

the crossing church

Worksop

(Methodist and United Reformed)

Annual Report

2024/2025



Prepared for Annual General Meeting

October 12th 2025

The Crossing Church. Newcastle Street, Worksop, S80 2AT

Registered Charity No. 1140500

www.thecrossing.co.uk

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Administrative Information

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

The members of The Church Council are recognised as the Charity Trustees. Those who served during the Church Year 2024/25 are: -

Chair: Revd Julie Coates (Sept to Feb) Revd Angela Potheary (Feb to Aug)

Church Council Members:

- ❖ Deacon Emily Hoe-Crook
- ❖ Annette Westerby (Treasurer)
- ❖ Annette Barker (Safeguarding Officer)
- ❖ Anne Taylor (Clerk)
- ❖ Rev Bob Heathcote
- ❖ Iris Franks
- ❖ Richard Peake
- ❖ Kath Jordan
- ❖ Margaret Merrills
- ❖ Jean Roberts

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

This AGM Report, including the reports from all groups & sections within The Crossing Church, relates to the Church Year & Financial Year 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025.

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

These accounts will be listed on the Charity Commission's website from early 2026 under Charity Number 1140500.

The Trustees of the Crossing Church are the "Church Council" who act as "Managing Trustees" and "Charity Trustees".

We are grateful to those members of the church who have been prepared to accept these responsibilities as Church Council members during the year.

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

This is assured by our Mission Statement.

CHURCH LIFE

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith

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



We seek to achieve this by:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Over the next eighteen months we are committed to developing:

- **Worship** – with a creative mix of inclusive and accessible styles of services.
- **A discipleship and spirituality programme** – with an emphasis on home groups and times of retreat. We will provide regular Morning Prayer sessions and a Prayer Space.
- **A ministry in the town centre** – taking an active part in local events and working closely with our ecumenical and interfaith colleagues – being attuned to the social, physical and spiritual needs of our community.
- **The café space** – this can be used to meet needs within the local community such as serving meals within school holidays and providing a comfortable, warm space over the winter months in response to the cost of living crisis. The facilities are also available as a training base for cooking/nutrition support. We are a Fair Trade Church.
- **Outreach to those who are retired** – by providing a range of events to which church members can confidently invite their friends, such as

Messy Vintage. We will continue to strengthen our relationship with the residents who live in flats next to the church.

- **A key role as a Dementia Friendly Church** – with special services, events, training and facilities. We are currently acting as ambassadors for this movement.
- **The use of our premises as a Centre of Wellbeing** – building on the work already carried out with Arts and Craft groups, Exercise Classes, Counselling Services, Mental and Physical Health support groups, Women’s Wellbeing sessions and Blood Donors.
- **Work with children and families** – nurturing our links with our Toddler Group and Uniformed Organisations, as well exploring connections with local schools. We also aim to provide a safe space for families to socialise at a Community Cinema project.
- **The recruitment, training and encouragement of volunteers** – we will seek to find suitable roles for those who are able to support our welcome desk, office administration, catering, gardening, and work with children, families and older adults.
- **The aim to achieve and maintain Silver Eco Church** status – which will include the development of our church wildlife garden and community allotment.
- **Inclusion** – we welcome refugees. The venue is registered for Same Sex Marriage.
- **An online presence** – through our website and our Facebook page. We will also share good news about the church and community via our magazine and the local press.
- **A site which is in the cultural quarter of Worksop** – the church hosts Concerts and a Model Transport Exhibition, as well as supporting the neighbouring Acorn Theatre.

Chair's Report

Dear Friends,

It has been a delight to read through the annual reports for The Crossing. Thank you to all our trustees and volunteers—whether you serve through pastoral care, worship, gardening, safeguarding, café team, uniformed organisations, events like fayres and model transport exhibitions or in one of many other ways—your contributions are deeply appreciated.

Highlights from the past year include the creative ways we shared the Christmas story, the introduction of quarterly Tea Time Praise services, and launching the Over 60s Light Lunch following the closure of the Methodist Homes' lunch provision.

As you will see, we've welcomed new members and said poignant farewells to those who have been promoted to glory.

We've seen continued commitment across our church groups—thank you for the updates—and we celebrate the wide range of charities supported through Friday Coffee as well as the Link to Hope shoebox appeal.

It's encouraging to see our growing connections with the North Notts College Flex Team and the other organisations regularly using our premises. Financially, we're also grateful to report that income exceeded budget expectations.

It has been particularly encouraging to see the expanding role of Clare, our Facilities and Community Manager, who now oversees property maintenance, caretaking staff, and room bookings—making a real difference to the life and work of The Crossing.

Looking ahead, we're excited about partnerships with Priory Primary Academy and preparations for our 20th Anniversary celebrations.

Due to changes in the Circuit Staff Team, Angela now has pastoral charge of The Crossing and will chair the General Church Meeting on 12th October. Although I miss working alongside you, I'm confident you are in excellent hands with Angela and Emily, who together will continue to guide the church faithfully in the coming year.

My grateful thanks are expressed to Anne for compiling this booklet,

Grace and peace, Julie

Deacon's Report

Firstly a sincere THANK YOU. Me and Lisa have both felt uplifted in prayer and supported during so much ill-health this past year. It's been frustrating not to be amongst you for much of the time, but health is (at the moment) relatively stable again, and I am gradually getting back to some semblance of 'normal', able to minister slowly and surely.

Developments the last few months have included sadly taking funeral services for Richard Ward, involvement with the service for Derek Rhodes (Carol and Andrew Callaway's father), Maureen Williams, and Margaret Bray. Each of our dear friends will be missed, but we hold on to our faith and hope.

An exciting development is the new venture at Priory Primary Academy – along with the Head of RE, I have established a weekly Christian lunch-time Club where we read a story from the Bible, respond with a craft or prayer activity, and have lively discussion questions. So far the take-up is growing, and we anticipate reaching up to 24 children each week! Please keep this venture and all of the children who come along and talk about God in their lives week after week in your prayers.

The Visionaries continue to pray, discern and plan the way ahead missionally, including Messy Church and Family Events – at the time of writing we're preparing for a 'Tabby McTat' event based on Julia Donaldson's popular children's book featuring themes of homelessness and belonging, tying in with the ministry we share amongst the homeless community in Worksop. The Visionaries is an open group, anyone is welcome to come and listen or contribute – please keep your eye out for next gatherings via the Notices.

Plans are coming together for the 20th Anniversary of The Crossing Church, with a Flower Festival from 15-17th and a meal Saturday 23rd May 2026, the idea being that local businesses will sponsor flower displays curated by church groups and users of The Crossing, and featuring an Afternoon Tea and church family meal. Please save the dates for these exciting events, more details are to follow. If you would like to be involved in the planning and preparation, or offer a particular skill please speak with Emily or Margaret Merrills.

Last year's 'Journey to Christmas' – exploring the nativity story and characters each Sunday in December and adding to the wooden stable display wonderfully crafted by Russell Lincoln in the front windows was popular, and so the Visionaries have envisioned something similar for this year, utilising the Methodist Church's resources on the theme of 'Gifted'. We are looking forward to a special Nativity Festival 20-21st December with the Café open for refreshments, a whole host of different nativity sets from around the world, Messy Church-style activities for all ages on the Saturday, culminating in our Carol Service and opportunity to see the nativity sets again on the Sunday morning. A Christingle Service for all-ages is provisionally planned for 4pm on Christmas Eve, subject to consulting with congregation members on whether this time and model of celebrating the Christmas story is something they are available for and keen to join in with. Any opinions, please share with me!

