



Worksop

(Methodist and United Reformed)



Annual Report 2023/2024



Prepared for
Annual General Meeting
27th October 2024



The Crossing Church
Registered Charity No. 1140500



The Crossing Church
Newcastle Street, Worksop, S80 2AT

www.thecrossing.co.uk

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 2023/24 are: -

Chair: Revd Julie Coates

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

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 2023 to 31st August 2024.

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 2025 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.

Chairs Report

Dear Friends, On the pages that follow you will read of many ways in which we are able to fulfil our mission of sharing God's love and serving the local community through the activities and events that we coordinate or host at The Crossing.

You will find out more about the worship and pastoral care that is offered week by week as well as learning about the other groups and organisations that make their home within these walls.

From the preparation of regular quiz sheets to our efforts to become more environmentally friendly, from Model Transport Exhibitions to Warm Spaces and Charity Coffee Mornings, from the Baby and Toddler group to Seated Exercise and Singing with Dementia – the work that we are engaged in makes a difference to so many lives, and what I've named only scratches the surface, the list goes on and on.

I'm particularly encouraged by the way in which use of the Café area continues to develop and by the work undertaken to reach young families.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a report. Thank you too to the volunteers, who as you will see, have contributed many hours of service to the work that is described in this report. An expression of thanks is also due to all of those who address the key operational tasks overseen by the trustees including property, finance, safeguarding, data protection and policy implementation. To assist this process we now have new staff members whom you will read about in the coming pages.

Several of our members have undertaken training in 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' during the last twelve months and we continue to seek ways in which we can be an inclusive and welcoming church.

I look forward to our annual church meeting which gives us an opportunity to engage in conversation about the work of God at The Crossing and to see what we learn from one another as we grow in our faith and discipleship

Grace and peace, Julie

Rev'd Julie Coates, Circuit Superintendent

Outreach Projects

During the year our Visionaries group continues to meet regularly, they work hard to arrange new & innovative activities alongside Deacon Emily Hoe-Crook. These have included :-

- Family film nights - showing popular family films on occasional Saturdays using a projector & screen, other craft activities & time to chat, and time for prayer, and most importantly Pizza !
- Family Fun Days - These have been held earlier in the day on some Saturdays and are aimed at families with younger children. They have been themed around the Julia Donaldson books , The Gruffalo, Gruffalo's child, Room on the Broom etc. Including lots of activities suitable for under 5's and themed snacks (gruffalo teeth , knobbly knees etc)
- Prayer corner in the cafe - Prayer resources have been used to create a "prayer corner" alongside the comfy chairs and on Wednesday mornings, whenever Emily is available we have a "prayer morning"
- We continue to try to ensure that as often as possible we have one of our team available for any member of the public to come in, feel welcome and have a sympathetic ear to listen to them. .

As we go to print with this report the team are planning lots of activities during the advent period including the Christmas story illuminated in our windows to highlight the "reason for the season" to passers by. "

Deacon Emily Hoe-Crook from Trinity Circuit explains:

“This years’ PRIDE was bigger and better than ever, with thousands of people pouring into the streets, parading with ‘Dottie’ the Drag-on Bassetlaw PRIDE Sculpture, and celebrating love and diversity in all its fabulous rainbow colour.

“The Crossing Church were delighted to have a stall in the marketplace providing family activities and a prayer space for the second year running. We offered cupcake decorating (very popular!), a rainbow prayer wall, chalk pavement decorating and chance to talk with our volunteers about the significance of the day.

“One young man scribbled determinedly with a pavement chalk and gave us a kind smile as he left, having written “Take Me As I Am”. A young boy

asked one of our team if the cupcake decorating was only for girls as there was a group of girls enjoying the craft, and was told in no uncertain terms that it was for everyone, to which he beamed! The rainbow heart chalked on the ground asserting that “God Loves All” sums up this wonderful event. God was in the midst of everything, and spoke through the smiles, kindness and conversation.

“We distributed 150 rolls of personalised Love Heart sweets and all 3 trays of cupcakes soon disappeared, but it was the atmosphere and conversations which really made an impact, from the youngest to the oldest (many of our volunteers are 70+ which somehow holds even more significance to the feeling of inclusion and joy of the day). “I also donned an inflatable unicorn costume which was definitely a talking point, and several people were surprised and moved to know that I’m in a same-sex marriage with Lisa – being present and welcoming at our stall was a real privilege, and we can’t wait to return next year! The following day The Crossing had a meaningful PRIDE Celebration Service with such a positive and affirming atmosphere – we feel very blessed.”

