



**First
Annual Report
From 4th August 2006
to 31st August 2007**

Introduction

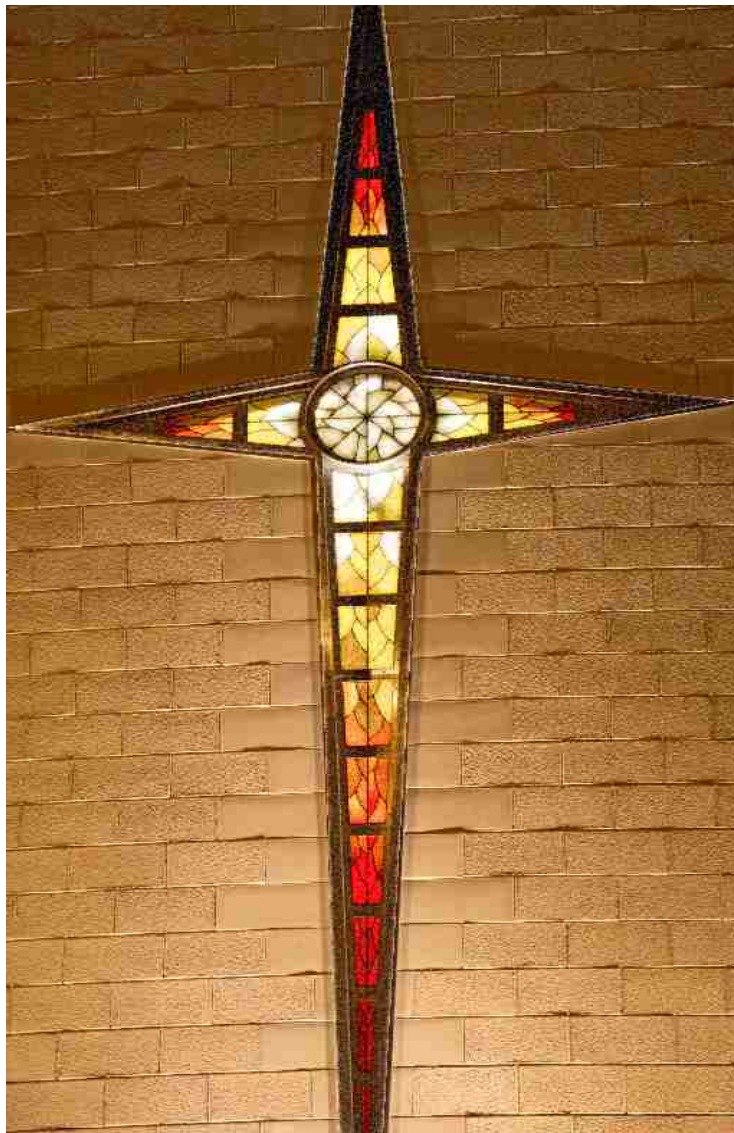
The Crossing Church and Centre was opened in May 2006. The Vision for the Centre was that the church activities would be complemented by the use of the premises by a variety of community groups and charities and that the café would complement all activities and become a funding stream for the church.

In August 2006 The Crossing Social Enterprise Company was formed “ *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*”

The Crossing SEC Ltd is a company limited-by-guarantee (Registered in England & Wales No 05893762) and is currently seeking charitable status. Registered address is The Crossing Church & Centre, Newcastle Street, Worksop, S80 2AT.

The Board of Directors to be made up of both Church Members and representatives from organisations who themselves serve the wider community.

This is the first Annual Report.



From the Chair

If you haven't been directly involved with the work of The Crossing SEC, you might well be asking 'just what is a 'Social Enterprise Company'? Good question! Here's a good definition offered by the Social Enterprise Coalition:

Social enterprises are dynamic businesses with a social purpose working all around the UK and internationally to deliver lasting social and environmental change. Translating this philosophy into a practicality, our declared Object is "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". I'm very pleased and proud to be able to say in our first AGM report, that this is exactly what we've been doing.

The social enterprise sector is incredibly diverse, encompassing co-operatives, development trusts, community enterprises, housing associations, football supporter's trusts, Social Firms and leisure trusts, among others. According to figures from the Government's Annual Small Business Survey 2005, there are at least 55,000 social enterprises in the UK with a combined turnover of £27billion per year. Social enterprises account for 5% of all businesses with employees and contribute £8.4billion per year to the UK economy - almost 1% of annual GDP!

