



Annual Report 1st September 2013



to 31st August 2014

The Crossing Church &
Centre

Newcastle Street

Worksop Notts

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www.thecrossing.co.uk



Introduction

The Charitable Object of the Social Enterprise Company (SEC) is to implement and support projects and initiatives which address needs which have been identified in Worksop & District.

This report highlights some of the many and varied events and activities that we have hosted or supported during the year.

The public benefit of our work derives not just from the projects that we support directly, but also from the support that our staff and volunteers offer to the many community groups who use The Crossing's excellent facilities.

The Crossing is a large and complex church and community facility and its operation is hugely dependent on our volunteers, and staff to whom we are greatly indebted.

In order to finance the work of the SEC, the church pays the SEC to maintain the day-to-day activities of the centre.

In addition, we have some small service level agreements which our staff have discharged for our Café and for other organisations.

We are continually looking for other revenue grant support, particularly to enable the projects that are currently running, and clearly needed, to continue but also to enable us to develop new projects, we have recently had some success in securing funding to support our work, which is detailed in the finance section of this report.

As so much has happened in the 5 months since 1st Sept 2014 the decision has been made to include a few items in this report for clarity. All of these are clearly marked and dated.

The first of these is that in December 2014 our administrative officer, Becky Jordan, who worked for the SEC for 8hrs per week and the Church for 10 hrs per week has moved on to other employment, and we thank her for the commitment and dedication that she brought to the role.

As the church are re-evaluating their financial situation, we have not yet replaced Becky, and the SEC directors will be looking at this in 2015, one of the possibilities is that we appoint an apprentice in partnership with North Notts College and this is being explored.

Anne Taylor - January 2015.

Chair's Introduction

One of the most memorable and powerful statements made by the late William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1942-1944, was that, *"The Church is the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members."* Some might want to contend his suggestion that the Church is the "sole society" that can make such a claim but it is the last six words that are a sobering and challenging assertion to counter self-interest: that the *raison d'être* for the Church is to look beyond its own walls and interests. The Crossing Church seeks to be true to Temple's assertion and entrusts the pursuit of engagement with the wider community to the Social Enterprises Company ["SEC"]. Faithfulness to its remit is no easy task and I wish to use this Annual General Meeting to place on record my personal gratitude to the Board members and SEC Staff for all that they have done in the name of The Crossing this past year. Vision and accompanying commitment are the foundation for any charity's work but so, too, is the necessary finance and funding. In common with others the past few years have been challenging ones in which to operate in the charitable and voluntary sector and have presented moments of anxious deliberation and review. The Board remains committed to sustaining and developing SEC's contribution to this Church and the wider community and I trust that the Reports contained within this booklet will inform and inspire us all to continue to exist for the benefit of non-members.

Revd. Geoffrey S. Clarke

Board of Directors / Charity Trustees 13/14

(Number to be 17)

(Includes appointments & resignations up to date of publication, Jan 2015)

Rev Geoffrey Clark – Chair

Minister

Chair & Trustee of The Crossing Church

Chair of The Crossing Café Ltd

David Jordan – Company
Secretary & Charity Commission
contact.

Church Member and Trustee

Peter Colby – Treasurer

Church Member and Trustee

Catherine Burn

*Director, Bassetlaw Community and
Voluntary Service.*

Griff Wynne

Church Member and Trustee

Director, The Crossing Café Ltd.

*Also Deputy Leader Bassetlaw District
Council*

Heather Flynn

*Church Member and Director,
The Crossing Café Ltd (until 2014)*

Julie Beedon

Church Member

Janet Lincoln

User Group representative

Vice Chair of Valley Social Club

Geraldine Pearce

Church Member and Trustee

Cllr Kevin Greaves

Nottinghamshire County Councillor

Cllr Alan Rhodes

Bassetlaw District Councillor

Fran Walker

North Notts College

Vicky Rawson

*Development Manager, Focus on
Young People in Bassetlaw*

David Bacon

Older Peoples representative

*Health & Social Care Manager at the
Retford Action Centre*

(resigned July 2014)

Gill Dudhill

*User Group Representative
(Equilibrial)*

Alan Coates

Church Member

Russell Lincoln

Church Member and Trustee

Vacancy

Older peoples representative

Staff

Social Enterprise
Development Manager
(SEDM)

Anne Taylor (28 hrs)

Office Administrator

Becky Jordan (8 hrs)

(left Dec 14)

Caretakers

Paul Goy & Billy Wilkinson

(16 hrs each)

Stand in caretaker

Robert Beattie.