Pastoral Support Team

Currently the Church Membership stands at 99.

Sadly, Ida Peaker passed away in January 2024. Ida was a long standing member of the Wesley Church, she had moved from Worksop two years ago, to live close to her Son in Hereford.

Also, Jim Stocks another long standing and committed Member, passed away in March of this year. He was Treasurer of the Wesley Church for several years, and he and his wife Margaret were regular attenders.

As mentioned in previous reports, unfortunately not all of our members are able to attend our Sunday Worship, due to living a distance away or because of health reasons. Our Pastoral Team of 7, plus Deacon Emily, do endeavour to keep in contact with all our members. Thank you to all the team especially Emily for the commitment they make to the welfare of our Members.

The Pastoral Team meet approximately every 3 months and some of the topics we have discussed over the past 12 months have included Home Communion, Emergency Contact Forms for Members, Baptisms, and Church God Parents, in addition to hearing about the health and welfare of our members.

On the 3rd July the Pastoral Team held an Afternoon Tea at The Crossing and it was well attended. Thank you to all the Team for their contributions and support; with a special mention to Pauline Rogers who provided many delicious homemade treats to tempt us. It is especially kind of her as she doesn't eat sweet things herself.

Several Church Members have completed Emergency Contact Forms these give details of family or friends you would like us to contact should a church member become unwell. There are two sets of these forms, one is kept under lock and key at The Crossing and the second set is kept securely at The Manse. If you would like to complete one of these forms, or wish to update a form previously completed, please speak in confidence to a member of the Pastoral Team. In any emergency it is helpful to have this contact information.

*Janet Lincoln
Secretary to the Pastoral Team*

Worship Group

For a number of reasons this group has not met for quite some time but when the dreaded 'OA' (own arrangement) term appears on the quarterly plan then Kath starts to round up a few volunteers to discuss how we might put together a thought-provoking service. These have usually been conducted by a small team and have allowed creativity and a variety of styles, plus of course the inclusion of the favourite hymns of the participants.

Many thanks to all who have been part of any of the services during the past year and if anyone feels moved to contribute to any of the future OA services then please let Kath, Jean or Bob know of your willingness.

Bob (on behalf of everyone)

Safeguarding Report

The priority for 2023-2024 has been to ensure that safer recruiting practices are in place. Role descriptions for most volunteers have been drawn up. This has been a significant piece of work, but now that this is established it only needs annual check.

I have also been spending time with Joe Hicks, our new volunteer co-ordinator. We have created a spreadsheet for each new volunteer, which includes all paperwork to be given out and other necessities such as DBS checks, role descriptions and badge photos. Alongside Joe, I have been meeting new volunteers and filling in the relevant documentation.

As a lot of the experienced volunteers were due to renew their DBS checks I used the opportunity of meeting with them to ensure that all of the safer recruiting paperwork was in place.

This year the Methodist Safeguarding Team have upgraded the training manual and I attended a familiarisation session on 19th September to allow me to continue to deliver the foundation module. This will recommence in 2025.

I also went on a two-day Mental Health training course and now hold a mental health first aider certificate.

I have not been directly notified of any safeguarding incidents. Sometimes, when pastoral care is being offered, situations are disclosed to Deacon Emily Hoe-Crook who liaises directly with the District Safeguarding Officer.

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

Netty Barker
Safeguarding officer

Financial Report 2023-2024

The accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024 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.

At the end of the last financial year 31st August 2023 (2022-23), the difference between receipts and payments was a surplus of £35301. The Crossing Church had received a bequest of £39426.40 from the estate of Anne Kelly in July 2023. This bequest was not transferred to TMCP (because it was more than £20000) as expected. We were able to gain interest in the deposit account and draw funds when needed.

As of 31st August 2024, the difference between receipts and payments was a deficit of £30,507.90.

Cash at bank as at 31.8.24 was £60,402, that included £8783.92 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.

The Church continues 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/community Café invoices still do not cover property expenditure. The Finance group, Church Council, Operations Manager and Methodist District continue to search for funding and ways to balance the budget and give long term security.

