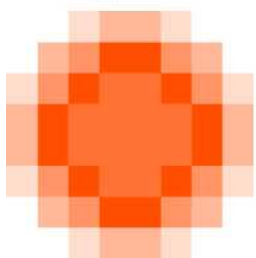




church

the crossing



Annual
General
Meeting
Report

May 2008



WELCOME TO THE AGM REPORT 2008

From the Minister – Rev Mark Pengelly

From Vision into Reality – That was the phrase that we used during the build project as we prayed and hoped that our vision for a new building would turn into reality. At times, especially as the build budget approached £2 million, it felt like it would be a miracle if it happened, but now of course we have been in the new combined Methodist and URC premises for two years!

In that first year of The Crossing the impact of the opportunities that the new building might bring came as quite a shock, not least to me. As soon as the door opened we realised that we were in for some wonderful opportunities, which would bring with them a considerable amount of work. There were many moments of anxiety in those first few months when I wondered if we would be able to cope with all the opportunities that seemed to be coming our way.

With another year under our belt, I'm thrilled to say that this Church has been responding to opportunities in a way I would describe as inspired. I believe we are in a much stronger position now to put our very best efforts into the challenges and opportunities that are still coming our way. I'd like to draw your attention to three of these:

Helping people grow in faith.

This is, of course, fundamental to our existence. Let's give praise and thanks to God that in *this* year, as well as in the first, people who are seeking to develop and grow in faith have been drawn into the life of the Church. Soon we will be embracing some of these people as Church members – a public expression of their commitment to being disciples of Christ. Having so many new faces in our midst, (through the week as well as on Sunday's), has, I suggest, helped us to become a more open and outward looking congregation. We now have an *expectation* that there will be faces we don't know around the place. Let's continue to grow the expectation that's it's the work of us all to make those people feel welcome.

Working with the community.

Part of the reason The Crossing has thrived is due to the wonderful team of people working to make it all happen. I am sincerely thankful to all those who do their part. The Social Enterprise Company, with it's hard working manager, Administrator and church/community board of directors; the *many* people who serve the different groups in the life of the Church; the Cafe team, employees, volunteers and directors; and our front line welcome desk team who are often the 'visible face' of The Crossing and all it represents; the community groups who regularly use our premises and see themselves as part of the bigger picture of The Crossing. All these have (knowingly or otherwise) served God, by serving those around them. The challenge here is to remember that this work continues and needs our sustained support.

Thinking of the future.

In a sense I have the feeling that we have 'got ourselves up and running' now that a second year is under our belt. At such a moment we do well to start to think, "OK, so what's next?" If that thought makes you swoon(!) remember that with God things are always moving on; we see that in the creative process of nature and in our lives of faith. The Church in every age needs to re-define what God's vision is for them. That's not just needed when we construct a building, but as we seek to serve God, through Christ day by day.

Thanks to all those who have been part of the process in the past, as expressed in this report, and here's to the next chapter of turning our God-given 'vision into reality'.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark" in a cursive style, with a long, sweeping underline stroke.

2nd June 2008

FROM OUR CHURCH LAY LEADERS

Church Lay Leader – Worship

Worship at The Crossing goes from strength to strength. Alongside Sunday services we have morning prayers Monday – Friday and weekly meditation. It may have been mentioned that we are about to begin a third Alpha course – this time running in Barlborough. We have had to include lots of additional Sunday afternoon services to accommodate all the Baptisms.

At the time of writing this we are about to celebrate our second anniversary with morning worship led by Rev. Terry Oakley and an afternoon Songs of Praise led by Rev Mark Pengelly. This is a real time of blessing and excitement.

I continue to co-ordinate the rotas for all our stewards. Lots of people have dedicated many years to this service and other people are new. I am very grateful to everyone who volunteers for this work in whatever role, but as always am seeking more people. If you feel led to this work – whether it be a worship steward or greeting people at the door please make this known and I'm sure the Lord will provide you with a job.

One area of worship steward that we need to develop over the coming months is the computer operator job. Last year Matan left us to go to study at university and this year Joshua is hoping to attend university. These young men leave big gaps and are greatly missed.

We are currently updating our Bible readers list. It's lovely to see some of our newer members of the congregation coming forward. If you haven't added your name it's not too late.

During the Autumn I would like to be able to run some training sessions on what the stewards jobs entail and put together a series of booklets to help and guide us all. It is always a life that is moving forward and never stands still, which makes it all the more exciting.

Carol Callaway (Church Lay Leader)

Church Lay Leader – Mission & Outreach

Purpose of the Group

The main purpose of this position is to promote and facilitate activities that have the capability of bringing new people into the church family.

Main Report

Again, this year, we have seen many such activities from concerts right through to our services. It is wonderful to see how the new buildings continue to raise our profile and made us a point of contact for people looking for a church or venue.

Last year saw two Alpha courses run at The Crossing, these proved popular and a blessing to those who took part. Collin Barrick and I are running an Alpha course in Barlborough through May, June and July as a Circuit outreach activity.

A new venture we are part of the start up group for is Street Pastors. This is an ecumenical group under the Churches Together umbrella. The aim is to see trained volunteers walking the town centre in small groups to help or a friendly ear or just to call a cab for the people who frequent the town centre on a Friday or Saturday night. This is still at the planning stage but training will start in September with the first groups going out in late autumn ready for the Christmas period. If you would like to know more about what volunteering entails talk to Anne Taylor or me.

My other main work is still as the Circuit Local Preachers' tutor. This work sees me meeting with the Preachers who are on trial to discuss their units and the assignments that I have marked. I feel that this is a work that God has called me to do, sharing my knowledge and enthusiasm and using the skills He has given me to help preachers to progress. Preaching has got to be one of the most challenging and rewarding of our mission activities.

New ideas for the future

New Alpha course in Barlborough and I expect to run more during the year.
Street Pastors. Are you interested in finding out more?

Andrew Callaway

Church Lay Leader - Pastoral

This has been another busy year and we have continued to welcome even more newcomers to our services. There have been over 20 people brought into church membership either by transfer or by new commitment. Recently, another twelve people have attended the 'Christian Basics' training sessions and there will soon be a service to welcome those who wish to become members.

Our Pastoral Visitors and welcoming Stewards continue to support our work so that we have regular contact with members of our congregation. There is also now a 'Welcome Pack' taken to newcomers after they have been to The Crossing Church, as a form of follow-up.

As our numbers grow, so too more pastoral visitors are needed – perhaps you could help?
Please contact Mark or myself if you can.

During this year, three of our older members have died – Helena Booth, Frank Scott and Glen Walker – and we were very sad to lose Ann Bollington after her short but inspirational fight against cancer. We give thanks for all that they did for our church and community and we remember their families in our prayers.

Mark continues to have extra services for baptisms and there have also been more weddings this year. This, coupled with all his work as Circuit Superintendent Minister, places a heavy workload upon him – please support him with your prayers and also Sheridan, Grace and Megan as they work together as a family and also support us as a church family.

It has been a great joy to welcome new, young families at church too, some of whom have come as a result of contact through The Crossing Baby & Toddler Group. May we continue in our work – developing and sharing our good news of Jesus Christ with all those whom we meet in our church and community.