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Becky Law (16 hrs)

(appt Dec 2014)



Rev Geoffrey Clarke



Anne Taylor



Becky Jordan



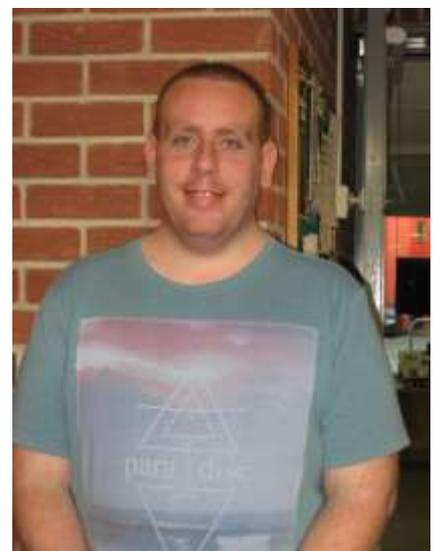
Becky Law



Paul Goy



Billy Wilkinson



Robert Beattie

Projects

The Crossing SEC pioneers, develops and supports many projects and initiatives that are of benefit to the local community in many different ways.

Some of these are purely “The Crossing” initiatives and others are developed in partnership with other local charities, faith organisations and our local authority.

Projects that continue to meet in The Crossing include :-

Baby & Toddlers Club.

This group provides the opportunity for parents and carers of under 5’s to have a chat and a ‘cuppa’ with friends, sharing experiences and providing vital peer support. It is a friendly group where new members are always welcome.

For the babies and toddlers the activities provided encourage shared play, building skills through play and helping to prepare for the next stages of nursery education whilst having fun.

The group is run by a dedicated team of volunteers, parents and grand-parents themselves and meets Wednesday mornings during term time between 9.30am –11am.



The group is very popular and clearly needed by the local community .

Flower Arranging Group.

This small educational group of around 10 ladies continued to meet until July 2014.

Under the watchful eye of a local tutor (Jeanne Welch) the group all learned new skills and became confident enough to provide displays for various activities within the life of The Crossing.

Older Peoples Lunch Club

This weekly lunch club provides an opportunity for the over 60's to eat a healthy, affordable meal together with others. Providing an opportunity to build friendships, reducing loneliness and promoting social inclusion. During this year we have received some financial support from Notts County Councillor Kevin Greaves (see financial report) which has enabled the cost of the meal to attendees to continue to be subsidised.

The meals are freshly prepared each week by The Crossing Café and served by a dedicated team of volunteers. At 12 noon on Tuesdays.



Knit and Natter Group

This is a mixed ability group, providing social interaction for the members and promoting positive mental health.

Around 15-20 members meet weekly on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am—12.30pm with the more able helping and encouraging others.

The group regularly makes items to donate to special care baby units & to include in the Operation Christmas Child Shoe box appeal and also to sell at Craft Fayres both at The Crossing and at other local charity events.

This enables the group to raise funds to provide its members with an annual trip, and also to donate funds to local charities.

Two Projects that were started by The Crossing SEC, and as they have developed and are now stand alone projects we still work in partnership with both, but they no longer need the hands on support of The Crossing.

Bassetlaw Food Bank

This project was instigated by The Crossing in partnership with other local organisations and although this is now a registered charity The Crossing still support the project in any way that it can.

Anne Taylor (SEDM) continues to serve as a



**Bassetlaw
Food Bank**

charity trustee and The Crossing acts as a drop off point for donations to the Food Bank.

The Bassetlaw Food Bank now has two main distribution centres, Lowtown Street in Worksop and Exchange Street in Retford with satellite distribution points in many of the villages across the district.

The food bank volunteers are able to distribute emergency food parcels to those who are experiencing food poverty across the district.

The food bank has a robust referral system in place with partner agencies to ensure that only those who are genuinely in need receive help.

Worksop & District U3A—University of the 3rd Age was a SEC project that now is a charity in its own right, and no longer needs any support from The Crossing SEC.

With over 200 members and 32 special interest and educational groups this is a real success story for our district.

Regular Community Groups

The Crossing continues to provide “affordable” rooms for community users and many groups and charities take advantage of our facilities.