The reserve account balance is now £16543.86. 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 was approximately on budget and previous years actual figures. Ministry spend slightly exceeded budget. Property spend continues to be high but was slightly less than budget. Electricity moved to a variable rate at the start of the financial year until it could be transferred to another supplier earlier this year and the monthly payments have now reduced. Please ask AW for a copy of the budget/actual comparison for a more detailed breakdown.

A budget has been prepared for 2024-25 and there is a positive cashflow to the end of the year but a deficit of income over expenditure.

The Community Café has 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 **£-23.62** and Cash £36.43. Thank you to those who have donated time and money to the flowers in Church.

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, so that we can improve our work in the Church and community in line with our mission.

Annette Westerby 2024.

2023-2024 Donations to External Organisations.

| | | | |
|------------|--|----------|------------------|
| 05/10/2023 | Smile Train DJ donations | 40/1887 | £300.00 |
| 05/10/2023 | Water aid DJ donations | 39/1889 | £280.00 |
| 05/10/2023 | Acorn theatre from donations in memory of David Jordan | 38/1885 | £500.00 |
| 02/11/2023 | Partnership for Growth T/A Link to Hope | 81/FP | £300.00 |
| 29/01/2024 | UNICEF UK | 183/1892 | £90.00 |
| 31/01/2024 | Christian aid Terry's Quiz | 191/1894 | £73.00 |
| 31/01/2024 | Christian Aid M Merrills Cakes | 192/1895 | £120.00 |
| 19/05/2024 | 100 Homes coffee morning 17/5/24 | 340/FP | £138.55 |
| 17/06/2024 | Methodist Church World Mission Fund Mwin B Easter offering | 380/1902 | £40.00 |
| 24/06/2024 | Christian Aid | 388/1904 | £316.00 |
| 04/07/2024 | CHSF donations from 28.6.24 community café | 411/FP | £200.35 |
| 19/07/2024 | 100 Homes Sunday service donations | 428/FP | £107.45 |
| | | | <u>£2,465.35</u> |

| THE CROSSING CHURCH GENERAL ACCOUNT | | | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2024 | | | | | |
| RECEIPTS | | | PAYMENTS | | |
| | 2023/24 | 2022/23 | | 2023/24 | 2022/23 |
| Offerings | 28326.60 | 28190 | Offering Wider Church | 30900.00 | 30900 |
| Donations (1) | 7785.95 | 51904 | Donations (8) | 50.00 | 0 |
| Printing income (3) | 8.60 | 59 | Service expenses (9) | 1552.09 | 797 |
| Gift Aid (4) | 5024.65 | 7940 | Stationery/postage (10) | 0.00 | 82 |
| Interest (6) | 3096.42 | 1585 | Printing expenses (11) | 2677.75 | 2610 |
| Grants | 1423.38 | 2595 | NOTTS CC YMCA GRANT | 139.82 | 0 |
| Wedding/funeral fees | 250.00 | 200 | Sundries (12) | 4443.03 | 3877 |
| Sundries (7) | 114.67 | 233 | Community Café | 2721.41 | 1790 |
| Seated Exercise | 4443.50 | 3597 | Bank charges/interest | 310.41 | 272 |
| Youth Work | 0.00 | 0 | Youth Work | 0.00 | 0 |
| Training | 0.00 | 0 | Training | 90.00 | 504 |
| Flower fund | 310.00 | 110 | Seated Exercise | 3575.00 | 2925 |
| Property Income | 58785.10 | 62475 | Property expenses | 102587.80 | 92090 |
| Other fundraising | 200.00 | 0 | Marketing/Advertising (13) | 0.00 | 0 |
| FOTC fundraising | 6229.61 | 5042 | FOTC Fundraising costs | 104.14 | 240 |
| Community Café | 10221.03 | 6294 | Receptionist/manager | 5625.20 | 9130 |
| | 126219.51 | 170224 | Flower fund | 408.24 | 310 |
| | | | | 155184.89 | 145527.51 |
| Funds receipts | 312.98 | 11533 | CFB transfer re funds | 1455.00 | 1600 |
| External Orgs (5) | 2153.85 | 2672 | External Orgs (5) | 2497.35 | 2031 |
| Card Sales | 632.95 | 581 | Card Sales | 632.95 | 548 |
| Disbursements | 70.00 | 2877 | Disbursements | 127.00 | 2781 |
| | 3169.78 | 17663.00 | | 4712.30 | 6960.00 |
| Total of all receipts | 129389.29 | 187887 | Total of all payments | 159897.19 | 152,488 |
| | | | Surplus/Deficit | -30507.90 | 35,399 |
| | 129389.29 | | | 129389.29 | |