As many of you will know by now, my five year appointment is coming to an end in the summer of 2026, and as hard as it will be to move on to another diaconal appointment, we feel it's the right time for us – and for you to welcome another minister (all being well a URC one!) to work alongside you. I'm grateful to have this year left with you, to solidify and stabilise the work we're doing together, and to continue relationships between church and community. We will find out where the Methodist Church is sending us hopefully in January, and will keep you posted.

With ongoing prayers and many thanks for yours,

Deacon Emily Hoe-Crook

Pastoral Support Team

Currently the Church Membership stands at 97. Sadly, Joan Simpson, Richard Ward, Maureen Williams, and Margaret Bray have all passed away this year and our thoughts and prayers go out to their families. They were all long standing church members and they will be sadly missed.

Joanne Ball moved out of the area and decided to become an Associate Member and so keep a continued interest in the work of the Crossing, particularly in relation to the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Barbara Baglee, Betty Stones, Pat and Ian Smith and Joe Hicks have come into membership this year and we send them all a warm welcome.

Whilst Emily has been off sick, Rev Angela Potheary supported the Pastoral Team, and we thank her for her help and involvement

In May we held an Afternoon Tea, to which all Members and Friends were invited. Now that The Crossing is one of Angela's Churches, she found it a useful event for her to join us, meet more of our members and vice versa. It was an enjoyable afternoon and something we are hoping to repeat again on a regular basis. Thank you to all our Pastoral Team for their hospitality.

We are continuing to make available to members "Emergency Contact Forms" these are simple forms on which members can complete details of relatives or friends whom they would like to be contacted should a member become unwell. If you have not as yet completed a form, or if you would like to update your form, please ask a member of the Pastoral Team.

The Pastoral Team continue to hold regular meetings to keep up to date with members welfare and help celebrate personal and family events and achievements as well as also supporting at difficult times.

Much of this care and support goes "under the radar" but I know the help given by the Pastoral Team is appreciated by those involved and it is a valuable asset to The Crossing Church.

Thank you to Emily and the Pastoral Team for their continued support of our membership.

*Janet Lincoln
Secretary to the Pastoral Team*

Worship Group

Though not a formal group as such there is the requirement once every three months for members of the church to lead worship at what is described as an 'Own Arrangement' service. This is usually put together by Jean or Bob or other members of the Church Council, but the services themselves are very varied utilising the gifts and skills of those who are willing to take part. These services allow an opportunity for those who feel able to take a small part in worship but who would struggle with the entire service, and they can be used as a stepping-stone to greater involvement.

If anyone reading this feels they would like to take part in a future 'Own Arrangement' service please contact Jean, Bob or any member of

the Church Council as we would like to encourage everyone to play their part in the worship life of the church as they are able.

During this year we have begun the practice of a quarterly “TeaTime Praise” on a Sunday afternoon at 3pm , followed by afternoon tea . This is particularly popular with members who find it difficult to get out in a morning, some of our pastoral support team are providing lifts for those who want to attend.

Bob

Safeguarding Report

2024 - 2025 has been a year of finishing DBS checks for both volunteers experienced to The Crossing and also any new volunteers and ensuring all volunteers were happy. I was grateful for the work that Joe did during his 12 month appointment as Volunteer Coordinator. Now that his appointment has ended I work with Clare Biddle in interviewing all new volunteers as well as continuing to undertake DBS checks.

Despite taking time out in January, due to having a new knee, I was still working on paperwork and updating spreadsheets from home.

The next year will be a busy one with Safeguarding training due for most of the experienced volunteers and all new volunteers. I shall be sending out letters with possible dates to new volunteers from mid-September. I also have to update the role descriptions and risk assessments.

Although we have not had any reported incidents, I have been in regular contact with the District Safeguarding Officer who has answered any questions about volunteer applications and DBS checks.

Safeguarding Sunday in November 2024 saw me in the pulpit leading worship – a very unusual experience for me as I’m more used to being at the organ or piano. Thank goodness for the Methodist safeguarding team who produce worship ideas.

Thank you to all those who have supported me in any way in the past year. Please keep Safeguarding in your prayers.

Netty Barker
Safeguarding officer

Financial Report 2024 - 2025

The accounts for the year ended 31st August 2025 are being prepared for the accountants Williams Knowles & Co, independent examiners. Below is a copy of our Statement of Accounts and Sub Account Summary for Property.

As of 31st August 2025, the difference between receipts and payments was a surplus of £21106.70.

Cash at bank as at 31.8.25 was £81535.23, that included £8750.43 of designated and restricted funds held within the CAF cash and CFB deposit accounts.

Within the cash held, there is money held for flowers/gardening/Singing with Dementia; a grant from Notts CC and money released from a TMCP fund which must be used for work with Youth and Children and a grant from Bassetlaw DC for a creative writing course.

The Church finances continue to be supported by the Model Bus Exhibition and its members.

Once again, The Church is incredibly grateful for all the many donations it has received from the congregation, members and Church groups including our Guiding groups. Thank you also for the continued support of Sunday offerings from members including those who pay by our preferred method of SO/Bank transfer.

Receipts from lettings/rent/Acorn now are much closer to the property expenditure. The Finance group, Church Council, Facilities & Communities Manager and Methodist District continue to search for funding and ways to balance the budget and give long term security. Income from rents in particular have increased as a result of employing our community manager. We have received funding from District and Circuit for this post, from next March we are now able to contribute a larger share to these costs.

The reserve account balance is now £20503.52. This includes a provision for redundancies since the Church now employs the caretakers.

Budget and Actual Comparisons for the year show that Congregational income was greater than budget. Rental income has exceeded on budget and previous years actual figures. Ministry spend was roughly

on budget. Property spend was considerably less than budget. Repairs and maintenance costs were not as high as in previous years. There are some anticipated large property costs in the future, but we do have a good cashflow and our balance of payments continues to improve. Please ask AW for a copy of the budget/actual comparison for a more detailed breakdown.

A budget has been prepared for 2025 – 26; there is a positive cashflow to the end of the year and a slight deficit of Income over expenditure, an improvement on recent years.

The Community Café has once again been very successful. We must thank all the Church volunteers and North Notts college for their hard work, enabling the Church to provide a community café for the public on Fridays and Wednesdays.

The Flower fund balance at Bank is £219.24 and Cash £36.43. Thank you to those who have donated time and money to the flowers in Church.