Many of these are “self-help” groups supporting those with specific health needs as well as providing opportunities for social inclusion.

We are able to support these in various ways, by helping with publicity, producing flyers and community newsletters, keeping our website updated and signposting groups towards funding opportunities etc.

We are the “venue of choice” for many organisations who use our facilities for training and conferencing purposes and we are an ideal town centre venue for “marketplace” events.

Reports from a few of our regular groups—in their own words.

Worksop Pensioners Association

We meet every second Wednesday of the month, except January & August at The Crossing Church in Worksop, between 2-4pm, we have a committee of 6 people, Chair, Treasurer & 4 committee members, committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at one of the committee members homes.

At the present time we have 43 members, most of them regularly attend our meetings, their ages range between 60-90, for some of our members it is the only time in the month they have company.

We have speakers on various Subjects who speak for about an hour, then we have tea, coffee & a biscuit, we mostly try to follow this with a game of bingo which they love, we go to the pantomime every year & also try to fit in a trip in the summer.

We are very grateful to The Crossing for the help & support that the group has received during the year, and for the use of the facilities at a subsidised cost. This ensures that we are able to continue this valuable work.

Jackie Turner—Worksop Pensioners Association.

Valley Social Club is a leisure club for adults with learning disabilities who live in Worksop, Retford or surrounding area. We meet every Monday evening at The Crossing; we have 60 members on our books and between 40-50 attend each week. Our members range in age from 18-70 and we offer a range of activities to meet their varying interests.

The club is managed by a voluntary committee and we employ 5 staff on a sessional basis. We have a different theme of activities each week together with some regular activities such as the pool table, craft and card making. We produce 3 monthly programme of activities so our members can see the variety of activities that we have on offer. Over the past twelve months we have had a folk dancing night, disco, (run by our members) a visiting guitarist, an Elvis tribute night, a fashion evening when our members acted as models, Christmas Fayre, calendar making, pizza making and a fruit tasting evening. Our club is funded through subscriptions from our members, donations and fund raising events.

We have been meeting at The Crossing since it opened in May 2006. For many of our members our club is the only regular evening activity they take part in and they really enjoy meeting their friends in this social environment. We feel fortunate to be able to run our club from The Crossing which is an important building to many of our members some of whom volunteer or have volunteered in the café, or are regular customers in the café or attend church services.

Janet Lincoln—Valley Social Club

“The BCVS use The Crossing facilities for meetings and events which we have done on many occasions. The rooms are excellent and well facilitated and staff are always available should any help be needed in setting up etc.”

*Lesley Thorlby—INVOLVE
Volunteering support, BCVS*



BCVS. Volunteering event. 2014

A few of the Regular Groups who serve the community from The Crossing

Cake Decorating Class

*A small weekly class using old & new techniques in sugarcraft.
Mondays 6.30pm*

Equilibril

*Bi-Polar Support Group
Thursdays fortnightly
6pm—8pm*

*Circuit Choristers
Community Choir
Fridays 7.30pm*

Caring for Dementia Carers (Bassetlaw)

*A welcoming supportive group of carers who all have loved ones with a diagnosis of dementia.
Tuesdays 10am—12 noon*

Guides, Brownies & Rainbows

*North Notts Association of National Trust Members
Monthly meeting with a speaker
Third Wednesday monthly
7.30pm*

Oddfellows

*A monthly social group with a speaker.
First Thursday 2pm*

Older Peoples Friendly Group

*A friendly group for pensioners to play bingo and meet others.
Thursdays weekly 12 noon.*

Reading Group

*Discussion group with a monthly book selection
First Friday 7.30pm*

Valley Social Club

*A Social Club for adults with learning disabilities
Mondays 6.30pm*

Workshop Pensioners Association.

*A monthly social afternoon usually with a speaker. All pensioners are welcome.
Second Wednesday 2pm*

Workshop & District Stroke Club

*A Social group for anyone who has suffered a stroke and/or their carers.
First & Third Thursdays monthly 7pm*

Workshop Wonders WI.

*Providing Women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills and take part in a wide variety of activities.
Second Wednesday monthly 7pm*

Yoga.

Classes Mon & Wed 6.30pm

Long Term Users.