| BALANCE STATEMENT | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| Flower fund | | 72.43 | Balances held as: |
| CAF Bank balances at 01.09.23 | | 14644.03 | |
| Petty Cash at 01.09.23 | | 9.59 | |
| CFB Deposit at 01.09.23 | | 76272.11 | |
| | | 90998.16 | Flower Fund |
| | | | CAFBank - main |
| | | | CAFBank No 2 A/C |
| Add surplus/deficit to date | | -30507.90 | CFB Deposit |
| | | | Petty Cash |
| Balance at 31.08.24 | | 60490.26 | |
| | | | 36.43 |
| | | | 8099.92 |
| | | | 1875.00 |
| | | | 50427.91 |
| | | | 51.00 |
| | | | 60490.26 |

| BALANCES ON FUND ACCOUNTS | 31/08/2023 | 29/02/2024 | 31/08/2024 |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Benevolent Fund | 93.75 | 39.81 | 40.83 |
| Crossing Music Fund | 93.54 | 95.96 | 98.44 |
| Designated Funds | 1317.00 | 1089.97 | 1118.08 |
| Reserve Account | 14360.55 | 16132.7 | 16543.86 |

SUB - ACCOUNT SUMMARY FOR PROPERTY: YEAR ENDING 31.08.22

| RECEIPTS | 2023/24 | PAYMENTS | 2023/24 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Rents | 50016.10 | Gas | 14156.07 |
| Property Recoveries | 50.00 | Electricity | 23601.28 |
| Donations | | Circuit loan -BMS - repayments | 1200.00 |
| Trfr from design'td fund | | Telephones | 4317.76 |
| Vandal damage paym't | | Water | 948.05 |
| Staff costs recovered | | Insurance | 4913.00 |
| Acorn lease payments | | CCLI Licences | 536.30 |
| Sundry items | | Service contracts | 6107.62 |
| Community Café invoices | 1519.00 | Ongoing maintenance | 12580.16 |
| Sale of IT services | | Town Centre Security | 96.00 |
| TMCP | | URC Hall costs | 0.00 |
| | | Sundries | 1052.73 |
| TMCP | | Cleaning eqpt/services | 2475.99 |
| Acorn insurance pyts | 7200.00 | Caretaker costs | 22817.23 |
| Rate refund | | Window cleaning | 525.60 |
| Circuit loan re BMS | | Grant Work | 0.00 |
| | | IT Eqpt and other IT | 1083.10 |
| | | New equipment | 413.98 |
| | | Rates | 641.44 |
| | | Business waste | 2823.67 |
| | | Community Café | 2297.82 |
| Total | 58785.10 | 0 Total | 102587.80 |

Some church groups have separate bank accounts and therefore are not included in the above reports. Details of these are passed to the church council and externally examined as befits all charitable organisations.

Figures are not yet available for inclusion in this report but will be included in reporting to the Methodist District at a later date, and will be available on request.

Staffing

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

- Garry Pritchard – part time caretaker (17hrs per week)
- Barry Williamson – part time cleaning operative (17 hrs per week)

(Laura Mazlum was also employed as administrative Assistant, she left our employ in December 2023)

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.

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, particularly with regard to supervising property maintenance and day to day operations.
- Clare Biddle, Circuit Facilities & Community Manager, was appointed in March 2024 and is gradually taking over all operational & property management responsibilities from Richard including the line management of our caretaking team.
- Joe Hicks, Circuit volunteer co-ordinator (part-time) was appointed in February 2024 and supports The Crossing with volunteer recruitment, support & training.

Property Report

During the last year we have settled into a system of myself and the caretaker team identifying issues and working with the Church Council to agree essential repairs or work that is needed to meet current regulations.

Property works during the last 12 months have included:

- Via the North Notts BID Maintenance Service, they cleared and cleaned the gutters at the rear of the building.

- The main Dishwasher in the kitchen had to undergo essential repairs to ensure this vital piece of equipment remained fully operational.
- An upgrade to the Crossing's Emergency Lighting system.
- Repairs to the heating system following a water leak in the Boiler room.
- Following a breakdown of the main front doors a contractor had to attend to repair a faulty safety sensor.
- Satisfactory PAT testing to all electrical equipment has been undertaken in the last year.
- Following storm damage a new fence panel was installed in the rear garden.
- The lightning protection system was routinely serviced during the year but further repairs to the system were discovered, this remedial work was successfully completed.