Kath Jordan - Church Lay Leader (Pastoral) & Circuit Pastor

Church Lay Leader - Communications/URC Report

URC. We are still struggling to find a meaningful way in which we can relate to the wider URC. The problem being our isolation from other URC Churches with Sutton in Ashfield being the nearest. The East Midlands Synod does produce a weekly email newsletter with all sorts of news items from around the Synod and from time to time I do include relevant pieces in our magazine. The following was included in a recent newsletter:

Please pray for the people of **Myanmar (Burma)** following the cyclone. The URC has had a significant and supportive link with the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar which is largely in the North West for many years. So please remember the church and its General Secretary, Rev Dr Laleng Zauva as well as all those effected by the cyclone.

However, we are at the very north end of the Synod and the main population centers are Nottingham, Leicester, Northampton and Milton Keynes. Inevitably, much of the news is about churches and people unknown to us. The next East Midlands Synod meeting is at Blue Coates School in Nottingham on Saturday 14th June.

On a more positive note, The URC is relaunching their 'Reform' magazine in July. As a promotion for this event they are sending free copies of the July issue to all URC churches and we shall be receiving a batch. I have asked for 100 copies but we will need to wait and see how many they actually send us.

Communications within the Crossing have been a problem for us from the start. At present we have several medium being used: the newsletter, the weekly notices, the web page and the scrolling display on the Welcome Desk. We continue to try and keep these synchronized and used to their fullest extent. Many notices appear both on the weekly sheets and in the magazine and items from the web page are now regularly included in the magazine. All of these medium have undergone considerable change over this last year. The new format for the weekly notices appears to have been favourably received. We have been experimenting with the style and format of the magazine, including the introduction of colour, the scrolling notice has been updated and continues to be so on a weekly basis and the web page has been entirely relaunched. I have also introduced a regular item in the newsletter bringing information about The Crossing and giving outline details of Church and CLT meetings. Harold and I do appeal however for more reports from the various groups meeting within The Crossing. Tell us about what you do, any special events or items of interest or anything else about your group that you wish to say. Our newer members and attenders will probably not even know of your existence let alone what you do and whether your group is for them. At this point I should like, on your behalf, to thank Bob Fearn for the weekly notices, David Watts for the scrolling screen, Ann Gray for the news items on the web page, Harold for everything he does on the magazine, Mark for the new web page and Anne Taylor for news snippets for the magazine. The one area still underused is the noticeboard. I have not had time these last few months to make use of this, but this omission will soon be addressed.

Finally, if you have any ideas about how we may improve our communications, do talk to me about these as all ideas are very welcome.

Ian Grant (Church Lay Leader)

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

CAMEO

Meets on the 3rd Friday of each month.

11.30am Service of Worship followed by Lunch at 12 noon

Purpose of The Group

The purpose of our coming together is a fellowship occasion for people who live alone, hence Come And Meet Each Other

Main Report

Our CAMEO meal is provided by The Crossing Cafe and a team of church volunteers set up and wait on the tables, serve the meal and look after everyone's needs.

We now have approximately a membership of 36 and an average attendance of 30 each month. Amazingly we may have to initiate a waiting list!!!!

CAMEO has changed somewhat over the last two years in that our fellowship now comprises of our own church members, members of other churches and friends from the Worksop community who have got to know us by visiting The Crossing and who have then asked if they could join us, All are made welcome.

All of our CAMEO members come to the thirty minute service and it is wonderful to have thirty plus people all worshipping together in the Sanctuary.

This year members were saddened by the death of Glen Walker who, with his wife were the founding members of the group.

Vera Brown (Co-Ordinator)

Charities Committee

Meets Quarterly

Purpose of The Group

The Charities Committee meet to discuss fund raising events and to distribute monies raised to charity.

Main Report

During 2006/2007 £1,300 was donated to charity.

Charities which have benefited are;

M.R.D.F. Bible Lands, Talking Books for the Blind, Oxfam, Bassetlaw Hospice, Red Cross, Bottom Village, Air Ambulance, Weston Park Hosp

Fund Raising Events have included;

Church Stalls at The Crossing, Market Stalls, Christmas Market & Coffee Morning. Deep Sea Fishermen, Bassetlaw Hospital, Support Dogs, SENSE, Blind & Rubella Association, St. Johns Ambulance, Christian Aid & EDHI.

The committee have been deeply saddened by the death of two long standing members over the past year, Ann Bollington & Glen Walker were both dedicated to charity work and will be deeply missed.

Forthcoming Events

Market Stalls, A Chocolate Afternoon (November 4th), Coffee Morning (at 320 Carlton Road in July please see Gill Haynes.

Treasurer – Christine Hagan Accounts are audited by Christine Wynne.
Gill Haynes (Secretary)

Circuit Choristers

Meet for Rehearsal on Friday Evenings 7.30pm – 9.30pm at The Crossing

Purpose of The Group

The purpose of the choir is to rehearse and perform choral music of a good standard. We perform concerts to raise funds for The Crossing and various charities.

Main Report

The membership of 45 is made up of Christians from Worksop and surrounding districts who come together to sing quality music and share fellowship.

Our range includes sacred, classical and light music. During the last year we have performed a “Brass and Voices” concert with the Salvation Army Fellowship Band here at The Crossing. For Christmas 2007 we gave “Carols from Around The World” at The Crossing and at St. Georges Church, Woodsetts. At Easter 2008 we performed “Olivet To Calvary” at The Crossing and at St. Martin’s Parish Church, Firbeck.

Highlights of the year

The proceeds from our concerts support NCH and various other charities. During 2007 we donated £2079 bring the total of our giving to £12325 since the formation of the Choir
New ideas for the future

Our future plans include performances at Christmas and Easter and we would like to organise “A Big Sing” involving the Circuit.

Alan Coates

Communion Stewards

There is an average of six communion services per quarter.

The communion stewards are an ever decreasing group of church members who prepare, help with the distribution of and tidying away of the communion for morning and evening

services. We now have a range of three types of communion services: coming forward, standing at the rail and sitting in our places. These are alternated throughout the quarter.

We have taken some time deciding on the format of the communion services. Alongside the existing communion service books we have one communion booklet, which is also to be prepared in large print format. A second communion booklet will be typed as soon as the format has been given to Andrew Callaway. Again this will be produced in both standard size and large print. These booklets will be specific to The Crossing and aim to cover the different types of communions which we hold.

Currently we have only have four stewards. Last year we had seven. I would like to thank the three people who are no longer doing these duties for their work and commitment over the years. The communion stewards are very dedicated and although small in number they will undertake extra duties to ensure that the communion meal is always prepared. It would be great to see some of the newer members helping to take a part in this work. The more communion stewards there are – the less frequently a duty comes around. Please pray about this shortage area.

Faith Fellowship

Meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 7.30pm at 44 Meadow Road, Worksop unless otherwise previously advised in the weekly notices.

Purpose of The Group

Through small group fellowship to a better understanding of our faith.

Main Report

The group has been meeting now for approximately 2 years, and started with 8 members. Recently two friends have joined us , making the group 10 in number. We have discussed our way through various course books, and at the present are working through Frank Colliers study series, 'The Parables of Jesus'. A full and frank discussion takes place, not necessarily always to do with the subject matter!! But always in good spirit. The evening ends with tea/coffee with a selection of biscuits. New members would be very welcome.