During the year we have had two organisations serving the community from office and training space within The Crossing on a more permanent, 5 day per week basis. These were :-

- ◆ The Princes Trust (Enterprise Programme)
- ◆ Enable (Voluntary & Community sector Learning & Skills Consortium)

Both of these organisations have vacated the premises during 2014, leaving us with vacant office space

Partnerships

The Crossing is affiliated to, works in partnership with, and has representation on many local forums and provides peer support for other local charities & community organisations across the district. These include:-

Bassetlaw CVS	Notts Community Resource Centre Network
Bassetlaw Action Centre	Fairtrade for Bassetlaw
Bassetlaw Food Bank	Locality, (national network for community led organisations)
Bassetlaw Street Pastors	

A few of the many Ad-Hoc users of benefit to the wider community that have used The Crossing during the year :-

Bassetlaw District Council	Lets Talk Well-Being
Bassetlaw Hospice	My Jobs Place
Blood Donors	Notts County Council
Deere Apprenticeships	NHS—various departments
Family Matters Mediation	Worksop Music & Drama Festival

Volunteering at The Crossing.

We are a volunteer led organisation with a strong team of volunteers working across all areas within the centre (usually about 100 at any time).

Our staff, volunteer directors and long standing volunteers support and train new volunteers as they join us and we have built up a good reputation for providing work experience in order to help volunteers into employment.

We have inducted and trained 27 volunteers during the 12 month period of this report and we had 8 volunteers during this period that moved on to either full or part-time jobs.

Volunteers come to us for many reasons, many wish to gain confidence and experience as they look for employment but for others volunteering is a way of making friends, feeling useful and contributing to the local community.

All volunteers are encouraged to access training and to develop existing skills and knowledge and we are able to facilitate the building of friendships and support networks amongst our volunteer teams.

In October 2014 we secured some funding (see financial report) which has enabled us to appoint a part time volunteer co-ordinator for 12 months. This will also enable us to secure some external training from local providers and has given us the resources to cover travelling expenses for those volunteers who request it.

During the next year Becky, our volunteer co-ordinator, will be developing and building on our volunteer roles, inducting & training volunteers into new roles as we develop new projects.

We will continue to seek funding to endeavour to make this post permanent.

Café

Our mixed ability team of around 15 Café volunteers provide support in many ways. For some it is an excellent way to gain work experience, and we have an excellent record of café volunteers moving on into paid employment (we had two volunteers in Nov 2014 leaving us as they secured jobs).

For many people this is a crucial way to combat social isolation.



Peter—café volunteer



Alan—café volunteer

Lunch Club

We have a core team of five volunteers who serve the weekly lunch club meals (which are cooked by the café staff) and wash up afterwards, whilst chatting to members making new attendees welcome and encouraging friendships.



Sam—Lunch-club volunteer

Board Members and Trustees

Our Social Enterprise Board, Café Board and Church Trustees are all volunteers with some members serving in more than one capacity.

Many board members take special responsibilities such as property, health & safety, finance, human resources, IT management etc. And our café board members are often 'hands on' in the kitchen helping out.

Office Administration.

We have a small team of admin volunteers who support the office staff with our office admin with many regular duties such as the preparation of weekly planners and rotas, preparing monthly newsletters, posters for events, preparing invoices for users, filing and book-keeping.

As we go to press (Jan 2015) we do have some vacancies as we are encouraging volunteers to take on more responsibilities in the office.



Lynette—Admin volunteer

Welcome Desk (Reception)

Our team of around 30 welcome desk volunteers are the first point of call for visitors and user groups, providing a friendly face or voice for incoming telephone calls.

Volunteers guide visitors within the building, help with enquiries both about internal events and also other local organisations . We sell a small amount of

merchandise through the desk which is a good fundraising stream for The Crossing and also tickets for concerts.



Mollie & Christine—welcome desk volunteers

We have an excellent “core” of volunteers who have been in this role for several years and are integral in training and supporting new members of the team. Many of these also take the responsibility as fire warden for the building when staff are not present.

Baby & Toddlers

As detailed in the section earlier in this document our Baby & Toddlers Club is run entirely by a small and dedicated team of volunteers.

It would help the team if one or two more people could join and spread the load. So we do have some vacancies here.



Beryl & Kath—baby & tots volunteers

Caretaking & Cleaning

Our volunteer caretakers/cleaners and gardeners help and support our caretaking staff whilst learning and developing skills to enable them to move into full time employment.

We have a good success rate, with many of our volunteers finding work. This then enables us to welcome new volunteers onto our team. We often work with other agencies who are seeking work experience for the long term unemployed.