The majority of these works have been reactive as problems and issues have been discovered, a key part of Clare Biddle's Facilities and Community Manager role is to create a Proactive Property Management System and I'll be working with her on this over the next few months.

Further property matters of note include:

- In February 2024 following a review of our electricity supply contract by energy brokers we switched supply to Smartest Energy.
- In recent weeks after discussion with the Church Council we have secured funding towards an Eco Survey. As well as identifying possible financial savings, the survey will also outline interventions to futureproof the building. The survey is due for completion in October '24 and the findings will be shared in due course.

I would like to close this report by thanking all those who have helped with a wide range of property matters throughout the year, in particular I'd like to thank our caretaker/cleaning team (Garry and Barry) for all their help in looking after the building so well and supporting me with the many contractors who visit us throughout the year.

Richard Dearden
Trinity Methodist Circuit Operations Manager

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 & lightning conductor testing

Gas safety Certificate

PAT Testing & Full electrical inspection

SWAB Testing & de-greasing of café extractors

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 by the "Vision Aid Overseas" scheme via a local opticians.

- 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.

Manager's Report

Hi All

I have been in my role now for nearly 6 months and I would like to say a huge Thank you to everyone who has made me welcome and supported me with this.

A little background, I have come to you after working in retail for 23 years as a Services Manager. I have been married for nearly 32 years and have 2 children and 2 grandchildren. I have always lived in Worksop and am a member at The Crossing Church, I am also a Brownie leader at The Crossing.

My role is to help the Church to continue delivering a safe inclusive space for Worksop and the wider community. I am doing this by talking to lots of people and showing off the wonderful facilities we have so they hire rooms to benefit all.

The other part of my role is to keep the building safe and sound with regards to Health and Safety etc.

If you have any ideas or questions please don't hesitate to come and talk to me or contact me at clare.biddle@trinitycircuit.net

Thank you

*Clare Biddle
Facilities and Community Manager The Crossing and The Grove*

Volunteering

The Church is a vastly volunteer led organisation and is a central hub for the community. I am always in awe of the nature of the people involved with volunteering in the Church. Many of whom are Church members themselves, we also have people coming in from the local community to volunteer their time and expertise.

Volunteers do what they do because they want to make a positive impact in their community and it's certainly true of the many brilliant individuals who make a difference at the Crossing.

We have had some new volunteers start with us this year, and sadly seen some leave our ranks as well.

I would like to thank all of those who have volunteered at any time in the past or present, we are very fortunate to have these people in our community.

One of our admin volunteers keeps a record of the number of volunteers which come in to help.

We currently have 49 volunteers coming in regularly who on average complete 494 hours per month, totalling 5932 hours over the course of the year.

Please note, these recorded hours are only of those done inside the building and do not include admin done by people at home or hours put in by our team of volunteers which are completed in the community, such as our pastoral support team.

Without volunteers, the Crossing simply wouldn't be possible. Almost all of the groups which operate here are led and run by volunteers. It is important to recognise their value. Whether someone is helping for one hour a week, or ten hours a week, it has a positive impact. Thank you all so much!

It is worth noting that there are always opportunities to volunteer at the Crossing and if you are able to assist, now is the time to do so.

If you are able to commit any time, please contact me on joe.hicks@trinitycircuit.net or you can fill out a volunteer expression of interest form and Joe will get in touch with you in due course.

Joe Hicks
Circuit volunteer co-ordinator

Model Transport Exhibitions

We have now held eight Model Transport Exhibitions at The Crossing and this year we started with the first of two, in March, and then we have just enjoyed our second exhibition of 2024 on September 7th.

These exhibitions are fairly unique in that they feature, with equal emphasis, model railways and model buses, the latter including trams and trolleybuses. The venue is ideal for such an exhibition as we have a large hall and it is flat and so is wheelchair friendly and fully accessible.

The model railway layouts are sourced from the local area on the whole though some are from further afield if they are able to be transported easily by car(s) and this year we had exhibitors from the North East, North Yorkshire, Lancashire, Manchester and Staffordshire as well as Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire which are considered to be local. The exhibits are of different scales, of different eras, and some are rural where others are urban or industrial, and this year we have had a bit of nostalgia with the Hornby Dublo group operating vintage trains from the '50s and '60s.

