

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

We seek to achieve this by:

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



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

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

We give thanks for the ways in which we have been able to use our building as a town centre resource over the last sixteen years. In light of all that we have experienced through the Covid pandemic, and the economic hardships that we currently 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 start of 2023 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.

Over the next eighteen months we are committed to developing:

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

To achieve this we will be applying for:

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