easter.

In the summer term we did the Canal and River Trust Badge. This involved learning all about water safety and what to do in an emergency. To show what we had learnt we went for a walk by the canal at Shireoaks and ended the evening by eating chips.

On a personal note I have been involved with Brownies for the last 37 years and have been the leader for most of that time. I am now stepping back and Chloe

Biddle is taking over as leader. I will still be helping and will become an Assistant Leader. I hope that you will support Chloe as a Brownie leader. I have enjoyed being a Brownie Leader, but feel it is time for someone new with fresh ideas to take over and Chloe is keen to do this. I am sure that she will do an excellent job.

Thank you to Clare, Chloe and Leanne for all your hard work helping with Brownies. Without you we wouldn't exist.

We are looking forward to another action packed year.

Jean Howard 5th Worksop (Methodist) Brownie Pack

5th Worksop (Methodist) Guides

Guides is the Girlguiding Section for 10 to 14 year olds. Guides make friends, make a difference and have an exciting and varied programme designed to inspire and challenge them.

In the autumn term, the girls choose to complete the 'Adventures in the Dark' challenge badge. This included painting fireworks with salt, dancing with glowsticks, creating soundscapes and lots more.

In the spring term the girls worked in Patrols to complete 'Skills Builders'. The Polar bears completed the Reflect skills builder, they painted rocks about their beliefs, looked at what made them unique and faced tricky questions about morals. The Penguins completed the First Aid skills builder, looking at emergency procedures, how to treat bleeding and how to remain calm. Finally, the Pandas completed the Communicate skills builder, they looked at body language, different signs and symbols (going on a hunt around the church) and sign language.

Over the Easter holidays one of Guides went on a Region trip to the Isle of Man, she had a great time and made lots of excellent memories.

In the summer term we celebrated the King's coronation by having a joint party with the Rainbows and Brownies. The Guides also completed the Cup of Kindness challenge badge, which included writing two letters to Ilana's old Guide group in the Bahamas! We also completed the Mixology interest badge, creating and taste testing mocktails. We had a sleepover at Ollerton Scout and Guide Activity Centre, completing a Spy Adventure challenge. This was one of the girls first night away with Girlguiding and for most the first time since they were a Rainbow. We had a great time making pizzas, eating ice cream, code breaking, laser beam obstacle course, and baking! The girls finished off a busy summer term by completing the backwoods cooking badge which involved cooking on a buddy burner (made out of a tin, cardboard and wax).

Over the summer Ilana helped lead a group of guides from across the county on

their international trip to Ireland, visiting Belfast, Dublin, Cork and Galway. It was a jam packed trip with lots of adventures including the Giants causeway, kissing the Blarney stone, kayaking with seals, the cliffs of Moher, the Titanic museum, Peace walls and a bbq on the beach.

A big thank you to the girls and their parents for their support. And a big thank you our Guide leader team, Kate, Ilana and Nicola

Ilana Duveen



12th Worksoop Scouts

Introduction

The 12th Worksoop Scouts is a thriving Scout Group. We offer a wide range of activities and opportunities for our members to develop their skills, knowledge, and confidence.

Highlights of the Year

- The Group achieved a number of notable achievements during the year, including:
 - Working towards and completing various badges
 - We have been on quarterly camping trips
 - Participated in a community project

Activities and Opportunities

The Group offers a wide range of activities and opportunities for our members, including:

- Weekly Scout meetings
- Camping trips
- Hiking expeditions
- Skill development workshops
- Community service projects

Scouts

The Scouts are aged between 10 and 14. They meet weekly to enjoy a variety of activities, including camping, hiking, and community service projects. The Scouts also have the opportunity to participate in a number of badge schemes, such as the Orienteering, Local Knowledge and the First Aid Badge.

The 12th Worksop Scouts is a thriving Scout Group with a bright future. We are committed to providing our members with a safe and enjoyable Scouting experience, and to helping them to develop their skills, knowledge, and confidence. The Scout Association is open to all young people, regardless of their background or abilities

Thank You

We would like to thank all of our volunteers, parents, and supporters for their continued support. We could not do it without you. *Luke Butcher*

BABY & TODDLER GROUP

The Crossing Baby and Toddler group meets every Wednesday during term times and continues to thrive, having an average of 25 families attending each week.