I have to confess that I really enjoy these events as it gives an opportunity for those of us who are afflicted with enthusiasm for model transport in its many forms to see them on display and though my personal version of this affliction relates to buses, trams, trolleybuses and trains I still find the miniaturisation of transport in their context captures my imagination and that of countless others as can be seen from the faces of those who come along to these popular events.

Once one exhibition has taken place Russell and I try to get along to the other local exhibitions to see if there are any layouts and dioramas which would fit into the space we have at The Crossing and we try to assemble a variety of styles of layout with varying scales and eras they depict but we are often constrained by the availability of the exhibits and exhibitors and the expense of them being brought along to Worksop for one-day events (many model railway exhibitions are two-day weekend events).

Whilst I am primarily responsible for planning the exhibitions they only actually take place because of the amazing support we get by lots of volunteers many of whom are church members but also friends who also



Model Buses – Sept 2023

help in many ways. These volunteers include those who work hard in the café, making cakes and sandwiches, serving them, and who present a smiling face to the customers.

There are those who staff the paydesk, who look after the car parking for exhibitors and who operate the car park barrier (in all weather). There are many who help

move the church furniture to create the space required, and then put it all back again. There are those who distribute posters and fliers and who ensure local shops and other churches are aware of the exhibition, and there are many others whose help is invaluable and much appreciated, and then there are those who come along on the day and willing pay to be entertained, well refreshed, and who go away and tell everyone else what they have enjoyed.

Based on the success of these annual events and the good support of local enthusiasts, families and other visitors, we will have two more exhibitions in 2025, one in March and the other in September. Thank you for your support.

Bob Heathcote

Church Fayres

It has become our regular pattern to hold two Fayres during the year, these were in November 2023 & May 2024. The Christmas Fayre was a really busy event but the Spring Fayre was less well attended this year, so the church council are seriously considering changing the pattern or thinking of different fundraising activities. 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.



Christmas Fayre 2023

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 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 pork (hot pork rolls) or bacon.

Our next event will be a Christmas Fayre on November 30th 2024.

Anne Taylor & the Fayre team.

Community Café

Our Café space and kitchen continues to be used for a variety of purposes throughout the year, some arranged by our own volunteer team and others by third parties and local charities.

We now have a good, regular clientele for our regular coffee mornings which now run on Wednesday mornings 10am-2pm (in partnership with the North Notts College Flex Team) and on Friday mornings 10am-12noon.

We serve Fairtrade Coffee & Tea and lots of lovely homemade cakes (made by a few dedicated volunteer cake bakers) and snacks such as toasted tea-cakes.

Wednesdays “Partnership project” has expanded its hours and menu during this year (at the request of the college) . The church provides all the supplies (including homemade cakes) and the Staff & Students from North Notts College provide the volunteers with the team of students changing at 12noon, giving more students the opportunity.

This is a valuable training activity for students who have additional needs, giving them skills that they will be able to use in the workplace once they leave college.

Fridays coffee morning is manned by a wonderful team of volunteers who serve on a rota basis, some of these are new volunteers who have fitted

really well into the “team”. We could always accommodate a few more dedicated people as Friday mornings are usually very busy. We originally managed with 3 volunteers per session, but know we really need 4 or 5 people.

So please come along & support your church by purchasing coffee & cakes on Wednesday & Friday mornings.

Our Community Café Team have also provided drinks stations & buffets on occasions during the year, these have been for organisations using our rooms for meetings, conferences, training events etc and occasionally for funeral teas and birthday parties.

The busiest days have been when we open the café for a full day in conjunction with our fundraising events (Church Fayres & Model Transport Day etc)

All of these events raise much needed funds for the ongoing work of the church, and allow us to provide other regular support groups, covering the cost of the supplies

During this year the church council made the decision to dedicate every 6th Friday coffee morning to a charity, donating the full amount of the takings on that day to each charity. During this year these have been :-

- 17th May - £138.55 raised for 100homes (supporting the foster care system)
- 28th June - £200.35 raised for the Children’s Heart Surgery Fund
- 9th August - £127.40 raised for SANDS

We have received letters of thanks from all these charities.