During this year we have purchased a “SumUp” machine, which means that we can now take card payments. This is regularly used at the café counter when open, but can be used for other payments. (if room hirers wish to pay an invoice this way we will add a 2% surcharge to cover SumUp charges)

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

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

Annette Westerby

**Donations to External Organisations
2024-2025**

11/09/2024	Action for Children - Terry's Quiz in 2023-4 accounts	95
1-Oct-24	Water Aid	40.00
1-Oct-24	Medicins Sans Frontiere coffee morning	130.92
1-Oct-24	SANDS. Coffee morning	128.00
	Link to Hope transport costs inc £95	
07/11/2024	Church donation	300.00
07/01/2025	Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice 71780	106.40
27/01/2025	The Lewy Body Society coffee morning	150.00
	Parkinson's UK donations to Bassetlaw	
06/05/2025	Parkinson's	94.05
06/05/2025	Cancer Research donations	131.50
06/05/2025	The Lewy Body Society	20.00
27/05/2025	All We Can Myamar Appeal	87.00
27/05/2025	World Mission Easter offering	36.25
27/05/2025	Action for Children Terry's Quiz	50.00
12/06/2025	My sight donations from Coffee morning	115.00
19/08/2025	Guide Dogs 22/8/25 coffee morning	162.40
27/08/2025	Christian Aid	216.50
27/08/2025	NHS Charities July coffee morning	120.11
		1983.13

THE CROSSING CHURCH GENERAL ACCOUNT					
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2025					
RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
	2024-25	2023/24		2024-25	2022/23
Offerings	28723.86	28327	Offering Wider Church	30900.00	30900
Donations (1)	21108.00	7786	Donations (8)	134.05	50
Printing income (3)	22.40	9	Service expenses (9)	516.85	1552
Gift Aid (4)	1990.00	5025	Stationery/postage (10)	64.22	0
Interest (6)	2744.94	3096	Printing expenses (11)	2860.28	2678
Grants	2867.20	1423	Volunteer Expenses	763.42	
Wedding/funeral fees	200.00	250	Sundries (12)	6399.77	4443
Sundries (7)	16.20	115	Community Café	6095.80	2721
Seated Exercise	3495.20	4445	Bank charges/interest	384.49	310
Youth Work	0.00	0	Youth Work	0.00	0
Training	0.00	0	Training	0.00	90
Flower fund	485.00	310	Seated Exercise	3075.00	3575
Property Income	83177.11	58785	Property expenses	84075.98	102586
Other fundraising	0.00	200	Marketing/Advertising (13)	221.01	0
FOTC fundraising	6291.46	6230	FOTC Fundraising costs	312.44	104
Community Café	13843.80	10221	Receptionist/manager	4992.00	5625
	164965.17	126222	Flower fund	281.64	408
				141076.95	155042.00

TFR from SEC inc restricted/grants					
Funds receipts	491.46	313		CFB transfer re funds	3194.96 1455
External Orgs (5)	1794.91	2154		External Orgs (5)	1888.13 2497
Card Sales	617.40	633		Card Sales	617.20 633
Disbursements	340.00	70		Disbursements	325.00 127
	3243.77	3170.00			6025.29 4712.00
Total of all receipts	168208.94	129392		Total of all payments	147102.24 159,754
				Surplus/Deficit	21106.70 -30,362
	168208.94				168208.94

BALANCE STATEMENT			
Flower fund	36.43		Balances held as:
CAF Bank balances at 01.09.24	9974.92		
Petty Cash at 01.09.24	51.00		
CFB Deposit at 01.09.24	50427.91		
	60490.26		Flower Fund 36.43
			CAFBank - main 19475.28 <i>less see below* a</i>
			CAFBank No 2 A/C 1864.00
Add surplus/deficit to date	21106.70		CFB Deposit 60195.95
			Petty Cash 25.30
Balance at 31.08.25	81596.96		81596.96

BALANCES ON FUND ACCOUNTS		31/08/2024	29/02/2025	31/08/2025
Benevolent Fund		40.83	41.78	42.69
Crossing Music Fund		98.44	100.73	102.9
Designated Funds		1118.08	923.12	667.95
Reserve Account		16543.86 plus 3000	16928.57 19928.57	20503.52

Notes:			
Money held at CAF bank > Designated funds/Disb/restr			
Flower fund	219.24		Restricted
NottCC Café	29.58	use for dishw	restricted for equipment including mi
Gardening fund	405.07		restricted.Co-Op £94.93 518/FP
Christian Aid	0		
Foodbank	0.00		
Cupboard	51.44		Restricted? Balance designated 21.
Gardening fund Ten	100.00		
Writing grant donation	1800.00 10.00		J Hicks from Bassettlaw DC restricted for chairs counselling room
Total	2529.09		

CFB restricted	
TMCP 1579 funds	1417.49
Singing with Dementia	2218.30
	0.00
Dementia Café	77.35
Grant NOTTS CC	2042.77
1/2 term meals	102.00
Vestry donation	310.00
Warm spaces	53.43
	6221.34

SUB - ACCOUNT SUMMARY FOR PROPERTY: YEAR ENDING 31.08.25

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	2024/5		2024/5
Rents	74223.61	Gas	10638.86
		Electricity	17754.16
Property Recoveries		Circuit loan -BMS - repayment	1200.00
Donations		Telephones	4171.14
Trfr from design'td fund		Water	1182.73
Vandal damage paym't		Insurance	5819.26
Staff costs recovered		CCLI Licences	565.22
Acorn lease payments	7200.00	Service contracts	5155.92
Sundry items		Ongoing maintenance	3817.89
Community Café invoices	1753.50	Town Centre Security	863.24
Sale of IT services		URC Hall costs	0.00
TMCP		Sundries	105.50
		Cleaning eqpt/services	3218.19
TMCP		Caretaker costs	21773.94
Acorn insurance pyts		Window cleaning	613.20
Rate refund		Grant Work	0.00
Circuit loan re BMS		IT Eqpt and other IT	1347.21
		New equipment	1606.58
		Rates	1102.48
		Business waste	3140.46
		Community Café	0.00
Total	83177.11	0 Total	84075.98
<i>Check total</i>	<i>83177.11</i>	<i>Check total</i>	<i>84075.98</i>
<i>Check difference</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>Check difference</i>	<i>0.00</i>

Property Report

Over the past year I have slowly started to take over the property requirements of my role

I have created a spreadsheet so it can be seen at a glance proactively what has been done and what needs to be done

With the age of the building it is still a very responsive system with breakdowns etc happening unexpectedly, the aim is to keep these to a minimum.

One such example is the recent attempted break in, the door where access was tried is rotten as nothing has been done to it for years and it is now an urgent problem to be solved

During the last 12 months we have attended to the following property repairs & renewals.:-

- Removal of weeds from the roof which were damaging our roof materials.
- Cafe heating repair when our underfloor heating was faulty.

- Sorting out of church storage (move from Hardwick to Lounge, and then to Clumber). We now have staging & filing cabinets and have pruned the items that we no longer needed to keep.
- New water boiler for the café when the old one reached the end of its working life.
- We are in the process of changing our telecoms system, our contract has come to an end and we need to change from an analogue to a digital system and improve our wi-fi strength.
- Purchased TV & Stand for Dementia singing & any other groups who want to use it.
- Repair/ Replace Handwash sink in cafe kitchen – the tap was permanently leaking.
- Av Desk - projector repair & new computer, the old computer was obsolete
- New washing machine when the old one stopped working.
- North Notts BID have been to clean and tidy the front of the Church and a request is going in for them to fix the lettering on the front of the church
- The front doors have once again been an issue but hopefully this has been resolved with a new visor to shield the sun when it is low in the sky.
- The emergency lighting had its annual inspection and some fixes were needed these have now been completed
- The Car park has been repainted

Clare Biddle

Volunteering

As Joe Hicks left in March, it has been left to me to write a report on the Volunteers. What can I say - except that there are some amazing people out there who spend nearly as much time working at the Crossing as they are at home.