We have dedicated areas for very young babies with soft toys and baby chairs, a kitchen play area, dressing up clothes, ride-ons, jigsaws, play dough, plus many more toys, and a comfy book area where parents can read to their children.

We also have a craft table where children are encouraged to make simple art works to take home. Snacks are provided and children are encouraged to sit round the table to help with them learning social skills and tea and coffee are provided for the adults.

We would like to thank our volunteers who week in week out ensure this group runs so smoothly and is so welcoming to all children, parents, and grandparents. Thanks to Rosemarie Tarr, Judith Lowe, Lesley Percival and Vicky Rawson but special thanks to Kath Jordan who has prepared our snacks for us for many years. Special thanks also to Rosemarie Tarr for her dedication and commitment to the group which has been appreciated by so many members past and present.

Judith Lowe on behalf of the Baby & Tots Team

Seated exercise

There are currently four classes, :-

- Tuesday 10.30am till 11.30am (open to everyone)
- Thursday 11am till 12am (specific to people with MS but open to everyone)
- Thursday 2pm till 3pm (specific to members of Worksop Parkinson's Group)
- Friday 2pm – 3pm (open to everyone)

Classes are recovering a little more this year and on the whole are well attended. The groups are intended to bring people into the community to get together and enjoy some gentle exercises and stretches whilst being in the company of other people. This year we have also introduced some movement to music which the groups seem to be enjoying. The groups are on the whole, fun, light-hearted and supportive.

- Tuesday is consistently attended by a regular group, some of whom attend the lunch club afterwards.
- The Friday group has been reintroduced with a small group of regular attendees . The group get together before/after the class for a cuppa in the cafe run by volunteers.
- The MS group is well attended, the group are very supportive of one another and come together for regular activities. Due to the nature of MS members may not feel able to attend every week.

Ann who volunteers on a Thursday morning very kindly offers to make drinks for the group for a small donation to The Crossing. The group now come in a few minutes early to take advantage of this and have a natter.

- The Parkinson's Group continue to meet, we have a few new members but unfortunately have lost a few members again this year. The group continue to be a huge support to one another and enjoy a fun class.

In my opinion the exercise should remain fun and enjoyable and not a chore. I try to bring some cheer to the groups and appreciate all their ongoing support. We always warm up and mobilise the joints, then move on to some resistance exercises to promote bone strength and balance. Overall, generally hoping for a sense of wellbeing. I have also become a qualified Pilates teacher and am hoping to continue to integrate some self-care and wellness instruction into the classes.

Many thanks to all the staff and volunteers at The Crossing, without whom it wouldn't be possible to run the classes. Many thanks to the caretakers for carefully setting up the rooms and preparing all the equipment.

Sarah Mullany

NOTTS MIND CAFÉ .

Nottinghamshire Mind run a weekly café group as part of their county wide #well café service. The cafes are designed to connect individuals with like minded people in the community; sharing wellbeing tips, interests and skills. It is an opportunity to have a drink and speak with someone. The cafes are drop in and have a Notts Mind staff member or volunteer ready to listen.

The MHA Lunch Club

This is held on a Tuesday 11am-2pm in the café area with a two course meal followed by an activity - booking is essential. The group has a warm, friendly environment and a great way to make new friends.

More information can be obtained from Sue Millward, Community Co-ordination on 07568612106 or email sue.millward@MHA.org.uk. Sue will also welcome enquiries about becoming a volunteer

Caring For Dementia Carers (Bassetlaw)

Sadly, in June 2023 this group ceased to meet, This was the message sent from the group leaders.

“It is twelve years since we started our meetings at the Crossing, and Carol, David and myself feel it's time to resign. Our membership has never recovered from Covid so there is no one we can hand over to. There are other organisations now in Bassetlaw that do a similar role to our Group.

We cannot thank the Crossing enough for all the support from both staff and volunteers we have received over the years.”

Kind regards Amanda

Children's Bereavement Centre.



The Children's Bereavement Centre provides support for children from Bassetlaw at one of the most difficult times of their lives which is delivered by a team of professionals who are qualified to help with the grieving process brought on by the death or terminal illness diagnosis of a loved one. It is open to children aged 3 to 18 and offers a welcoming and safe

environment for them and their parents/carers which is thanks to the venue and facilities provided by The Crossing.