Dates planned for the future are:-

- 1st November – Link to Hope (Shoe box appeal)
- 13th December – Bluebell wood Hospice
- 24th January – The Lewy Body Society
- 7th March – Smile Train
- 18th April – My Sight (Bassetlaw)

Warm Spaces - Welcome Spaces

In the past few years, Friday afternoons 12.30 – 3.30pm, we have opened up the café area to the community, initially as a Warm Space in the cold weather, We then changed the name to Afternoon Friendship Tea during the warm weather, hoping to encourage folks to pop in for refreshments and a chat, unfortunately this did not prove popular so we are now the Welcome Space (continuation of Warm Spaces)

We offer drinks, cakes, toast and sandwiches as well as pot noodles free of charge but many leave a voluntary donation.

We have had generous donations to enable this to proceed and hopefully will be able to continue during the winter and beyond.

We have a few regular visitors and the footfall varies from 10-24, many thanks to Elizabeth, our very dedicated volunteer and to Katherine for manning the reception desk every week.

If you feel that you could spare an hour or two occasionally to help please speak to me.

Iris Franks

Shoe Box Appeal



We were very fortunate that once again Sylvia Heathcote obtained a substantial donation from the Foresters Friendly Society which enabled us to fill 100 boxes for the “Link to Hope” Charity. The generosity of our congregation and supporters meant that we were able to give £300 towards the transport costs. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the

families who receive not only ours but all boxes donated through love. Many thanks to ALL who helped in any way, helping to bring a smile to so many people in need.

We would ask for our continual support during the next year, for more details of the charity please go to www.linktohope.co.uk

With thanks & Blessings.

The Shoe Box team

Church Card Stall

This stand of cards is situated in the café area. There is a fine selection of cards for sale at very reasonable prices (cheaper than the shops).

The profits benefit the church, so you know where to look if you need a greetings card.

Thank you for your support.

Margaret & Terry Bray

Quizzes

I produce a monthly wordsearch with Emily's help. I also make up three quizzes a year for various charities. Only £1 per quiz entry – gets the brain working- is a lot of fun (& frustration) but raises funds.

The next quiz is for Christian Aid, the subject being insects and other creepy crawlies! It will appear later this year so watch out for it and HAVE A GO!!!

Terry Bray

CHURCH GROUPS

Singing with Dementia

Our group continues to thrive and we have a steady attendance of 30-40 members. The activities co-ordinators Victoria & Greenacres Care Homes continue to give us their loyal support and we have had several new visitors, both singles and couples, which is encouraging.

Our regular entertainers have not disappointed this year, although their fees have increased, and our thanks go to Annie Fotheringham, Russell Weaver, Steve Knight, Phil Lawrence and of course Elvis.

We are especially grateful to the singers from the U3A and, of course, our good friends Denise & Roger Marsden who give their services freely and willingly.

The Christmas party was once again a great success and everyone spent a happy afternoon singing songs with Denise & Roger. Father Christmas

came and everyone left with a Christmas stocking filled with small seasonal gifts. We ended with a roof raising “Oh, Come all ye Faithful”.

We are very fortunate to have received some very generous donations which will help us fund future events. Our friends from the “Caring for Carers” group no longer meet and gave us a large donation from their closing funds.

We had a lovely surprise donation from a funeral and following on from that a donation from the Freemasons who are hoping to become regular donors.

We keep in touch with them through our new volunteer and friend, Tracy Glasby, who initiated the first donation from the funeral and has become a very involved and willing helper.

After a short summer break we meet again on September 25th. There is a list of future dates on the notice board so please do check them and come when you are able. We are very grateful for your support.

As always I am truly humbled by the support and generosity of all who give their time and gifts, without whom none of these events would be possible.

A special thank you to all of the regular volunteers, Michael, Christine, Sue and Jean in the kitchen, Iris & Pauline on the £1 stall and raffle and to Janet & Kath who willingly step in when needed.

Thank you & God Bless to you all.

Jean Roberts.

The Thursday Group

The Thursday Group is a long established meeting for ladies of all ages and persuasions who meet to enjoy the company of old friends and to meet new friends. The meeting usually starts with a short time of reflection and devotion followed by various activities which could include a talk by a speaker on many various subjects, an afternoon of games, quizzes or a discussion etc.

Most recently we have enjoyed hearing the life stories of some of our members and at least one of our speakers but also talks on the historic

Bess of Hardwick, the women of the Bible and a wonderful musical afternoon with the Revd. Mark Cantrill !

Occasionally we meet at a venue outside of The Crossing and enjoy tea, coffee and cake etc, at a local garden centre or an establishment such as the Aurora Centre. We also make at least one visit a year to support the Acorn Theatre and have seen some excellent productions over the years and of course we always go out for Christmas Lunch !