Colin Pellatt.

House Group

Meets Friday Afternoon 2pm to 4.15pm the home of Vera Brown, 4 Hartland Road.

Purpose of The Group

We offer an afternoon of warm fellowship and friendship, discussing current events and how they affect our lives as Christians

Main Report

Our group numbers of 6/7 is a fellowship occasion for us to leisurely meet together for study, bible reading, a lot of discussion and refreshments.

We have met together for several years now and over that time we have used material from various specialist books for small groups, Lent courses and the Christian Year Calendar publications on topical issues.

For the last two to three years we have been using the York Courses which provides us with specialist material, questions and which have either a CD and tape contributions (usually 5) are well know church speakers, writers and broadcasters with some television actors/actresses.

All are welcome to come to our group.

Vera Brown

Meditation

Meet on Mondays during school term time 6.30 pm until 8.00 pm.

This is a very friendly group of about a dozen regular members with some from The Crossing, some from other churches and some from no church. We have all found meditation to be an enriching experience both on a personal level and in deepening our understanding of our faith.

We would very much like other Church members to join us and we extend an invitation to everyone to come along and experience meditation for themselves.

Our sessions take the form of a short talk centered around the latest aspect of the meditation teaching given by the Christian Meditation Centre, followed by a twenty minute mediation period, then time for questions and a sharing of our mediation experience and we close with a cup of tea and a biscuit.

We follow the teachings of John Main and Laurence Freeman, the two Christian brothers who set up the World Christian Meditation Centre. Both myself as leader, and the group, are affiliated to the World Christian Meditation Centre.

Gwen Grant

Morning Prayers

Prayers every Morning

At the last Church AGM there was a discussion as to whether faith meetings were being neglected in favour of the Community activities. It was suggested that morning prayers could contribute to the expression of our Faith and Mission.

Over the last ten months we have established Prayers in the Morning each week day at 10.30am and lasting 10 to 15 minutes; it comprises of a combination of Bible readings Prayers and Meditations. A Band of 17 volunteers give a morning a month, sometimes more, with Mark having a weekly Tuesday spot.

There is a small but loyal band who attend on a regular basis, joined by others on occasions. This is a strong and visible expression of our faith and mission - you are welcome to join us either as Prayer Leaders or to join in the fellowship.

Yours in Christ
Griff & Christine Wynne

Pastoral Visitors

We meet about 4 times a year. Our role is to listen and be available to Church Members.

We have to be able to keep confidences and to be aware of another's pain or loneliness; not to make judgments and to be able to offer comfort and encouragement in the midst of hurt and loss. We can all be pastoral carers strengthened by the knowledge that God is with us as we try to care for others.

We now have 25 pastoral visitors, Josie Dunster and Ann & Bob Fearn now being amongst our numbers. Our constantly increasing membership means that we would still like more visitors, so if you can help we would like to hear from you. It is a rewarding position, so please give it some thought and contact either Mark or myself.

Joan Streets (486773)

Praise Group

Continues to offer pre-service and occasional in-service songs to help prepare for and support worship and it might well be described as an "intergenerational musical happening" with numbers varying between 5 and 12. We rarely know till Friday what we will be singing on Sunday so "on the hoof" comes to mind and fortunately the PG-ers usually manage to cope with that and we usually have a suitably understanding congregation! We would welcome any other singers whose minimum competence should be that they can hold a tune and pick things up fast! Rehearsal is Friday nights 6.15 pm for about 45 minutes and where needs must we try for a 9.40 am Sunday morning pre-service rehearsal. We've welcomed Ben Linacre on drums and (soon) on bass guitar. Daniel will probably be off to Uni and Colby will be with us when he's emerged from Examinis.....

Dave Jordan

Prayer Chain

Purpose of The Group

To enhance the prayer life of the church and provide the facility of prayer to those in need.

Main Report

The chain has operative throughout the year and is set up as a family tree in order for the requests to pass down the chain quickly. Due to the confidential nature of the requests it is

not possible to make a full report of the matters that have been dealt with. There has been over 60 requests for prayers over the year, all of which have been passed down the chain. Feedback has shown the comfort that some folk have experienced as a result of its use. Any requests for prayers through the chain should be made to Sue or myself on Tel. 01909 501032, or by mail on colin@pellatt.force9.co.uk

Colin Pellatt.

Thursday Group

Meet every 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month in the Sanctuary at 7.30pm.

Purpose of The Group

The group meet for fellowship and friendship. Meetings starts with a short period of prayer and mediation followed by an evening involving; a speaker, group activities; or practical activities. The evening concludes with light refreshments.

Main Report

For the year 2006 – 2007 the group had 27 members with occasional visitors. There were a wide range of activities and speakers; some highlights included Autumn Readings and Faith Supper, a talk on the Mayflower Trail, a Christmas evening, a painting and tie dye evening, the Celtic Dig on Rayment Lane, a canal walk and a Royal Ascot evening.



The Group sponsored a child from Lebanon and payments were made to the Bible Lands Society for his support. At the AGM donations were given to The Crossing Church and Centre, Network, Weston Park and Blue Bell Wood Hospice. Accounts were audited by Christine Wynne.

Gill Haynes (Secretary)

Womens Fellowship

Monday Afternoon 2.15pm to 3.30pm except during Bank Holidays and the month of August.

Main Report

Our Monday afternoon meetings are times of happy fellowship. At present we average about twenty ladies. Sadly this last year we have lost members by death and we miss them greatly. Some of our members are now house bound and unable to be with us physically but they very much remain a caring interested part of our fellowship.

We have welcomed several new members which is a joy. Our programme is very varied and we have many interesting speakers who bring us vastly different topics, new ideas, visual impact, information, humor and laughter.

We follow the Church calendar as we imaginatively celebrate all the Christian Festivals and during the year we share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion brought to us by Mark our Minister.

We are often Crossing host/esses as we welcome Circuit friends for special events.

In June we will go, in cars, to join with our friends at Dinnington for their Circuit Rally and in July, Chesterfield Women's Meeting are coming to us at The Crossing for their Summer outing so our two Women's Meetings will join together for a service followed by tea.

We continue to greatly enjoy our Monday meeting of Worship and Fellowship, our tea and biscuits which is the time of much chatter and exchange of news, our tea parties and our Circuit "comings & goings."

Accounts are kept by our Treasurer and independently audited.

Vera Brown (Secretary)

YOUTH & CHILDRENS WORK

Baby & Toddler Group

Meets every Wednesday and Friday morning, including holidays, from 9.30 to 11

Purpose

The group meets to facilitate mutual support and friendship between parents and carers and enables play and interaction between babies and toddlers up to the age of three years.

Report

The Crossing continues to provide a safe, comfortable town centre facility for the group which is open to and enjoyed by many from both church and community.

In November 2007 we won a Local Network Fund grant of £6,800 via Nottinghamshire Community Foundation which meant that we were able to employ a Support Worker and open twice weekly (instead of twice monthly) and pay the going rate for the use of the halls and hall kitchen. We also bought lots of new equipment to help the all-round development of our children.