All the children accessing support have experienced trauma due to the death of someone important to them, often in problematic circumstances such as chronic illness, accident, murder, manslaughter, or suicide. The charity provides free specialist one-to-one support and has supported 107 children and young people in the past 12 months. The charity's interventions help bereaved families to cope and make a significant difference to immediate wellbeing and long-term recovery.

Children can adjust to their loss, reducing their risk of negative behaviour patterns and physical or mental health problems. They are able to grow up healthier and

happier, going on to make a positive contribution to their communities and creating a bright future for themselves.

Kate Baxter Chief Executive, Children's Bereavement Centre

NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

We of the North Notts Association of National Trust Members continue to benefit from and appreciate our links with The Crossing, Worksop .

We hold our Autumn and Winter Talks at the Crossing, usually on the third Wednesday of each month, from October to April, presenting Speakers on various topics.

This Season we have featured : Maureen Taylor on Elizabethan Life; David Skillen on the Munitions Girls of Gretna; Adrian Gray on Accidents on the East Coast Main Line; Janice Bradley on the Beavers at Idle Valley; Anthony Beard on a History of the Derwent Dams; Ann Featherstone on a Brief History of Pantomime, and Kathy Powis on The Mary Rose.

The Association moves away from the Crossing May to September, organising coach visits to variety of cultural and historical destinations, usually in glorious scenery!

We always welcome new members- see our website- and greatly value our 'home' at the Crossing. Thank you to all the Staff who welcome us, set out the seating in the Sanctuary, and provide such a warm venue in the centre of Worksop.

We look forward to 2023-2024 !

Haydn R Lee. (Chairman)

Other community groups & charities who meet regularly at The Crossing but who have not submitted reports include:-

- **Cubs & Beavers**
- **Just Good Friends- Valley Social Club**
- **Portland College (Training provider)**
- **Worksop & District Stroke Club**
- **Worksop Music & Drama Festival**
- **Derbyshire WEA**
- **Framework**
- **Thera**
- **Young Theatre Group**
- **NHS – various health screenings & blood donor sessions.**
- **And Many more**

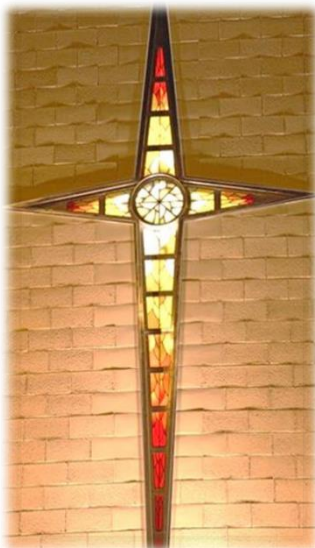
Future Events

- ❖ Charter Day – Saturday 14th October – Visionaries to have a stall for crafts and prayer
- ❖ ‘Cake & Cuppa’ at the Worksop Manse on Thursday 19th October to raise funds for Crohns & Colitis UK – all donations of cake and goodies welcome, all are invited
- ❖ Volunteer Thank You Event on Saturday 4th November for all volunteers affiliated with The Crossing, in the Café for lunch from 12-2pm
- ❖ Remembrance Service – Saturday 11th November at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary
- ❖ Family Film Evening – Saturday 18th November 4-6pm in the Sanctuary
- ❖ Christmas Fayre – Saturday 25th November 9:30-3:00pm
- ❖ Family Film Evening – Saturday 16th December 4-6pm in the Sanctuary
- ❖ PJ Service 3pm Christmas Eve (instead of Christingle this time, to attract uniformed organisations who will have had their own Christingle Services with Emily earlier in December)
- ❖ Watchnight Service on New Years Eve (instead of Midnight Christmas Eve Service), to be held at the Worksop Manse at 11.30pm
- ❖ Family Film Evening – Saturday 13th January; 10th February; 9th March 4-6pm in the Sanctuary

Our mission is to share the love of God and serve the local community

We seek to achieve this by:

- **Offering a welcoming, caring place of worship, prayer and friendship**
- **Supporting the people of Worksop and district through a range of community events and activities**



This cross is a visible symbol of our faith which can be seen on both the inside and the outside of our building. It tells the story at the heart of our identity. Internally it is the focal point of our worship and a reminder of God’s love shining on us and through us. Externally it openly declares to the town of Worksop the faith which is at the centre of all that we do.