My thanks go to Katherine Ely who has compiled the list of volunteers and the hours they have worked. There are some of us that work from home and this is not included in the total of **2310** volunteer hours from January to August of 2025. And we haven't got to the end of the year yet.

During 2024/ 2025, Joe and I interviewed and did over 30 DBS checks for people wanting to join the volunteering team.

Not all of these appointments were successfully taken up or the volunteer tried it for a few weeks and then left.

We did have some new volunteers who started on the Welcome desk and then managed to find a full-time job. Our thanks go to them for the time they spent with us.

We also managed to get some excellent new volunteers who are now helping Annette Westerby with finance and my thanks also go to Peter and Gail Johnson who spent the summer looking after the garden area outside. Please keep it up

Despite that large number quoted above, we are still desperate for volunteers from the church in positions such as on the church council, church stewards, on the welcome desk (Clare is always sending out emails for cover on certain slots) and to do other jobs around church. The café is the one place people do seem to enjoy volunteering!! I know that the AV desk operators could certainly do with a few extra hands.

Every 3 months I compile the rota of jobs for Sunday morning and sometimes I think I need a magic wand, as we are always short of volunteers even for the simple jobs.

All volunteers have to go through an informal interview process, DBS checks, safeguarding and fire training before they can work as a volunteer. But, as I do most of that in my role as Safeguarding Officer, I can assure you it is not strenuous (just a legal requirement). I don't bite!! (Or not often).

So, if you think you could spare an hour or two covering the Welcome desk, or taking on a steward or AV desk role, please see me or Anne Taylor or Clare Biddle. We will welcome you with open arms. Volunteering can be a very fulfilling role and gets you out with others – and we are a very welcoming family of people at The Crossing!!

Netty

Model Transport Exhibition

The exhibition on September 13th this year will be the tenth such exhibition at The Crossing and we now hold two per year, in March and September, where we invite about a dozen model railway exhibitors to bring one of their layouts, along with model bus, trams and trolleybus layouts and suitable traders who sell items which are transport-related. These events have become very popular both with the public and the exhibitors alike and several exhibitors come along because they enjoy doing so and display their latest creations of a variety of scales. Most exhibitors like the environment of The Crossing but they especially value the excellent refreshments served up by the friendly volunteer staff in the kitchen.

This event could only take place and be such a success because of the many volunteers who willingly help out on the day with all the many tasks which are required and whilst I am the organiser of the event I can only make this

happen thanks to all who help out and who are far too numerous to name. So, thank you to all who help in any way and to all our exhibitors and visitors and those who publicise the events on our behalf. It is truly a team effort.

Bob



September 2024



March 2025

Church Fayres

It has become our regular pattern to hold two Fayres during the year, we had a traditional Christmas Fayre in November 2024 and a Craft Fayre in April 2025.

The Christmas Fayre was a really busy event but we struggled to attract many stalls for our craft fayre, it was a very “bijou” event. These Fayres generate much needed funding for the Church, but as we need lots of volunteers to run them we need to be sure that their time is well spent.

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

Not forgetting homemade cakes & preserves, greetings cards, art work etc. These events are also an ideal time for us to open our community café and provide refreshments for stallholders & attendees alike and although busy & tiring our fantastic team of catering volunteers all agree that it is lovely for the café to be “buzzing”, and filled with the smell of cooking hot pork or bacon for sandwiches.

Our next event will be a Christmas Fayre on November 29th 2025.

Anne Taylor & the Fayre team.

Community Café

Our Café space is ideally placed for lots of events where we can provide refreshments in some way.

We have a lovely team of “café” volunteers providing drinks, cakes, light lunches, buffets etc throughout the year.

These include :-

- Every Tuesday, a light lunch for older people.
(see report further on in this booklet)
- Every Wednesday, a coffee morning in partnership with the Staff & Students from the North Notts College Flex Team. (10am – 2pm)
Serving hot drinks, cakes & sandwiches .
This is a valuable exercise for the Flex Team who use it as a training course for the students, giving them skills that can be transferred to the workplace once they leave college.
- Every Friday, a coffee morning (10am – 12noon) run by church volunteers. We have an amazing team of volunteers, some come every week, and some on a rota basis. We are now so busy that we really need 4 or 5 people each week.
- Every Friday afternoon (12.30 – 3.30) Warm Spaces (see report further on in this booklet)
- Every Sunday morning, we serve coffee & biscuits after the service, a wonderful time to sit & chat and especially to welcome visitors.
- We are asked on occasions to open the café when we have a special event on in the church, as well as Church Fayres & Model Transport days this also includes the occasional public advice day.
- We can also provide buffets for training courses, funerals, birthday parties etc
- Tiny Sandwiches & Cakes for TeaTime Praise afternoon teas.
- The space is used by many regular user groups for their refreshments.

Our ethos is to use fairtrade products as much as possible and to use local suppliers where possible.

We have an Espresso machine, and therefore can offer Barista training for our volunteers (we do need one or two more who are willing to learn this skill for coffee mornings and special events)

We also have a wonderful team of cake bakers who provide delicious home made cakes for all of the above occasions.

If anyone would like to join the team, then please speak to one of the team .

On Friday mornings we have now dedication every sixth week to be for a specific charity, the charities supported over the last year have been:-

- Sept 24-Medecins Sans Frontiere - £130.92
- Nov 24- Link to Hope (Shoe box appeal) - £180
- Dec 24- Bluebell wood Hospice - £152.90
- Jan 25- The Lewy Body Society - £150
- Mar 25- Cancer Research - £130.50
- Apr 25- Smile Train - £181.53
- May 25- My Sight (Bassetlaw) - £115
- July 25- NHS Charities Together - £120.11
- Aug 25 – Guide Dogs for the Blind - £162.40

The next few dates will be :-

- 3rd October – Link to Hope (Shoe Box Appeal)
- 14th November – Worksop Party Fund (for adults with disabilities)
- 12th January 2026 – MIND

If you would like to nominate a charity for 2026 then please speak to one of the church council.

Anne, Margaret, Iris & the café team.

Warm Spaces - Welcome Space

We have continued to keep open the café space on Friday afternoons, 12.30 – 3.30pm.

We offer drinks, cakes, toast and sandwiches, fruit & pot noodles. In the hot weather we have also supplied ice lollies – very well received.

The footfall has increased and we often have 30 or more “customers”.

We do not charge for refreshments, but some do leave a voluntary donation.

We have many regular visitors, mostly people in need.

This service we provide would not be possible without the help of Elizabeth, our very dedicated volunteer and recently Joe has joined the team, both of their help is invaluable.

The busiest time is from 12.30 – 1.30pm, if you feel that you could spare an hour occasionally please speak with me.

Iris Franks

Support for the homeless and those in need.

As well as our Friday afternoon warm spaces which are attended by many local people who are either homeless or living in hostels, we now have a stock of feminine hygiene products which we can hand out when requested. This is under the “Ask for Sandy” initiative.