Unfortunately the grant had to be spent by 31st March 2008 and since then we have not been able to afford a Support Worker. However, the group had become so successful (with up to 28 children at some sessions) that parents agreed to help on a rota basis so that we could still meet twice weekly. We are really grateful to those who volunteer and special thanks go to Chris Carrington (our Treasurer) and to committee member Marion Westwood who is our stalwart helper on Friday mornings. Any help with making tea on Wednesday mornings would be much appreciated – there's no pay but plenty of joy and laughter from young, happy children and grateful adults!

Once again, the highlight of the year was the Christmas session in the sanctuary followed by our party. We are also very much looking forward to going on a trip arranged by Mel, one of our hard working Mums.

There seems to be such a need for groups like this within the town – please pray for us in this vital work.

Safeguarding our children is of course a very high priority in the group.

Finance The work involves keeping accounts and books that are independently examined.

Baptismal Roll

I took over as Baptism Roll secretary at the beginning of September and would like to begin by thanking Susan Watkinson for all her work previous in this area.

Since 27th May 2007 we have had 26 baptisms at the Crossing including one adult Baptism performed by total immersion. I recently add 22 names to the Cradle Roll up in Church.

I have changed the frame for the cradle roll as I noticed that the one we had was broken and discovered Cradle Roll certificates from as far back as 1950. I do hope that these will be put into the archives to preserve them rather than leaving them in the frame.

We are still sending out birthday cards to all children up to their third birthday, most of which I send by post as it is now cheaper than the cost of petrol. On their baptisms the children are presented with a candle, holder, Welcome card and Gospel alongside their Baptism certificate. Unfortunately we are having trouble getting copies of the Gospel according to John – this is now completely out of print, and also the Gospel according to Mark. Carol Calloway has kindly managed to get me the Gospel according to Matthew BUT we may have to consider some other form of gift as all of these Gospels are now not being reprinted. The supply of candlesticks are also severely depleted and another supply was becoming very hard to obtain. To this end I am finding other suppliers and have a friend making a few and a member of the Circuit Choir has offered to try as well.

In the future I would like to help Mark further by joining him for Baptismal Visits, especially those on Tuesday or Friday afternoons and I would like to thank Paula for all her help in sending me details of Baptisms and times of visits.

My thanks to everyone who helps me by preparing for Baptisms at the Crossing especially those on a Sunday afternoon.

Secretary: Annette Barker B.Ed; MA

Creche, Junior Church & 10+ Group

Meet Sunday mornings

Purpose of the groups

The sharing and teaching of the Bible and encouraging and sharing their faith with others in their own age groups.

Main report

The Crèche

The Crèche is run by a team of volunteers. For the very young there are plenty of toys available to play with. Parents are welcome to stay with the children but if they like they can leave them and go back and join the service. Leaders provide an activity for the older once in the group. This can be anything to colouring, sticking, or listening to a story, prepared with a Bible theme in mind.

Junior Church

This group has again their own team of volunteers and meets in Sherwood. As the children in this group are a bit older, the group is more structured. They often start with a short prayer, a Bible reading, and or story. Children are encouraged to take part in discussion and share their own thoughts which is often followed by an activity and sometimes a game or two.

10+ Group

This group has two volunteers and meets in Hardwick. Young people of age 10 - 14 meet together for a time of Bible study and discussion. The majority of young people age 15 and over join the Church service. Some volunteer to be helpers in the crèche, Junior Church, help on the computer desk or become stewards.

Some of the work that our young people are doing can be seen on the display boards opposite the lift or in the crèche room.

Training

As I am writing this we still look forwards to our training event on the 7th May led by Caroline Riley. Caroline is the Training and Development Officer for the Sheffield District. All being well during this evening we will be looking at some new resources that our groups might like to use in the future.

Highlights of the year

Again this year we saw the Nativity play which this year was partly written by the 10+group leader Kat Klanowski and a little rearranging and adding from Ilana Duveen.

We are really proud of our young people who are moving on taking on responsibilities in other areas of the Church's life.

New ideas for the future

As the older ones in the 10+group are now stopping in the church service we are looking into rearranging the age groups to fit in we ages we have at this moment in time.

Finally could you help

Katie McIvor who volunteered to be one of the 10+group leaders is starting a new job. This means a moving away from here and so we are now looking for some one or two people urgently to fill this post. If there are two more your turn comes around less frequently. This is not the only post we are trying to fill. As I am progressing with my Foundation Training I feel that I cannot carry on as Youth Coordinator here at The Crossing and I will be standing down at the end of July. Please do get in touch with the Rev. Mark Pengelly or my self Yannie Duveen if you feel called to take on this very rewarding task. The young people are our future do try and consider if this would be something you could do.

Yannie Duveen

R'Generation

Meets on Sunday evenings from 7.30 to 9 00

Leaders at this moment are; Lyndsay, Mark and Yannie with at times a little help of the Rev Colin Barrick, Matt and Katie Barrick

Purpose of the group

Fellowship, encourage and talking about our Christian faith, Fun

Main Report

Numbers are down a bit on last years but we still have a good group, together we look at Christian issues using group Bible resource "Word Up" from Scripture Union, after the Bible study, we chill out over drinks and biscuits and some times play a game.

The young people are taking it in turns to lead one of the sessions themselves. Megan Pengelly led an evening discussion on evolution and Ilana Duveen had chosen war as her topic. Both put in a lot of effort preparing those discussions.

Reflecting over the year;

August bank holiday we went again to Greenbelt the group seem to get bigger each year. Last year we had to walk so far, that this year we sent an advance party ahead to make sure we were a little closer to the village. Plans for this year's trip are already well on the way.

The group carried on meeting regularly at Dinnington for the first 2 terms, but this term we are just meeting at the Crossing.

After Easter the group started back on a sad note after the sudden loss of June Evason, leader of the Dinnington group and very much loved by all the young people.

She introduced the group to Simpson's Bible study material which went down very well.

At Christmas we went Carol singing for the housebound and raising £55 for the NCH We have also had some lovely letters back from our sponsor child through Compassion.

For the first time this year we celebrated with the young people the Jewish Passover - the Seder Night - on Saturday the 19th April. We enjoyed a great meal and shared in reading the Haggadah, which is the order of the Seder Service.

We have been bowling a few times, and watched one or two films sharing pizza's during this.

We had to stop the Big@Six youth services but instead the young people are now taking part in the Circuit Service, mostly in acting out a sketch, prayer or dramatised readings. Events still coming up are the annual end of year barbecue and games in Clumber Park or at the Crossing.

It is not possible to write everything in this report if you want to know what our evenings are like, please feel free to visit us at anytime, we love to see you.

Highlights of the year

Greenbelt, Carol singing for the housebound, Jewish Passover and I must not forget the R'Generation Facebook group that was set up earlier in the year.

New ideas for the future

We are still thinking of going bag packing again at Sainsbury's and we have thought about car washing.

Yannie Duveen

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Friends of The Crossing

Meetings are arranged when necessary.

Purpose

'Friends of The Crossing' (FOTC) continues to raise money towards The Crossing's Methodist and URC residual building loans which – though they formed a very small part of the construction budget - arose due to unforeseen and rising building costs. Its target contribution towards the Building Fund to 31st August 2008 is £8,000.