Concerts

The “Music @ The Crossing” concerts give people a chance to enjoy music and arts within The Crossing and are manned by a wonderful team of volunteers. Front of house, stewarding, serving refreshments and audio/visual control are all the responsibility of volunteers.



The Crossing has Policies on :

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Health and Safety

Fire Safety

Volunteering

Safeguarding (Children & Vulnerable Adults)

Equality & Diversity

Lone Working

Environmental

These are all regularly updated along with all risk assessments and are readily available electronically or on hard copy for any interested parties .

As well as fund raising to support all our internal activities The Crossing is committed to supporting many charities both local and national these have included :

Christian Aid ,

Action for Children

Children in Need

Bluebell Wood Hospice

We act as a collection point for the Bassetlaw Food Bank

And we sent 290 shoe boxes filled with Christmas gifts for children to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal.

Ethics .

All hot drinks served in our café are fairly traded and produce is sourced locally where possible. All the staff employed in the centre are paid above the minimum wage. All groups using the premises are encouraged to do likewise.

This is our way of countering unfair working conditions, both locally and in the developing world, and our way of saying that we want an equal world for all.

The centre also shows a commitment to the environment, through its ecological policy & recycling ethos.

Finance Report

Accounts for 2013/14: the accounts are with the accountant for examination. The figures shown below show the base figures on which the accounts will be based.

Summary of accounts

Income		Expenses	
Grants (for Lunch Club) (Notts CC)	1,841	Staff costs	45,976
Crossing Church	45,624	Office costs	1,440
Baby & Toddler Club	226	Insurance	468
Crossing Café	3,319	Other expenses	842
Other income	1,254	Lunch club costs	434
Total Income	52,264	Total Expenses	49,160

There was an operational surplus of £3,104. The balance of funds at 31.08.14 was £12,601 of which £1046 was due to HMRC and £1,407 was reserved for funding of the lunch club. SEC free funds were £10,148.

A number of our individual community groups & projects have also received funding directly from many of our local County & District councillors from their community funds. This has included Baby & toddlers, Older peoples friendly group, Stroke club and Caring for dementia carers.

Future outlook

In the current year 2014/15 the main funding of the SEC will be from the Crossing Church.

At the time of writing (5.1.15) a grant of £9,988 (Coalfield Regeneration Trust) has been received to fund a new Volunteer Coordinator and for other volunteer expenses: £1,176 has been received (Notts CC) for a new project (Lengthsman Project): £400 (The Rotary Club of Worksop) has been received for volunteer expenses.

And we have just had notification that we have been granted £500 for our older peoples lunch club from Bassetlaw District Council

The board continues to seek new sources of funding and business.

The Crossing Café Ltd.

As an integral part of the life of The Crossing the café is a trading arm of The Crossing Church and although its accounts are not reflected in this report, its continued stability is crucial to many aspects of The Crossing SEC.

As well as providing work experience and volunteer placements for many, the café provides a welcoming meeting place for all and support for many socially isolated people who are more comfortable sitting in the café than joining in any of our more structured groups and activities.

The staff and volunteers within the café, whilst providing a varied menu for the general public using the café, also prepare the meals for lunch clubs and buffets and drinks stations for room users when required.

Financially the café pays its way to The Church, for its share of premises costs, utilities, waste collection etc.

The Café has recently been refurbished as part of the long term strategy of the Café directors as they work towards increasing the profitability of the café

The Future

Although the overall downturn in the economy of the country as a whole has hit us in the same way as it has many other community organisations, we are still working towards long term financial stability.

We have developed our marketing strategy, and have attracted 2 new longer term tenants to occupy our rooms (both starting spring 2015), and we still have some space available so we are continuing to encourage utilisation of our rooms both to ad-hoc and longer term users.

We thank all of our community partners and friends for continuing to **recommend The Crossing as a “venue of choice” for conferences, training purposes, community groups etc.** and to bring customers into our café.



Acknowledgements

The Directors of the Social Enterprise Company would like to acknowledge the support given to The Crossing by all our user groups and by our many partner organisations across the district.

We also thank all our local Bassetlaw District & Notts County councillors who support both the SEC projects and many of our community groups financially through their community fund allocations.

We especially thank all our volunteers without whom none of this work would be achieved.



This report was edited by Anne Taylor—Social Enterprise Development Manager. January 2015, with many thanks for the contributions made by Trustees, user groups & volunteers.