The idea of The Crossing Social Enterprise Co. formed to partner community groups and agencies with The Crossing Church was seen as quite radical in the life of the parent legal bodies of the Church and it took some persuading of them that this would be a good way to work. Thankfully the community partners and groups didn't have the same reservations and readily rose to the challenge. Now, after just over a year of operation, I am even more convinced that such partnership is effective and appropriate. Not only is it benefiting the local community - our express aim, but it's also bringing about a new energy and perspective into the life of the Church. This work has built bridges between Church and community in ways which are truly positive and beneficial to all and that's very exciting indeed.

The setting up of the SEC and its first year has been a period of great innovation and a good deal of hardwork and I am pleased to be able to express thanks to those who have enabled that to happen. Firstly the SEC staff: Social Enterprise Development Manager, Anne Taylor and Administrative Support Worker, Paula Howard. Both appointments have, I believe, been a great success and the effectiveness of the work is in part due to their dedication and commitment. A debt of thanks is also owed to the members of the SEC board, who represent the diversity of our community and also The Crossing Church. We are a board with many different interests, commitments and skills, yet in the work of the SEC, that diversity has been harnessed to achieve a great deal as the following report indicates. Particular thanks also to David Jordan, our company secretary, for all his hard work and dedication. Last, but not least, we must acknowledge the crucial work of our many volunteers, whose contribution cannot but be praised enough. That help, which often involves a lot of hard work, is a vital part of the picture of the success of the work, thank you all so much.

The way our Social Enterprise works reminds us that often the things of true value in this world cannot be measured in financial terms. Theorists in this rapidly developing field refer to this as 'social profit'. Whilst financially this year we have held our own, in terms of social profit we have had a great success - long may it continue.

Enjoy the rest of the report, which I warmly commend to you. Thank you for your interest and support.



Mark F Pengelly (Rev)
Chair - The Crossing Social Enterprise Company

Board of Directors (Number to be 17)

Rev Mark Pengelly – Chair
Superintendent Minister, the Worksop & Kiveton Methodist Circuit
Chair of The Crossing Café Ltd and WUC-LEP Ltd

Mr David Jordan – Company Secretary
Also Church Member and Trustee
Company Secretary – WUC-LEP Ltd

Mr Peter Colby – Treasurer (designate director)
Church Member and Trustee (Church Treasurer)

Mr Michael Newstead
Director, Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service.
Also Vice Chair – Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership, Trustee of Retford Action Centre;
Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw, Worksop Charities; Worksop Sick Poor Fund; Enable.
Corporation member of North Notts College

Mr Michael Quigley
Leader, Bassetlaw District Council

Mrs Nicola Corbett
Consultant (Projects & Bids), North Notts College
Also Board member – Centre for Sport & Learning Community Interest Co.

Mrs Vicky Rawson
Development Manager, Focus on Young people in Bassetlaw

Mr Chris Salter
Service Manager, Age Concern Nottingham & Nottinghamshire

Mrs Christine Carrington
Church Member & Trustee, Treasurer – The Crossing Baby & Toddler Group
Secretary – Worksop & Kiveton Methodist Church Circuit
Chair – Lifelong Learning Group, Newark & Sherwood Local Strategic Partnership
Economic Development Advisor – Nottinghamshire Learning & Skills Council

Mrs Heather Flynn
Church Member and Director, The Crossing Café

Mrs Sheridan Pengelly
Church Member

Mrs Janet Lincoln
Church Member
Vice Chair of Valley Social Club

Mr Griff Wynne
Church Member and Trustee
Methodist Circuit Steward
Also Deputy Leader, Labour Group, Bassetlaw District Council
Director, The Crossing Café Ltd & WUC-LEP Ltd.

Mr Ian Grant
Also Church Member and Trustee and Director, The Crossing Café

Vacancies to be elected

Representative from Notts County Council
Two Representatives from The Crossing user groups

Staffing

Social Enterprise Development Manager – Mrs Anne Taylor (also Church Member and Trustee)

Partnership Administrator – Mrs Paula Howard

Caretaker – Mr Trevor Cooper

Service Level Agreements are in place with the Church, the Café, and Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw. This is for the entirety of the caretaking work, the administration and management role of the SEDM and PA within the café and church , and 5 hours per week of admin work of the PA for FOYPIB.