We have also reached out to “Framework” who are an organisation who work closely with those who are living on the streets, their staff are supporting us in the small ways that we are trying to help.

The Over 60’s Light Lunch

The Over 60’s Light Lunch group was started at The Crossing on Tuesday 11th February 2025.

The group was formed to enable older people from Worksop and surrounding area to have somewhere to meet, have a chat and a light lunch. (This was after the Methodist Homes for the Aged could no longer provide a lunchclub, they finished at the end of January)

Members are welcomed and offered a drink on arrival, enquire that everyone is feeling generally well, encourage chat between themselves. A word search is offered to anyone who is interested.

A charge of £5 is made for lunch including pudding which is served at around 12noon.

I keep a record of people’s name and address, telephone numbers plus a relatives number if given, in case of emergency and welfare enquiries, these details are kept in a secure place by me.

Enquiries are made regarding allergies etc.

We now have 17 members plus 3 volunteers who regularly help with serving, washing up , making drinks and talking to the members. It is a happy atmosphere and up to now has been a great success for The Crossing.

Jean Boulding (group leader)

Shoe Box Appeal

Once again our very grateful thanks go out to Sylvia Heathcote for obtaining the funding from the Foresters Friendly Society enabling us to fill 100 boxes for the “Link to Hope” charity in 2024.

The generosity of our congregation & supporters meant that we were able to also give £300 in transport costs.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who receive these boxes at Christmas – not only ours but all the boxes from elsewhere donated through love & compassion.

Many thanks to Sylvia who did all the shopping & organising the team who packed and wrapped the boxes, our thanks are extended to those lovely people.

We ask for your continued support to enable us to continue in 2025.

For more details of the charity please go to www.linktohope.co.uk

The Shoe Box team

Church Card Stand

The cards are on the card stand in the café.

Margaret started selling cards many years ago – good quality cards at very reasonable prices and much cheaper than the shops.

All profits go to the Church.

Although Margaret is no longer with me, I hope to be able to continue her good work in her memory – so – if you need a quality card please see what is available on the card stand

Terry

Quizzes

I still produce three quizzes each year, the proceeds going to charity.

The quizzes are thought provoking, infuriating but fun – for only £1.

The next one is for Christian Aid. It will appear later this year and is entitled “ON THE FEET”. Look out for it and have a go!

Terry

Singing with Dementia

Our group maintains a steady number although it has changed slightly. We now seem to have less from the nursing homes and more individual visitors. We welcome especially a group from our congregation who have begun to come along. We are also pleased to have had a recent enquiry from the Gateford Hill nursing home.

Although "Elvis" has hung up his blue suede shoes and is no longer able to join us on Wednesday and we have welcomed some new entertainers who have proved very popular. Our special thanks go to Denise and Roger

Marsden, Russell Weaver and Annie Fotheringham who are our stalwart regulars

The Christmas party is always the highlight of the year and we are busy preparing for this year.

Please do try to come along if you are able. You will not be disappointed.

The date for your diaries is December 10th.

We continue to depend on donations and are very grateful for the Raffle prizes and small items for the £1 stall which are provided by members of the congregation.

We are very fortunate to have been awarded a grant from a company called Home Instead and hope to use this to fund a visit from "Our Dementia Choir" (as seen on TV) on Wednesday March 25th. More details later.

After our summer break we meet again on September 24th. Please look at the notice on the board in the cafe for future event dates and entertainers. You are very welcome to join us.

As always and I know I repeat myself every year, I am truly humbled by the continued support and generosity of all who give their time gifts.

A special thank you to all of our regular volunteers, Michael who does all the washing up, Christine, Sue, Jean B and Jean M who serve refreshments Iris and Pauline on the Raffle and £1stall and not to forget Janet and Kath who stand in so willingly when needed. Thanks also to Clare for the advertising posters and Garry and Barry for their work setting up and clearing away. Without all of you none of these events would be possible.

Thank you and God Bless you all.

Jean Roberts.

The Thursday Group

The Thursday Group continues to be meeting enjoyed by ladies whether they are members of The Crossing or not, all ladies are very welcome.

The meeting usually starts with a short time of devotion led by one of the committee members. This is followed by various activities which could be a Speaker, quizzes, games or a sing song or any other activity suggested by members.

In the past year we have enjoyed several speakers on various subjects, a visit to the Food Bank to see the volunteers there in action, an afternoon out for

tea at the Dukeries Garden Centre and of course a Christmas lunch at the Station Hotel.

We pay a subscription of £5 three times a year to cover the speaker's fees (when required) and any other expenses and anything left over at the end of the year is given to The Crossing Church funds. We also have a voluntary charity box available at the meetings and members vote on which charity they would like to support at the AGM.

Meetings are held on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month except for August and the last week of December.

New members and visitors are always welcome so please do come along and sample one of our meetings. Programmes are available on the Welcome Desk and we would be delighted to see you at any meeting.

Pauline Rogers – Assistant Secretary

Grumpy Men

The 'Grumpy Men' meet each month on the second Wednesday from around 12noon to 2pm.

This is an unstructured group who just enjoy each other's company, along with bacon butties (and other such delights from the café) plus tea and coffee.

There are generally between 4 and 10 who meet to discuss all sorts of things which seem relevant at the time and who usually catch up on each other's health and welfare.

Since the Wednesday coffee morning has been staffed by our friends from North Notts College and their students we have been very well looked after and value their skills and their hospitality.

The only qualification to be part of this group is best described by its group name, but none of us are really 'grumpy', are we?

Bob

The Art Group

The Art group continues to flourish. When the Art Society wanted to use the wall in the café for their work we were offered the staircase. My worry was that someone could miss a step and fall, but I worried needlessly. To hear the children coming down from the creche talking about the pictures and adults too saying how enjoyable the display is makes it worthwhile. (If you haven't been up the stairs why not have a look?)

Thanks to our gardeners who have donated frames for our use. Members are enthusiastic, working at their own level and speed and some members have started attending church services.

We meet on a Friday from 10am – 12noon.

I am grateful for the help I receive from my assistant Rocky.

Terry

Crafty Corner

Crafty Corner continues with a core membership of 12 members. Most members bring their own projects to work on, and also share new-found skills. As well as knitting, crocheting and sewing, members bring new projects using new skills to try out – weaving, felting, embroidery, silk painting, sashiko (Japanese sewing) have all been tried.

We put some of our work on the stall at the Autumn Fair and raised £60. The members knit and sew together squares for blankets, as well as toys, hats, scarves etc for the shoe-boxes. Members also make things for other charities they support.

As we move on into a new year, we continue supporting and encouraging each other. Our time together includes a ‘cuppa’ and biscuits, with cakes if we have a birthday to celebrate. Due to room lettings, we continue to meet 10 – 12am on Wednesdays but are now based at the Acorn, who have given us a warm welcome. We ask for a donation to help cover costs.

I would like to end by thanking Elizabeth for her unending help and support, as well as her cheerful banter, which we all appreciate.

Christine Wynne

Seated exercise groups

There are currently three classes, Tuesday 10.30am till 11.30am (open to everyone)

Thursday 11am till 12am (specific to people with MS but open to everyone)

Thursday 2pm till 3pm (specific to members of Worksop Parkinson’s Group)

Class attendance is improving this year and on the whole the classes are well received

Tuesday is consistently attended by a regular group, some of whom attend the lunch club afterwards. We have had quite a few new members to the group this year.