Main Report

Because The Crossing is both a church and community resource, FOTC reflects efforts by and engagement with – members of the church and the community.

Fundraising events have included coffee mornings and afternoons, stalls at the town market and at The Crossing, a fashion show, a sponsored swim and ongoing sales of cards and items at the Welcome Desk. Very soon (June 14-16) we have our first Flower Festival at The Crossing and the theme is 'Our Changing World'. We need volunteers (could that be **you**?) and a good attendance to make this a real success in such a superb building.

Community Musical Highlights

The regular public concerts programme 'Music @ The Crossing' (www.crossingmusic.org) is putting both The Crossing and Worksop on the East Midlands musical map as it increasingly features high calibre musicians who attract an audience many of whom are new to The Crossing. Highlights to date have included the award winning Cantamus Girls' Choir under Pamela Cook MBE (who were delighted with The Crossing and are here again in September 2008) and the superb Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir. On August 9th we

await the arrival of Carlo Curley the brilliant and flamboyant American international concert organist - plus a large high definition screen to show his hands and feet moving at the speed of light!.

Under the newly developed community 'Focus on Young Musicians' we have supported the amazing 17 years old Indian pianist Julian Clef who starts at the Royal Northern College of Music in September 08 and on May 10th The Crossing's 2nd Birthday was celebrated (complete with Birthday Cake) by the gifted Doncaster Youth Swing Orchestra.

A concert grand piano is very necessary to attract the calibre of musicians that we seek and we are hampered by having to hire one in each time. Plans are now laid to address that issue, based on the cultural significance of the music programme to Worksop & District.

Christian Musical Highlights

Our Christian music has included a very moving Good Friday concert ('Olivet to Calvary'). The Christian composer and singer Paul Field is with us again on 26th and 27th July and our Praise Group with its new instrumentalists is much appreciated as it continues to enhance our services.

New Ideas for the Future

'Friends of The Crossing' will again have a demanding financial target for the church year from 1st September 2008 and some imaginative fundraising events are already being discussed. The concerts' contribution towards that target will be fully restored once we have persuaded funding bodies that the acquisition of a concert grand piano for the community 'Music @ The Crossing' and 'Focus on Young Musicians' programmes is worthy of their support.

Finance

Money raised shows in the audited church accounts and an account has also been created to hold some money from concerts and any donations from music-lovers to help lever in the capital grants which will be sought for a concert grand piano

Kath Jordan

The Card and Gift Stall

The card stand is by the Welcome desk, so available for purchase whenever there are staff there, to take the money. The purpose of the stall was two fold:- to raise funds for church (and other organisations) and as an outreach to those using the premises

Main Report

The highlight of the year was reaching the hoped for £1,000 for church funds. Also another £38 was divided between the Stroke Club, The Hospital League of Friends and The Acorn Theatre. All this was despite not being allowed to have the gifts in the cafe area. The stall is available to Women's Fellowship, CAMEO, the Stroke Club and the Pensioners Group.

While I am able I will endeavour to keep the stall going, despite mobility problems. So

anyone wanting cards at reasonable prices, please look and see what there is, you could be pleasantly surprised.

Margaret & Terry Bray

The Crossing Bookstall

The bookstall now has its own display stand on the welcome desk. It feels great to be able to have bibles for sale at all times.

Recently there have been hiccups with supplies from SPCK. This can be viewed in two ways. It is extremely disheartening when someone places an order and has to wait for three months, especially if the order is for a present. On the other hand this has made me look towards other suppliers which in the long term should prove positive. At the moment alternative suppliers do not raise any income for The Crossing, but I am in talks with various people.

I feel that it is more important that we are able to continue to provide this service for both the general public and our own members.

The two months before Christmas are proving to be the most popular times for selling materials.

It is good to have the stall available for special services and events. I pray that it will continue to develop over the coming year.

The Magazine

Main Report

Since the last report we have had a new colour photocopier installed in the office. This machine enables us to print colour and black and white on the same machine. All we have to do is feed in the printed a4 copies and the machine automatically prints out both colour and black and white pages, reduces them to our magazine format, folds and staples them together! It is an amazing machine and saves us much work, but produces a very good result.

Harold and I would like to thank all the magazine contributors, both those who write regularly and those who write occasionally. There would be no magazine without you! We are not listing all the many names here as they are in evidence in every edition, however, we must specifically thank Terry for his Word Search, Jenny for the Grapevine, Bill for his 'Thoughts' and Enid, Tess and Gwen for their poetry. Now our appeal

We would like to receive more contributions to the magazine, especially reports of activities, similar to Margaret's Guide items, and accounts of all aspects of the life of the fellowship. There are many things going on within the Church which we would all like to know more about. Please use your magazine to the full.

Ian Grant & Harold Streets

Traidcraft

I continue to sell fairly traded goods from Traidcraft, and am grateful for the support of many of you.

In the past year, we have bought over £1,000 of goods, which really makes a difference to many people's lives.

The goods are sometimes out after morning service and when we have stalls in the Halls, but if anyone has a special request, please have a word with me.

I can also speak to any group, with a DVD/Video showing the work of Traidcraft.

WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Social Enterprise Company

SEDM report for AGM 2008

The Social Enterprise Company has produced its first Annual Report and copies of this are available on the Welcome Desk. (And electronically by request).

I do not want to simply reproduce this in my report so I have summarised the details.

PROJECTS

The SEC has a remit "to develop and implement ethical projects and initiatives, based in or delivered from The Crossing Church & Centre, which are designed to benefit the community of Worksop & District."

Within that remit we have spearheaded 3 successful projects over the past year.

Older Peoples Lunch Club, Tuesdays Weekly. 12 noon.

This has now been running for almost 12 months, in partnership with Age Concern & Help The Aged. It is a thriving group with almost 40 attending weekly. Many Church Members attend as well as people from the wider community.

The members benefit from a good 2 course meal (at a reasonable cost) and the fellowship of eating with others. It is a very friendly, sociable time.

Baby & Toddlers, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30am.

The SEC has supported this Church group in its aim to grow from a twice monthly group to a twice weekly, and continues to provide support in its continuation. (full report elsewhere in this document)

Bassetlaw Older Peoples Forum

In Partnership with the Bassetlaw Elderly Action Network. We supported the setting up of this group, Admin Support has been funded by Notts CC and provided within the Retford Action Centre, Meetings are held alternately in Worksop & Retford. And the Forum is open to anyone over 50 to attend..

The Young Peoples Drop In.

This was spearheaded last year and unfortunately was not a success. We are looking for a new project involving young people.

VOLUNTEERS

The Crossing now has a team of over 50 volunteers working in various areas during the

week. The benefits these volunteers receive are many fold. The opportunity to come and spend some time helping with the day to day work within the community, to meet people and make new friends, to feel useful and that you are doing something worthwhile. Some are using this as a first step towards employment, or rehabilitation after an illness. Full support is given to all volunteers and no-one is asked to do a job they do not enjoy. A number of the Church Leadership Team and Church Members volunteer as part of their commitment to The Lord and because of the Christian Witness they can give simply by being a friendly face and a sympathetic ear to any visitors to The Crossing during the week.

We still have space for more volunteers to join the happy team.