The remaining funding for the SEDM has so far been funded by various grants as reported in the financial report. We are particularly grateful to Bassetlaw District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the Sheffield Methodist District in this context. demonstrating a church-community revenue funding partnership exactly in keeping with the structure and Objects of the SEC.

We would particularly like to thank Simon Taylor (Nottinghamshire County Council Social Enterprise Development officer) and his manager Geoff George for their very useful advice in relation to the SEC both during its formation and during subsequent operation.



Projects

After Research and Development work it was decided that the first projects were to be an older peoples weekly lunchclub and an after school drop in for young people. Followed by other projects.

Lunch Club. Working in partnership with Age Concern. Funding was sought and received from Help the Aged , a staff member was appointed (3 hours per week) and the lunchclub began in June 2007. This is a very popular group, with 40 members regularly attending. The cafe provide a low cost meal which is served by staff & volunteers. Wherever possible the lunch is followed by another activity (some have proven to be more popular than others) such as Dancing, Games, Seated Exercise and Advice sessions.



Quote from a user.. 'I think that the Crossing is the best thing that has happened to Worksop for many a year. I have thoroughly enjoyed many concerts, it is a wonderful local amenity. I have recently started to attend the luncheon club for Older People which I also really enjoy and I have made some new friends.'

Billy Rose aged 79

After School Drop In. Working in partnership with the Youth Service and local Youth Workers. (some funding provided by FOYPIB) We publicised this at the schools and the local youth workers passed the message around the young people locally. Unfortunately this did not prove to be popular so we are continuing research into what service we can provide for young people. However a number of young peoples groups are working in partnership with us (see Partnerships section) and we are supporting them and building these relationships.

Older Peoples Forum. Working in partnership with Bassetlaw Elderly Action Network. We have received some funding and held an advice day in October. The feedback from this day has been promising and we are arranging the first meeting for those interested in serving on a Forum in January.

Baby & Toddlers Group. Working with the Church. A Baby & Toddler Group has been running from the Church for a number of years twice a month. Funding was sought and received to expand this service. A member of staff (8 hours per week) has been appointed and the group started meeting twice a week

Partnerships

As well as organising groups and events we are keen to provide facilities at a reasonable cost to community groups and charities (and at a higher cost to businesses as an income stream)

As part of this we have built up good relationships with a number of groups who provide services to the wider community. These include the following.



Self Help Groups

● Keep Fit Class	● Yoga	● Cake Decorating Class
● Puddleducks Playgroup	● Stroke Club	● Dolphins Swimming Club
● Meditation Group	● National Childbirth Trust	● Worksop Pensioners Ass

Charities,

● Samaritans	● Mind & Mencap	● Mencap
● Royal British Legion	● Bassetlaw Hospice	● Bluebell Wood Hospice

Groups working with Children and Young People

● Princes Trust	● Young Enterprise	● Portland School
● Sir Edmund Hilary School	● Bassetlaw out of school project	● Surestart
● Manton Children's Centre	● Bassetlaw Play Forum	● Pre School Learning Alliance
● Notts County Council Youth Service	● Notts Children's Fund	

Groups helping adults with education and back into employment

● Enable	● North Notts College	● Framework HA
● A4e	● Training West Lancashire	● Notts Business Venture
● Hope for the Homeless	● Notts Probation Service	

Groups offering health and wellbeing advice and providing counselling services

● Weightwatchers	● CASY Counselling	● Support after Adoption
● Art Therapy	● Parkinsons Society	● Victims Support

Groups offering help to Adults with Learning Disabilities and Physical Handicaps and support for parents

● Valley Social Club (affiliated to Mencap)	● Greenacre Centre	● Eden Supported Housing
● Remploy	● Friends Together	

Public Advice Events

● BCVS Volunteering Event	● Small Business Advise Event	● Worksop Safer Neighbourhood event
● Migrant Workers Advice Events	● Citizens Advice	● Extended Services School Event
● Age Concern Events		

Also Bassetlaw PCT have brought a number of health awareness sessions to us.

● Quit Smoking Advice & Support.	● Weight Management	● Bereavement Group
● Psychological Makeovers	● Stress management	● Healthy Eating Event

Bassetlaw District Council have also supported us by using us for meetings and public advice events.