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

The MS group is well attended, the group are very supportive of one another and come together for regular activities. Due to the nature of MS members may not feel able to attend every week.

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

The Parkinson's Group continue to meet, we have a few new members. The group continue to be a huge support to one another and enjoy a fun class.

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

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

Sarah Mullany

Baby & Toddlers

The Crossing Baby and Toddler group meets on Wednesday mornings during term time.

It is a fun group for ages from birth to going to school, with many families attending for years with their children.

We have separate areas designed to give the children the tools to grow through play. The kitchen area is very popular as is the train set and cars, and the ride ons are always popular. Many children like the dressing up box and there is always a different craft each week for the children to make. Snack time is geared for all the children to sit together and a nutritious snack provided, whilst parents and carers can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. We end the sessions with singing time where we celebrate any birthdays and plenty of action songs.

We have a marvellous team of volunteers who each contribute massively to each session to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Judith Lowe

Women's Mindfulness

The Women's Mindfulness group started out as one thing and led into another.

Mindfulness is -paying more attention to that moment in time - the present - your thoughts and feelings, what's going on around you - it can improve mental well being and self esteem. Becoming more aware of where you are and what you're doing, without becoming overly reactive or overwhelmed by what's going on around you.

We meet on a Tuesday morning every week, we use various activities around arts and crafts as a kind of Mindfulness therapy such as painting, decoupage, sewing, knitting, clay work.

Concentrating on being creative is therapeutic and even those who profess to not being "crafty" can produce marvellous results by just letting their mind go off in a different direction.

The group has been going for 3 years now .Because it is enjoyed and appreciated by all who attend, quite often someone will donate something, a box of tea bags, sugar or biscuits, paint and other craft items.

It means a great deal to be able to just turn up where nothing is expected from anyone, where no one is forced to take part in anything they don't feel happy with.

It helps with loneliness and isolation. We chat and discuss a vast areas of topics each week from current affairs and books we have read to what we have watched on TV.

A few words from people who attend:-

Friendship

Laughter

Fun

Peacefulness

No judgement about who you are or where you are from

Helpfulness

Hope

Time to just be

Marie Birchall



Music at the Crossing

This year (2024- 2025) has been another busy year for Music at the Crossing with our full quota of 6 concerts.

In September, **Anston Male Voice Choir** enthralled audiences with their music and their special guest, **Oliver Harris**, was warmly welcomed after his stint at Edinburgh Fringe.

Unfortunately, the Remembrance concert with **Carlton Main Frickley Band** was cancelled due to a lack of ticket sales (only 5 tickets were sold just before the date).The band was very disappointed, as they enjoy coming to The Crossing.

Also in November, **Ryton Chorale** returned with their Autumn concert And in December, **Musicality Singers** gave an excellent Christmas concert that was enjoyed by all.

In March, **Ryton Chorale** returned alongside their invited orchestra and had a sell-out concert.

May saw **Anston Male Voice Choir** and the **Major Oak ladies Pop Choir** sing to sell out audience. It was a logistical nightmare for me, but a very enjoyable night for the audience.

Finally last weekend (Sept 2025) saw **Anston Male Voice Choir** return with **Rockingham Brass Band** to give us a 'Last Night of the proms' style concert that was enjoyed by all. This concert saw a new style of refreshment arrangement as, due to a shortage of our own volunteers, wives and partners of the choir helped Margaret Merrills with refreshments. It appeared to work very well and is being considered for all future concerts.

Future events for 2025/ 2026 are: -

The Salvation Army who are booked for a weekend in October, when Army members from all over the country will be coming to The Crossing to celebrate.

The final concert of 2025 in Musicality Singers Christmas concert (tickets available from the choir) on Friday December 5th.

2026 events include **Ryton Chorale** in March, **Musicality Singers** in June and December and our own **20th Anniversary concert** in June organised by Kath Jordan featuring our own church organ. Information will be available nearer the date. We have 2 spaces left for 2026.

Once again, I want to say **ONE BIG THANK YOU** for all the volunteers who have helped with refreshments on these occasions and also on the Welcome desk. Without these people there would be no concerts.

This will be my last report to you for Music Concerts as I have now handed over the reins to Clare Biddle who looks after bookings. I'm sure she will welcome any offers to sit on the Welcome desk during any of the concerts. Please don't hesitate to contact her if you have a spare hour or two on any concert date.

Thank you for your support

Netty (Annette Barker)

Manager's Report

Well what can I say about the last year, it has certainly been a learning experience and the time has flown.

The church community has grown with new bookings from companies eg. Momenta and community groups eg. Thrive Tribe. The buzz around the church is a lot more positive, and it is great to see.

I need to say a huge Thank You to all who have supported me through the last year and gone along with trying new ideas.

My hope for the next year is to continue to grow the bookings for the church, getting more involved in the community so people see The Crossing as the place to go in Worksop for not only community spirit but also divine.

My role has slightly changed this year with Joe leaving us and I now look after the volunteer recruitment.

If anyone has any questions regarding church activities or would like more information on volunteering please let me know.

Funding Bids

Over the past year I have applied for grants/funding from the CO-OP, this was a successful bid and we received an initial £500 to spend on the garden. I am hoping we will also receive more from them but it depends how many people have voted for the project.

I have also submitted to the Police Commissioner grant for funding to continue and expand Warm Spaces on a Friday afternoon, the funding is for 3 years, the outcome to be decided at the beginning of Oct 2025.

I have also approached Local Giving, Severn Trent water and the Methodist District for a new beginnings grant but unfortunately I was not successful.

I will keep applying if anyone would like to help with this process it would be greatly appreciated. As there have been a couple of funding opportunities I have not been able to apply for as deadlines were very short.

Clare Biddle

Uniformed Groups

5th Worksop (Methodist) Rainbow Guides



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

In the Autumn term we welcomed our lovely new Young Leader, Bethany. Beth has been with 5th Worksop since she was a Rainbow herself and it's great to have her working with our unit. We had fun working on a Pirate challenge badge; we made fruit pirate ships, balancing parrots, puppets and biscuits. We also played lots of pirate themed games, made treasure maps and tried floating (and sinking!) boats. We supported the Bassetlaw Foodbank by collecting items in December, had fun making Christmas decorations and had a lovely evening with our Brownies and Guides sharing Christingle activities.

In the Spring we were working on the Kindness Challenge and Helper interest badge. We made pinecone bird feeders, Promise potions and filled kindness envelopes with messages and pictures to share. We decorated kindness pebbles and planted up a tub of daffodils, primulas and seeds to put outside the back door and enjoyed watching the nasturtiums pop up in the summer.

We also said goodbye to our 6 oldest Rainbows as they moved on to start their Brownie adventure.

We started the Summer term by celebrating our unit's 35th birthday with a party. We worked towards the Butterfly challenge badge, making butterfly buns, wiggly caterpillars and growing cress caterpillars too. We enjoyed a mini orienteering challenge outdoors and made butterfly life cycles. We also took part in the Midlands Region 'Super Slumber' challenge, when we had a Disney evening at Rainbows and then had to sleep somewhere different at the weekend. As Katie and Ilana were on Guide camp that weekend that part wasn't difficult! The girls made bedroom dens at home, slept under tables, in the garden and at friends' houses.