The main volunteering roles are:-

Welcome Desk volunteers, which mainly involves chatting to the public and answering enquiries, also answering the phones and a little bit of money handling in selling tickets for concerts and merchandise such as greetings cards.

Cafe volunteers, this mainly is helping with the clearing of tables & washing up, but any capable volunteer could be trained to do kitchen preparation and serving customers & making specialist coffees or helping with buffets. (This would also involve the support of our volunteers who have learning disabilities, which is very rewarding.)

Lunch club volunteers, Serving the lunch club meals on Tuesdays, chatting to & befriending the members. On occasions helping with additional activities, such as dancing & games sessions.

Baby & Toddlers volunteers, At present we only have a small number of volunteers supporting this group, so there is a wonderful opportunity.

Admin Support volunteers. There are always admin jobs that can be done by volunteers, we have had several work experience short term admin volunteers. This includes help with publicity, as well as the basic systems that we use each week to ensure that everything runs smoothly. (Most of the time)

Concert Volunteers. The Music @ The Crossing programme is becoming more & more popular, and this is a valuable fundraising activity of the church. But at every concert we need Stewards and volunteers to help with the refreshments.

If you feel that any of these roles will be just right for you, please contact me or fill in a volunteering form to be found at the welcome desk.

PARTNERSHIPS

The community groups, charities and businesses using our rooms during the week are providing the main income stream for The Crossing, but also valuable community partnership opportunities.

We have over 50 groups using our premises regularly (greater detail to be found in the Sec Annual Report)

These include groups offering health advice, social groups, groups working with young people, older people or people with particular needs. Self help groups, educational groups & organizations, exercise classes and charities, to name but a few.

The response most people give after they have been to The Crossing for a Training class, Meeting, Seminar, Conference or other event, is “What a Wonderful Venue and a wonderful Church , how great that a church is putting all this effort into the community” My response is usually, “this is thanks to the forward vision of the congregation of the church and the hard work that those same church members are willing to give for the greater good and as a Christian Witness to the people of Worksop.”

I feel pleased and privileged to have been given the opportunity to work at The Crossing and to use my (basic) skills in the promotion and furtherance of Gods work that we are trying to do here, I know that all our team of volunteers feel the same way and I'm sure that all of our congregation also feel this.

Anne Taylor

The Crossing Luncheon Club

Group meets every Tuesday at The Crossing at noon.

The Lunch Club offers a nutritious, balanced meal for £2.75 to anyone over the age of 60 years whatever their circumstances in a welcoming and safe environment.

This group was formed in June 2007 and provides a lunchtime meal for a maximum of 40 people. Only four people attended our first meeting and these continue to attend regularly. Numbers then grew significantly over the following few weeks and we regularly serve to the maximum allowed. The food is cooked on the premises by The Crossing kitchen staff, always with a vegetarian alternative, and is served by a worker from Age Concern and four regular volunteers. Funding for our Age Concern worker has recently been withdrawn but she will continue to help the volunteers as she feels it is such a worthwhile venture and derives an enormous amount of pleasure from being amongst us all.

Many friendships have formed within the group who may come as couples or alone. Those who live alone, generally widowed, enjoy having a cooked meal prepared for them and admit that they would not always cook hot food for themselves at home. Recently one of our members was widowed and it gladdened our hearts that he felt comfortable enough to return to the group just weeks after losing his wife. We try to take special care over those who become ill or are hospitalised and have celebrated with those who have reached “significant” special birthdays.

Our meal at Christmastime was followed with carol singing accompanied by one of our members on violin and a volunteer on piano. We've introduced various speakers to the group e.g. Notts Library Service, a pension advisor and the Fire Service. Many took up offers of having fire checks at home and this highlighted omissions in their fire safety. On several occasions we've enjoyed Old Time Dancing but the limited 2 hour parking on Queen Street regrettably often limits the number who stay on for such activities.

Those helping to run the club feel a great sense of teamwork and friendship and there is much laughter and fun despite having to do piles of washing up!!! We must give a huge

thankyou to The Crossing kitchen staff who are an integral part of the success of the group and give us tremendous support.

5th Worksop (Methodist) Rainbow Guides

Meeting on Tuesday



Rainbows are the youngest members of Girlguiding UK, aged from 5 to 7 years old. They take part in games and activities as part of their programme called the Rainbow Jigsaw. Everything a Rainbow does helps her to develop and to think for herself, in a safe girl-only environment, but most of all, Rainbows have fun!

The past year at Rainbows has, as always, been very busy!

Last summer we joined over 100 Rainbows and Brownies from Worksop Division to enjoy an international fun-day - we made passports and took part in crafts and games and learnt to say "hello" to each other in different languages. The Rainbows earned their 'Round The World' badge, the rain held off and we all had a great day.

We were kept busy in the Summer and Autumn terms doing Rainbow challenges and working for our 'Right to Be happy' badge. We made happy books, thought of ways to make others happy, learnt a song in sign language and donated our weekly subs to Unicef. We also enjoyed a night out to see 'Dick Whittington' at The Acorn Theatre, with our Brownies.

2008 sees Rainbow Guides across the UK celebrating their 21st Birthday. We have lots of activities and events to take part in - so far we've enjoyed making pancakes, playing new games and learning to do flower arranging with 'Mrs Hagen'. We supported Guiding's World Association and Water Aid by having a theme night 'Thinking About Water' and joined with the rest of Worksop Division at our annual 'Thinking Day' celebrations.

The girls have picked a selection of activities for a special anniversary badge - we've especially enjoyed painting our feet and making and destroying a piñata! We're also busy looking after our Sunflowers that we've planted specially to commemorate our Birthday Year - we're hoping to plant some of them in the Church garden for everyone to enjoy.

Possibly the best event so far has been our big Rainbow Birthday Party held here at The Crossing a few weeks ago. Nearly 60 girls from Worksop, Carlton and Shireoaks enjoyed party games, crafts, a lovely birthday tea complete with jelly and ice-cream and a yummy birthday cake too! The girls had a super time - they behaved impeccably, looked great in their uniforms and were a credit to us all.



Over the past year we have said Goodbye to ten of our oldest girls as they've moved on to Brownies and welcomed ten new girls from our long waiting list to join the fun and keep our busy Unit of fifteen full and lively. We're very pleased to have welcomed a new Unit Helper too, Sarah Buckler, who has previously been a Brownie Guider in Shireoaks and now has daughters in our Units. I am very grateful to Sarah, Joanne Ball and Ilana Duveen who make up our Adult Volunteer Team, for their continued help, support and good humour - I could not run the Unit without them.

We are now looking forward to the rest of the summer term activities and a special birthday day-out in September when we will be joining Rainbows from all over the Midlands at Twinlakes Theme Park for what promises to be a busy but exciting day!

Katie Hagen

5th Worksop (Methodist) Brownie Pack

Tuesdays 5.45 – 7.15 p.m. term time only.

Main Report

Brownies are girls aged between 7 & 11 years.

We are a full pack of Brownies with a waiting list of 16 (6 of these are 7 or older). We have 21 Brownies with 3 adult leaders and 1 young leader.

Over the last year we have had to say goodbye to one of our young leaders Sarah-Jane and also to Rachel Bussey (Tawny Owl). Rachel had to leave due to ill health but fortunately she feels a lot better now.