● Small Business Event	● Migrant Workers Event	● Launch or Tourism Advice Brochure
● Local Strategic Partnership Meetings		

There are also the regular Church affiliated groups.

● Guides	● Brownies	● Rainbows
● Rangers	● Circuit Choristers	● Christian Meditation
● Young Peoples Group ● "R-Generation"	● The Crossing Reading Group	● 18+ Group
● Womens Fellowship	● CAMEO Fellowship meal	● Thursday Group

These are all funded by the church but are open to any who would like to join.

This is just a sample and not a full list of all users.

All this is part of our outreach work, the staff & volunteers have been helping to build relationships between these groups both for publicity and the opportunities to work together.

Feedback from Users

" What a wonderful place this is. It's great to see that a church is truly at the centre of the community, encouraging,meeting needs and sharing resources. Fantastic – this is what Church is meant to be."

A Visitor to the Extended Services School Event – October 2007

" Can I say and maybe you could feedback that the evaluations from the weight management groups we run from your venue have come back very positive towards The Crossing. One question we ask is their views on the venue and participants have stated that the venue is excellent,comfortable,clean,location perfect and staff very friendly"

Donna Ramsden, Bassetlaw PCT

Volunteering

All operations within the crossing are supported by a valued team of volunteers.

The main roles of the volunteers are as follows:-

Welcome Desk. The team of volunteers on the welcome desk perform a valuable role in meeting and greeting all the users of the centre. They chat to the public and answer the phones giving people an insight into the many & various events and meetings happening here. Directing people where necessary, selling the Crossing merchandise and greetings cards as an income stream, and selling tickets to the concerts and events organised by the “Friends of the Crossing and Music @ The Crossing” They also help the café when busy by clearing tables and chatting to customers.

Café. We have a number of volunteers in the café, many of these are adults with learning disabilities. This is through partnership work with The Greenacre centre, Mencap & Eden Supported Housing. This is a valuable conduit into training to help these volunteers into possible employment, Through the partnerships we have built up with some of the training groups using The Crossing we are able to provide free Food & Hygiene Training for some of these volunteers.

Admin. We have had several work experience volunteers helping in the office with basic admin work, in partnership with the local schools and the training agencies working with us, particularly the North Notts College and A4e.

Lunch Club. We have a small but compact team of regular volunteers helping to serve meals for our weekly lunchclub and organising other events for the older people in our midst.

Baby & Toddlers. As our baby & toddlers group is expanding our team of 2 volunteers needs to grow to ensure that this work can continue into the future.

All our volunteers have found the work very rewarding, many are retired people looking for an outreach and a purpose, some are people using this as a way of building confidence after an illness or period of unemployment and as a way back into the world of work. Whatever the reason for being here, the work is not difficult and it is extremely rewarding. Many very strong friendships have been built up by volunteers working together.

Report from a Volunteer

A year ago I decided that I should come out of the doldrums and get my life back on track, having had a period of ill health which had left me feeling very inadequate and lacking in confidence. By chance, I met Anne Taylor at a function at The Acorn Theatre and I asked her if there was anything I could do to help at The Crossing. Anne thought I would enjoy working on the Welcome Desk. This sounded a daunting prospect and it was with trepidation that I agreed. On my first afternoon I remember feeling incredibly nervous and whenever the phone rang I was filled with fear! However it didn't take me long to settle in and the rest is history as they say....

The Crossing is an amazing place which, quite literally, has changed my life. I have always longed for Worktop to have somewhere at its heart which will give people a sense of community. Our building does just that and as it becomes increasingly busier by the week, demonstrates how much it is needed by the community. Our rooms are hired by diverse groups which enjoy not only the material benefits of the wonderful facilities but everyone who enters the building feels that special “atmosphere” which is so welcoming.

I would urge anyone out there to give volunteering here a try. I have had a really eventful year and am so grateful to have made that first step. I choose to work on the Welcome Desk which involves meeting and greeting our visitors, answering telephone enquiries, selling tickets for our concerts and many other things besides. Sometimes it's necessary to multitask! One gets such a “buzz” after a really busy session.