We finished our year with a fun night out at Roughbreck campsite with our Brownies and Guides, hunting for bugs, making binoculars and completing a Roughbreck I-spy A to Z.

Huge thanks to Ilana, Stef and Bethany for all their help and support this year.

Katie Hagen - Rainbow Guide Leader

5th Worksop (Methodist) Brownie Pack

Brownies are girls aged between 7 and 10. The girls are split into sixes where they can work together in small groups called sixes. At present we have 2 leaders Snowy Owl (Jean), Tawny Owl (Clare), and 19 Brownies. One of the older Guides Caitlin also comes to help – we call her Robin.

During the last year 3 of our brownies have joined our Guides and we have welcomed 8 from our Rainbows and 4 girls new to girlguiding.

Again we have had a busy year and have worked for and gained badges over the last year. These include baking interest badge, communicate and explore Skills Builder badges. We have also done lots of unit meeting activities towards our Theme Awards. During the last year some of our Brownies have gained their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, 6 Bronze 3 Silver and 5 Gold. The girls need to gain 2 theme awards for Bronze, 4 for Silver and all 6 for Gold.

The girls have to organise an activity in order to gain their Gold Award, we have had 2 lovely evenings when girls have organised a quiz and 2 of the girls wrote a short play for all the brownies to take part in. They all worked hard organising the evenings and enjoyed being in charge.

Apart from gaining badges we have done lots of other activities and outings. Some of our girls took part in the Remembrance Parade in Worksop, we paraded our flag from the Town Hall to the War memorial for a short service and then back to the Town Hall.

In early December we went to the pantomime at the Acorn. This again was very good and enjoyed by all.

Our final meeting in December we joined with the Rainbows and Guides for our Christingle evening. We did crafts, decorated the Church Christmas tree and made Christingles. We finished the evening by lighting our Christingles and singing carols.

We started the New Year with a party. For Thinking Day in February we did activities, games and songs from around the world and gained our 'I am 1 in 10 Million badge' – there are over 10 million members worldwide.

We made Mother's Day button flower cards and at Easter we made bunny boxes and decorated biscuits to look like Easter bonnets.

During our final term we went for a walk at Shireoaks and finished with chips which is always very popular.

Our final meeting was held at Nottinghamshire's campsite at Roughbreck with the Rainbows and Guides.

Apart from these activities we regularly play games, sing songs, do quizzes, crafts and bake.

We were sorry to lose Chloe this year. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and everything that she did for the Brownies. We hope that she will return someday.

As we have only 2 adult leaders now there has been times when we needed extra help, especially when myself and Clare have been away, 2 of our trefoil members Margaret Merrills and Sylvia Heathcote have willingly stepped in and helped us. Thank you very much, we really appreciate it.

We really could do with another leader, so if any of you know of anyone who would like to come and help us, please let us know.

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

We are looking forward to another action packed year.

*Jean Howard and Clare Biddle
5th Worksop (Methodist) Brownie Pack*

Guides

In October 2024, Ilana and 8 Guides went to Wollaton Hall in Nottingham for a county sleepover. We had lots of fun, played games, had hot chocolate and danced away at the silent disco. We got to sleep in the exhibits and we ended up amongst the fish fossils.

We celebrated Bonfire Night with hot chocolate and sparklers outside. The girls represented the division well at the Remembrance Day parade from the town hall and we got crafty towards Christmas and made glittery candle jars.

We held a tombola at our annual Christingle evening. The girls raised £70 which they used to make a donation to WWF to adopt a snow leopard. This was part of the Make Change skills builder, girls had researched and made posters about snow leopards and the challenges they face.

The year saw lots of badge work being done with girls completing first aid, make change, upcycling, live smart, amongst others. These included activities such as sewing badges, tying knots, blitz cooking, creating a

washing line of pride (reminiscing on their favourite activities and memories), turning dresses into pencil cases, tins into plant pots and practical first aid skills. Because of all their hard work 6 girls achieved their bronze awards in February and 1 achieved their silver award.

In May we went on a historical walk around Worksop, this was planned and organised by 2 of our oldest Guides, they led us around Worksop going to Castle Hill, Lead Hill, and the Old Market, delivering facts and information to the other girls along the way. This was their last challenge as part of their Gold Award and this was presented to them on their last night as Guides. Happy to report that both decided to stay on as Young Leaders.

As part of our preparation for camp we practiced putting tents up in the church garden, and then the more challenging task of putting the tents back in the bags!

In May half term we went camping for 2 nights at Ollerton Scout and Guide Activity centre. It was lots of fun. We did lots of activities including making art with nature, planting seeds, building fires, decorating plant pots, making Hama bead coasters, yoga, scavenger hunts, weaving, learning new knots, and eating lots of yummy food. The girls earned the camp skills builder, and we completed the 'Alphabet' Challenge badge. 2 girls earned their Silver Awards whilst at camp.

The summer term also saw even more badge work, with activities such as baking cookies, making Welsh cakes, learning about binary code, developing communication and team works skills by building giraffes out of newspaper, redesigning the church garden which included ponds and fountains! We also made the most out of the sunny weather and spent lots of time outside playing games.

We spent the last evening of term at Roughbreck campsite and one of the Guides planned an activity which saw the girls using their map reading skills to find all the things they need to build a stretcher before then having to rescue a life size doll (prop from a school show). It was lots of fun, and this activity was the final challenge which saw another Gold Award being earned!

Over the year we welcomed some Brownies moving up to Guides and had a few new starters. We now currently have 15 Guides, 3 Young Leader and 3 Leaders.

WORKSOP TREFOIL GUILD

This year we have been busy doing our Motivation Badge concentrating on Land Water and Air. For the land we had a good laugh whilst litter picking, string trails, cooked on an open fire and walked around Godfreys Pond. We covered water by making rafts and sailed them on the pond, had a talk about Chesterfield Canal and went on a boat trip from Ranby and for air we visited Gamston aerodrome.

Thinking Day is a special day in our Guiding calendar it was the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell and this year we had an amazing day when all the Trefoil ladies from the County joined us at the Crossing. Next year we will be celebrating 100 years of Trefoil in Nottingham, so watch this space!

We had a fun day at Ollerton Scout & Guide Centre where we ‘recycled’ Brownies took part in silly games such as ‘bandaging’ a pop bottle full of holes, filling a bucket from a holey bucket (we had to plug the holes with our fingers). Had a super fish and chip lunch from Ollerton fish shop; a wartime quiz and sang silly songs ended a lovely day.

In March we had a speaker from the ‘Hedgehog Sanctuary’ who brought three toy hedgehogs and told us how to look out for these endangered animals. We also had a combined evening with Dukeries and Retford Trefoil on the occasion of our very very entertaining ‘Lady Bolsover’ who trained us in the “finer” rudiments of etiquette; table laying, dress code and tea drinking. She was hilarious and obviously though she isn’t Lady Bolsover she definitely looked the part.

We are all part of Girl Guiding Association and we have been Guiders, and some still are in Rainbows, Brownies or Guides enjoying meeting together once a month with an interesting programme, but you don’t need to have been involved with Guiding we are a ‘fun’ loving bunch who would welcome new members.