Fortunately we have welcomed to new helpers Gemma Hind (Little Owl) and Sarah Brown (Snowy Owl) who are busy training to become full leaders.

Over the past year the Brownies have worked for the following badges; Out and About, Agility, Healthy Heart, Hostess, Brownie Traditions, Cooks and Science Investigator. The older brownies earned their Go For It Guides ready for flying up to Guides.

We have also decorated and filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, joined with the Scouts for St. Georges Day, had a barbecue at Roughbreck with The Rainbows and parents and had parties. We regularly play games, sing songs and do crafts.

We have a visit to the conservation centre in Clumber planned in July to learn about insects.

We are also doing a display together with the Rainbows for the Church Flower Festival.

Highlights of the Year

Raised £200 for The Bluebell Wood Hospice with a beetle drive and coffee evening.

Attended a fun day at Roughbreck campsite with other Brownies from The Worksop Division.

Went to see Dick Whittington at The Acorn.

Attended Thinking Day with all members of Girlguiding Worksop Division.

Jean Howard - Brown Owl

12th Worksop (United Reform) Scouts Group

Meetings at Scout Headquarters Turner Drive

Scouts 7pm to 9pm Tuesdays

Cubs No Meetings at present

Group Contact Peter Rawlinson 01909 481932

GROUP CONTACT

Mr. P. Rawlinson
1 Market Street
Worksop, Notts
S80 2BD
Tel: 01909 481932



ASSISTANT SCOUT LEADER

Mr. D Harrison
23 Dukeries Crescent
Worksop, Notts
S80 2QP
Tel: 01909 484113

Purpose of The Group

The purpose of Scouting is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as responsible citizens and members of their local, national and international community.

Main Report

Last year we attended the County Centenary Weekend at Walesby, it ended up being a rather wet weekend. In July/August we again camped at Walesby, a satellite camp of the Main World Jamboree, which was held in Essex, on Monday we were bused down to the jamboree for the day.

In September we again had our Annual Survival Weekend. December saw the Annual District Carol Service, this was at Christ Church.

In April of this year, the Annual District St Georges Day Parade and Service was held at The Crossing.

The cubs restarted this year, but unfortunately all the cubs were about the same age, so in

September they increased the numbers of the Scouts. We are expecting to have another go at re-starting this section.

Peter Rawlins

1st Worksop Division Rangers

Meet on 1st Monday of each Month

Purpose of the Group

Part of the Guiding Association for girls aged 14 – 25yrs

Main Report

1st Worksop Division Rangers have been busy over the last year, we have been involved with The Acorn Theatre helping with scenery and selling programmes, leading the camp songs at the Division Thinking Day Celebrations, we visited a local Hair Dressing Competition, and most recently we paraded on St Georges Day. We have also enjoyed Craft, Jewellery Making and Pamper nights and not forgetting the most important bit FOOD.

Highlights of the year

We have had a very full and interesting year with so many activities I can't decide what the best highlight was, the girls seem to have had a great year.

New ideas for the future

I am not sure what next year will bring for the Rangers yet!!!! but I am sure what ever they decide to do there will be FUN and LAUGHTER all the way. We do need to gain some new Members so if you are reading this and aged between 14 – 25yrs and would like to have some fun please feel free to join us at one of our meetings or contact the help desk for further information

Does your work involve keep accounts? **Yes**

The following reports are a small indication of the work that many of the community groups are involved in using The Crossing as their base

Enable Bassetlaw Learning Champions

Purpose of The Group

Organisation

Enable

Bassetlaw Learning Champions

Bassetlaw Learning Coordinator – Lynn Barlow/Teresa Rice

To support people and encourage people back into Education and Employment including hard to reach, disadvantaged people.

Main Report

I am employed by Enable, which is the Nottingham & Nottinghamshire, Voluntary and Community Sector, Learning and Skills Consortium. My post is funded through NLDC (Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities) and Enable is a registered charity (No 1105746).

My Role as Bassetlaw Learning Coordinator:

The project is specifically focused on Bassetlaw and the aim is to involve and support Learning Champions Volunteers, organisations and staff, anyone who wants to champion learning in the community.

My Role:

To provide ongoing support to existing Learning Champions in Bassetlaw.

To lead Learning Champions in actively promoting learning opportunities in Bassetlaw.

To liaise with Learning Providers regarding learning needs.

To support people who want to get into learning.

To support people in Bassetlaw who want to find work, including CV writing, job search, support with job applications etc.

Support people to access courses.

Support people to access Information & Advice on Learning and Work.

What is a Learning Champion?

A Learning Champions someone who is encouraging learning and championing learning within the community. A Learning Champion could talk to friends and neighbours about learning opportunities and their experiences and the benefits gained and then signpost people to relevant learning opportunities. There are various Learning Champion Models throughout the UK, the Bassetlaw Project is based on volunteers that are managed and supported by a full time, paid Learning Champion Coordinator.

Organisations Involved

1. Hope
2. The Crossing
3. BCVS (Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service)
4. North Nottinghamshire college
5. Retford Action Centre
6. Young Potential
7. Bassetlaw Mind
8. Mine of Information
9. Eastgate Resource Center
10. Homestart
11. Bassetlaw Woman's Aid
12. Gateway Community Center
13. Focus on Young People
14. Bassetlaw Studio Project
15. ACLS (Adult and Community Learning Services)
16. Learndirect
17. Bassetlaw Citizens Advice Bureaux

18. Surestart
19. The Library Service
20. WEA (Workers Educational Association)
21. Jobcentreplus
22. Relate
23. Manton Community Alliance
24. Bassetlaw District Council
25. Local Strategic Partnership
26. Bassetlaw training Agency
27. Connexions
28. Community Development Team
29. Princes Trust
30. A4E (Action for Employment)

Progress 2007/2008:

- The project is going from strength to strength and I have been setting up and establishing a Learning Champions project in Newark.
- Teresa Rice was appointed part time in November 2007 as I was seconded to Newark.
- I am still attending the local Strategic Partnership Learning and Skills sub group meetings and also I am now attended the Newark LSP.
- I am still liaising with North Nottinghamshire college and setting up more community courses.
- We are still engaging with hard to reach learners.
- Supported Enable members.
- We are still supporting people to access voluntary work and setting up placements.
- Supported community groups with funding applications.
- Supported 89 people to access job search support from August 2007 to date.
- Supported over 30 people to gain paid employment since August 2007.
- Visited local groups to promote the Learning Champions

New ideas for the future

To secure more funding so that we can continue and grow

Lynn Barlow

The Crossing User Group

This is a new group, instigated at the request of the Social Enterprise Company. The remit of this group is to provide a platform for all our regular users to pass information around , to build partnerships together, to liaise on publicity matters and to be able to make requests to the church leadership team. Basically to become more of a part of everything that is happening at The Crossing. The User Group will also delegate 2 members to represent them on the Board of Directors of the Social Enterprise Company. As it is such a new group it does not yet have a constitution or committee, and admin support is being given by the SEDM until it becomes self governing.

Anne Taylor

Valley Social Club

Meets on Monday evenings 6.45pm -8.45pm

Purpose of The Group

The Valley Social Club is a leisure club for adults with a learning disability. It provides a safe place for them to meet with their peers and at the same time provides a period of respite for parent/carers whose son or daughter still lives at home.