Also I've been involved with the Over 60s Tuesday Lunch Club since it started in June and have seen it develop into a special weekly event which, as well as providing a wholesome and nutritious lunch, gives, especially to those who live alone, a chance to eat in the company of others and enjoy conversation and friendship. The helpers have a really enjoyable time too whilst serving the lunch and we have developed a very special relationship with many of our older folk.

At the other end of the spectrum, I have recently become a helper with the Babies and Toddlers Group which, as a way of outreach, has expanded to two sessions each week. There is a real need for Mums to have somewhere to bring their little ones and meet others in similar circumstances. Being a new Mum is quite daunting and it's good that here they have the opportunity to share experiences and spend time in a relaxed environment. This group is in great need of volunteers at the present time to serve refreshments.

Music is close to my heart and I am so thrilled that The Crossing is a venue for concerts in our community bringing musicians from far afield to perform in Worksop. I have helped with stewarding and serving refreshments for our concert-goers at musical events. On one such occasion recently, I had the opportunity to meet one of our nation's most popular and successful contemporary classical composers. I couldn't really believe that Cecilia McDowell, who composed "King Leo" recently performed by Portland School, was in Worksop in conversation with me!!! She thought The Crossing a wonderful place and was very enthusiastic about the whole venture.

Apart from personal fulfillment in being a part of all this exciting activity, I must add that this last year has been enriched by having made some wonderful friendships amongst our volunteers and the staff. Although I still do not enjoy the best of health, being a part of the volunteering opportunity here has been life enhancing and I would recommend anyone to "have a go". If I can do it anyone can!



Policies

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The Crossing SEC Ltd (*SEC hereafter*) has the responsibility to ensure good practice in all aspects of work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is about preventing the abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults. In the case of children, and in response to the Children's Act of 1989, the Home Office produced guidance for voluntary organisations entitled *Safe from Harm*. *Safe from Harm* forms the basis of good practice guidelines produced by the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church who are the SEC's landlords.

Enquiries regarding this documentation or any aspects of safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults should be directed to Anne Taylor, David Jordan or Rev Mark Pengelly.

There is a shared responsibility as named persons for the content and updating of this document (when required) and also its implementation, which rests with Anne Taylor and David Jordan.

Employed Staff, the Company Secretary and the Chair are required to maintain satisfactory Enhanced CRB disclosure checks refreshed at not longer than 3 year intervals or any such shorter period as may be stipulated by statute or The Crossing Church as landlord. This extends to any Board members (and later any recruited volunteers) involved in activities developed and delivered by the SEC relating to C, YP and VA.

The overarching safeguard is that no employee, director or volunteer of the SEC shall be in contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults without an appropriately CRB registered person also being present.

The SEC takes seriously the welfare of all who come into The Crossing Church & Centre, are involved in its activities, or are even involved in activities elsewhere that emanate from The Crossing.

We recognise that it is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent neglect, physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse of children, young people and adults and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.

We recognise and accept our responsibility to implement, maintain and review procedures which are designed to prevent and to be alert to such abuse.

We are committed to supporting, resourcing and training any whose work with children and/or young people and/or vulnerable adults is delivered by or on behalf of the SEC. This includes any necessary supervision.

We are also committed to maintaining good links with the statutory authorities relating to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Crossing also has Policies on:-

Fire Safety
Health & Safety
Volunteering

These are currently being worked on and updated, and are available to any interested parties.

Funding and Finance

The funding for all the projects so far has been through sizeable grants from Notts County Council and Notts Community Foundation and a smaller but significant amount from Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw. Alongside this work the Church are fundraising, with the aim that once the building costs are covered that all the work within The Crossing can be self financed with the main income streams being the Cafe and the room lettings. The full financial report is a separate document and can be requested.



Logo for Notts Community Foundation to be added when made available



The Future

The Aim of The Crossing Social Enterprise Company is to continue and expand the events and projects for the benefit of the wider community, and to continue to build up good relationships with all groups in the area giving them the affordable facilities to continue with the excellent work that is already taking place, and helping to expand that wherever possible.

Part of that is to increase marketing, at present we have approx 60% utilisation of the building. If we can increase that to about 90% it will help to keep the costs down to all our users.

We are also trying to build our team of volunteers and enhance our volunteer training time and finances permit.

We shall also continue to identify new projects which are based on evidence of a need for them in our local community.

Anne Taylor Social Enterprise Development Manager. December 2007