Margaret Merrills Chairman

12th Worksop (URC) Cubs & Beavers

We have met weekly mostly at the Crossing church during term time.

Doing various activities which include badge work, outside team games. Several beavers and cubs have been invested
The Leadership team

Church User Groups

The Crossing hires out rooms & space for many other organisations, charities and a few businesses. This brings in income which helps to pay the bills, but also provides much needed support for the wider community in many ways.

Our room hire policy offers a “business rate” and a “charity rate” to take account of affordability and we keep our charges to a minimum, but this income does need to cover our costs for utilities, caretaking staff & building maintenance.

We also, on occasions, offer a further discount if requested. This is at the discretion of the church trustees, and we do take into account the charitable purpose of any organisation making this request. We are mindful that if we offer too many discounts then we are at risk of not covering costs.

Whilst we are simply “hosting” these services, rather than “organising” any of them, we welcome them into our community & support them in many different ways.

During this year these have included.:-

- The Children’s Bereavement Centre have the exclusive use of the Thoresby room. They provide one-to-one bereavement counselling & support, delivered by a team of experienced and qualified professionals who help families who are experiencing trauma due to the death or terminal illness of someone important to them.
- Overtex are a business providing a range of power supply solutions for computers, servers and appliances. The owner, Jon, works from the Clumber room, which is shared with church, using half of the floor space for our storage.
- Portland Pathways have the exclusive use of the Holbeck office (to the rear of the café) They are a community focused initiative which aims to improve employment opportunities with people with disabilities. They also deliver courses on Rebuilding mental health and deliver one-to-one counselling (using the Vestry/Counselling room)
- Jo White MP was elected to serve the people of Bassetlaw in 2024. During this year she has rented 2 rooms within The Crossing , these are used by Jo and her staff team specifically to deliver community support within the local area.



- Just Good Friends (Valley Social Club) is a charity who meet weekly on a Monday evening, using the Café area & the Sanctuary. They provide a social group for adults with disabilities, offering a chance to socialise, play games, craft activities, karaoke etc.
- The Older People's Friendly Group are a community group who meet weekly on a Thursday afternoon in the Epworth hall. They play bingo, do raffles, chat & socialise and organise day trips & holidays for their members.
- Mind Nottinghamshire run a weekly café session on a Thursday afternoon as part of their county wide #atwell café service 
- The North Notts Association of National Trust members organise monthly meetings at The Crossing from October to April , these are usually on the third Wednesday evening of the month and are in the Sanctuary. A speaker is booked for each month, the topics are usually either historical or geographical and are always fascinating. During the summer months trips are arranged.
- Your Health Notts provide services on behalf of the NHS, the advice sessions that are held at The Crossing cover weight management (Wednesday afternoon & evenings) and Falls prevention (Wednesday mornings)
- NHS – Family health teams use the creche rooms regularly for health checks.
- Blood donors – hold sessions approximately twice a month in the main halls.
- Derbyshire Workers Education Association are a charity, they use a room at The Crossing on a Thursday afternoon, providing accredited mentoring, interpretation & ESOL support & advice for members of our the local eastern european community.
- The Stroke club meet twice monthly on Thursday evenings, providing peer support for those who have suffered a stroke & their carers/family.
- The Worksop Music & Drama Festival use The Crossing for their Annual schools competition day, and for the Prizegiving evening.
- We have a “crossover arrangement” with the Acorn theatre, and if they have an event booked, then they book our rooms for the Young Theatre Group rehearsals, and occasional the Dukeries Theatre Group.
- We also host several public advice and training days during the year, these are often organised by our county council, NHS, Citizens advice etc.
- AND MANY MORE.

Operational Information.

Staffing

The Crossing Church is registered as an employer with HMRC and employs two part time caretakers, these are :

- Garry Pritchard – (14.5 hrs per week)
 - Barry Williamson –(14.5hrs per week)
- Our policy is to be a living wage employer.

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

During this year our caretakers both agreed to a reduction in paid hours, this exercise was followed in an effort to reduce costs in order to ensure a balanced budget, the needs and preferences of our staff were fully explored and included in this decision making.

We are also heavily supported by the Trinity Methodist Circuit.

- Richard Dearden, Circuit Operations Manager, takes the responsibility of line managing our staff and supporting our church council in many ways.
- Clare Biddle, Circuit Facilities & Community Manager, was appointed in March 2024 and has now taken over all operational & property management responsibilities from Richard including the line management of our caretaking team. Clare also acts as our “bookings secretary” overseeing all room bookings, and working hard to increase our income from this activity.
- Joe Hicks, Circuit volunteer co-ordinator (part-time) was appointed in February 2024 and supported The Crossing with volunteer recruitment, support & training. The appointment was fully funded for one year only, and Joe left our employ in March 2025.

Policies

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

We follow safer recruitment practices.

Copies of this policy and the following are readily available:

- Data Privacy Statement
- Health & Safety Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Lone Workers Policy
- Environmental Code of Practice
- Risk Assessments covering Fire, COSHH, Electrical, Manual Handling, etc.
- Plus, many more policy & procedure documents relating to the operations of a busy Church and Community Centre.

All legislative health & safety checks are made including:

- Lift Maintenance & LOLER certificate
- Fire Alarms & Equipment regular maintenance & testing
- High wire & lightening conductor testing
- Gas safety Certificate
- PAT Testing & Full electrical inspection
- SWAB Testing & de-greasing of café extractors

During this year we have been re-visiting fire safety training for all our volunteers, staff & regular users, this exercise is continuing.

Environmentally Friendly Church

We are working hard to increase our "Eco-Friendly" activities.

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

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

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

Publicity

As a church we are aware that we need to make our members and the local community very aware of everything that we are doing within the church, especially the groups and events that will be interesting & helpful to local people.

We do this in as many ways as possible.

- Weekly Notices – Christine edits this notice sheet which is available every Sunday. And is e-mailed out to everyone on our mailing list.
- “What’s On Leaflet” – Bob edits this booklet which lists all of our regular groups and upcoming special events. It has evolved into a seasonal rather than a monthly publication.
- Posters – Clare has set up a system on “CANVA” which is software specifically for posters & publications, this gives us a more professional poster system with our logo, this is useful for us to prepare posters for upcoming events aswell as for regular groups. Posters go up in the church, but could go wider afield, if we had a volunteer willing to distribute regularly.
- Worksop Life - we try to get an article in every month, Clare has taken on this responsibility. If you would like your group or event including, let Clare know a good month ahead (deadline is the 10th of the previous month)
- Worksop Guardian - we include a section in the "diary dates" section of our weekly local newspaper. This is sent in weekly by Anne.
- Face book page – Clare & Emily have access to add items to our face book page – we have found that this is one of the best ways to get information about events “out there” to the wider community.
- Website – We aim to keep our website as “up to date” as possible. Anyone who is new to the area or to the Church will look here to see what is happening. Both Anne & Clare have access , and can add articles, details of your group, links to other websites and anything else. Please let us know if you would like anything to be added.

Please remember to pass on information to all of the above folk so that we can make sure that all our publicity is as accurate as possible.

Anne Taylor

Edited by Anne Taylor Oct 2025