Main Report

The club has continued to thrive at the Crossing venue and numbers have increased slightly. There is a good buzz of activity each week and most of the time everyone gets on with each other. Activities on offer extra to the usual music, crafts, dominoes, games etc., have been quizzes, special occasion cards, flower planting, karaoke, treasure trails round Worksop, discos by members Jon Jackson and Stefan Le Calvez, football competitions with coach Matthew, ice cream tasting, bingo, barbecue, spa evenings, making pizzas, guitarist, Pete Whyles, African Drumming, fruit tasting, Deal or No Deal and bell ringing with Alison Lilley, juggling and more.

We had a trip to Chester zoo late Summer, which was enjoyed but the weather was not good to us and a trip to Clowne illuminations at Christmas. Premier Foods performed their pantomime sketches for us once more and even booked the Acorn Theatre to perform in.

The Christmas party was a huge success as usual and presents were distributed by look alike Elvis and funded by Councillor Alan Rhodes.

We have been fortunate during the last few years that people have donated money to us without our asking and we have had some good fundraising events. Now, however, we have reached a point where funds are dropping and we need to once again look to raising funds to keep the club going. The Committee welcome any help towards this, new ideas and new enthusiasm are invaluable.

Does your work involve keep accounts? Yes Our accounts form part of Bassetlaw Mencap accounts, whose books are independently examined by auditor, John Hepworth at Retford.

Janet Batty – Chair Valley Social Club.

FINANCE & RESOURCES

Resources & Property Group

The Resources and Property Group meets monthly or bi-monthly.

The Purpose of the Group: is to manage the property and resources of the Crossing and the United Reformed Church hall (now the Acorn). It is one of the seven groups/organisations which constitute the *Crossing Operations Group*.

The Year's Main Activities: much of the Groups' effort is directed at relatively routine and

ongoing matters concerned with property of this type. Significant matters dealt with in the year are:

Snagging: by the end of the first year in this building we had prepared a list of defects which we considered the contractors should remedy. These were agreed with the Architect and the contractors and have eventually been dealt with.

Fire Risk Assessment: to meet current requirements; this was carried out by Anne Taylor, David Clark, Alan Coates and Richard Peake. This has resulted in several changes, the most significant being the way in which the storage areas are used, especially those where gas, electrical or heating appliances are present. The reception desk volunteers have a procedure to follow in the event of an emergency.

Air circulation system/air conditioning: despite work done as part of the snagging process, this system had not been very effective. Adjustments made by a company invited to service the system have made it perform much better – leading to complaints that it is working too well at times! With C.L.T. the group is considering the installation of air conditioning units in certain rooms; this has become less urgent with the improvements to the air circulation system.

Garden area: there is a donated sum of money dedicated to enhancing the garden. The group thought it better not to spend this until the question of an extension to the building to form a store is resolved. In the meantime, a group of volunteers planted the border area around the lawn and the benefits of this are now beginning to be seen. As there is no immediate prospect of a storage building being erected, active consideration is again being given to having some landscaping carried out, hopefully in a way which will not prejudice the construction of an extension in the future.

High level maintenance: there is a need to carry out routine procedures (e.g. changing lighting tubes and servicing the projector) at a high level. The group had a concern that the old scaffold tower belonging to the Church, and currently in the Acorn, does not meet current standards. It has been decided that the best course of action will be to hire a system a few times per year and attend to all outstanding 'high level' matters. This appears to be more economical than the purchase of a system and avoids the inevitable storage problem.

Cleaning: a part time cleaner was appointed during the year to supplement the work of the caretaker. This reflects the considerable use being made of the building.

Future Issues: finance is not available at present for substantial extension or development of the building. A storage extension at the end of the Calvin Hall would make operations much easier and keep 'clutter' out of sight. This would need a capital grant from a funding source. So far applications have been unsuccessful. We may proceed to install air conditioning units, which would need financing through our present loan facilities.

Finance: the group does not have its own financing or accounts, but falls within the main accounting structure of the Church. Any expenditure which is not routine or is unavoidable has to be approved by C.L.T.

Richard Peake

Finance Report

The accounts for the year ended 31 August 2007 have been audited by Williams Knowles & Co. Attached to this report are the main figures taken from the full audit report. If anyone would like a copy of the full report see Peter Colby. For members who prefer a simpler report some figures are attached showing the basic figures from which the auditor produced the more complex full report.

Review of the year 2006/7 – General Church Account

This was the first full year of accounts since the new church opened in May 2006. As can be seen from the simple report income exceeded expenses and balances increased from £9,518 at the start of the year to £14,817 at the end. It is a cause of concern that this end of year balance of £14,817 is the total sum of the church's unrestricted financial resources. This is a very low balance for a church of the size of The Crossing. Under charity law the church should have a reserve balance of £50,000 plus the normal working balances of the accounts.

It is still the case, as it has been for many years, that the money given in the Sunday collection does not cover the church's share of the cost of maintenance of the circuit ministers. During 2006/7 collections totaled £33,686 and payments to the circuit were £36,540. All members and friends need to appreciate that not only are the costs of ministers not covered but all other costs have to be found from other income, including all of the costs associated with running the church building. (Note that in the 2007/8 year the figures worsen as, with three ministers in the circuit, the payment to the circuit will be £49,000 and the collection is likely to be around £37,000 based on the collections from September to April.)

Review of the year 2006/7 – Newbuild Account

The balance at the start of the year was £11,652: at the end it was £38,501. At 31 August the final bill from the builder had not been received so the continuing fundraising built up the balance of the account.

Review of the current year 2007/8

The increased use of the building by over 40 organisations has produced, from September to April, over £39,000 in room hire income. Despite this the figures for the full year 2007/8 show income and expenses balancing at around £171,000, so the end of year balance will be similar to the balance at the start of the year. This position is unlikely to change for a number of years until the building loans have been repaid.

The final bill has been received from the builder. This has been paid partly with the money on the Newbuild Account and partly with an additional loan of £27,000 from Methodist Chapel Aid. Previous loans taken are £100,000 from the URC Trust and £20,000 from the Worksop & Kiveton Methodist Circuit, making a total of £147,000 plus interest. To date £25,779 of capital and interest has been repaid. The loans will take another five years to repay at about £25,000 a year.

The Future

The most pressing need over the next five years is to repay the loans taken out to complete the building of the new building. This implies that fundraising must continue and

effective and innovative methods of fundraising need to be devised to maintain church income, together with the continuing support of the church members and friends.

Please consider:

- increasing your collection payments so that we can at least pay the full cost of our ministers.
- giving by Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer. The church gains 28p in every pound for Gift Aid.
- paying your collection by standing order direct from your bank account.

And finally:

At the end of August 2007 Richard Ward retired as the treasurer of the Newbuild Fund after many years as church treasurer. Richard stepped in as treasurer on the death of the previous incumbent and guided the church through the financial maze of the setting up the joint Methodist / URC church and the progression through the plans for building the new church. I would like to express my personal thanks to Richard for his help when I started as a treasurer. I know that I speak for many when I wish him well in retirement. Thank you Richard.

Peter Colby, Treasurer, 30 April 2008