The vertical line of the cross illustrates the relationship each one of us has with God. The horizontal piece represents our relationships with one another within the church and the wider community. The circle at the centre is where all of those relationships meet and resonate – the place where faith is put into action, and where it grows.

We give thanks for the ways in which we have been able to use our building as a town centre resource over the last sixteen years. In light of all that we have experienced through the Covid pandemic, and the economic hardships that we current witness, we are seeing new opportunities and challenges for the future of The Crossing.

We aim to be a focus for **spiritual, mental and physical well-being** in all that we do.

As we approach the next year we are ready for the next chapter of our story, with a team in place which includes:

- Our **Deacon** who brings a caring, community focused, spiritual approach to ministry.
- The **Visionaries** group who pray for our church and seek to discern ways in which we can worship and serve God through The Crossing.
- Our **growing congregation**.
- The small band of faithful **volunteers**, including the **Operations Team** which oversees the day to day running of a busy, multi purpose building.
- Support from the **Trinity Methodist Circuit, Sheffield Methodist District** and the **East Midlands Synod of The United Reformed Church**.
- We also have a wide range of **partnerships with community agencies** including Bassetlaw Community Voluntary Services, Bassetlaw Food Bank, YMCA, Methodist Homes for the Aged, Hope, and Bassetlaw Food Insecurity Network. Many of our members have trained to be Dementia Friends through the Alzheimer's Society.

Over the next eighteen months we are committed to developing:

- **Worship** – with a creative mix of inclusive and accessible styles of services.
- **A discipleship and spirituality programme** – with an emphasis on home groups and times of retreat. We will provide regular Morning Prayer sessions and a Prayer Space.

- **A ministry in the town centre** – taking an active part in local events and working closely with our ecumenical and interfaith colleagues – being attuned to the social, physical and spiritual needs of our community.
- **The café space** – this can be used to meet needs within the local community such as serving meals within school holidays and providing a comfortable, warm space over the winter months in response to the cost of living crisis. The facilities are also available as a training base for cooking/nutrition support. We are a Fair Trade Church.
- **Outreach to those who are retired** – by providing a range of events to which church members can confidently invite their friends, such as Messy Vintage. We will continue to strengthen our relationship with the residents who live in flats next to the church.
- **A key role as a Dementia Friendly Church** – with special services, events, training and facilities. We are currently acting as ambassadors for this movement.
- **The use of our premises as a Centre of Wellbeing** – building on the work already carried out with arts and craft groups, exercise classes, counselling services, mental and physical health support groups, Women’s Wellbeing sessions and Blood Donors.
- **Work with children and families** – nurturing our links with our Toddler Group and Uniformed Organisations, as well exploring connections with local schools. We also aim to provide a safe space for families to socialise at a Community Cinema project.
- **The recruitment, training and encouragement of volunteers** – we will seek to find suitable roles for those who are able to support our welcome desk, back office administration, catering, gardening, and work with children, families and older adults.
- **The aim to achieve and maintain Silver Eco Church** status – which will include the development of our church wildlife garden and community allotment.
- **Inclusion** – we welcome refugees. The venue is registered for same sex marriage.
- **An online presence** – through our website and our Facebook page. We will also share good news about the church and community via our magazine and the local press.

- **A site which is in the cultural quarter of Worksop** – the church hosts Concerts and a Model Transport Exhibition, as well as supporting the neighbouring Acorn Theatre.

To achieve this we will be applying for:

- Funding support for the appointment of a **Communities & Facilities Manager** to oversee the running of our building and the recruitment and training of volunteers. This will ease the burden felt by the current voluntary Operations Team and free those individuals to share in other ways in the mission and ministry of the church.
- Funding to **subsidise the community focused work** carried out in the building in partnership with other organisations.



Christingle Service Dec 2022



Shoe box Appeal = 2022



Nativity Festival Dec 2022