We pay a subscription of £5 three times per year to cover expenses and anything left over is given to The Crossing Church. We also have a voluntary charity box available at each meeting and members vote on the charity they wish to support at the end of the year.

We meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month except for August and the last week in December, new members and visitors are always welcome so please do come along and sample one of our meetings. Programmes are usually available on the Welcome Desk so do pick one up and we would be delighted to see you.

*Pauline Rogers
Assistant Secretary*

Grumpy Men's Group

The Grumpy Men's Group was started by our much-missed Griff several years ago and both in tribute to Griff and also because we all seem to enjoy this group we are continuing to meet in much the same way as it has always been.

This is one of those groups which has no agenda, programme or membership requirements save for the fact that all participants qualify as being 'Grumpy Men', according to others! We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 12.30pm and enjoy our regular diet of bacon butties, coffee and tea.

Now that we have a Café in operation on Wednesdays, run very kindly by staff and students of North Notts College, we now have our food and drink prepared for us so we have it 'on a plate' so to speak.

We continue to enjoy each other's company with conversation varying from local issues, international politics, finances plus the obligatory updates on

buses and trains, and then of course there all the aches and pains to be discussed as well as other important topics such as roadworks, potholes, bad parking and anything else that increases blood pressure from time to time.

Each meeting usually lasts for about an hour and we fit neatly into the café space around the comfy chairs.

It is a fun group and is very therapeutic and tummy enhancing. If you are tempted to come along and if you qualify as a 'Grumpy Man' then you will be very welcome – so long as you don't take things too seriously. There is naturally a charge for these fine refreshments which is around the £6 mark and any profit made is added to Crossing funds.

Bob Heathcote

The Art Group

This group is a small band of people who enjoy being creative. We meet on a Friday morning from 10am – 12 noon.

The work the group produces is displayed in the café area and raises comments of interest and appreciation etc.

In November and December we try to involve the whole church to join in the Christmas theme.

Earlier this year we had a successful exhibition in the Worksop Library. Rocky, from Hong Kong, assists Terry in running the group and is a wonderful asset.

Anyone interested in joining us will be very welcome, many start by saying "but I can't draw!" then surprise themselves as they achieve wonderful work.

Why not give it a go?

Terry Bray

Crafty Corner

Crafty Corner meets each Wednesday 10.30 till 12.00

This group is going well at the moment, with two new members joining us during the year. One has commented 'I appreciate coming out to meet other knitters, I enjoy the company'. The members really show concern for other members, and support with help both with projects and individual needs.

As well as doing individual projects, different members make things for various charities, and together we knit squares to make blankets. Last year we donated 6 blankets to 'Link to Hope'.

Members contributed items for the stall we had at the Autumn Fayre, and we are now making for the next fayre.

As a way of being more inclusive, the group has decided not to charge a set amount per session, but to ask for donations, so individuals who are struggling financially are not excluded. All donations will go into Church funds.

My special thanks go to Elizabeth, who volunteers every week and is an invaluable member of the group.

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 Friday group has again finished due to lack of attendance.

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.

Anne 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 but unfortunately have lost a couple of members again this year. 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 baby and toddler group has had another very successful year. We now have 25 families on average attending each week making the most of our craft activities, play doh, jigsaws, farms, kitchen, train sets, dolls prams and so much more.

In July we arranged a Teddy Bears Picnic and raised £80 for the Children Society. Our last day of the summer term included a bouncy castle which all the children loved and a visit from Manfredis ice cream van to treat all the children to an ice cream.

Anyone with a child of pre-school age is welcome to come along on Wednesdays (term time) from 9.30-11.15

Women's Mindfulness

This is a small group, that has been meeting on Wednesday mornings.

Music at the Crossing

This year (2023-2024) has been a busy year for Music at the Crossing as we have been fully booked with local choirs using the church as a venue for their concerts.

In December we hosted **the Major Oak Pop choir** (65 ladies and their supporters) for an evening of joyful music. This was followed by Musicality Singers from Worksop, who performed both Christmas and other joyful songs. Both nights saw an audience of over 100.

In March, **Ryton Chorale** returned to The Crossing with their Easter concert Mozart's Requiem. The choir was accompanied by the English Pro Musica Quartet and their chosen soloists. Once again the venue had over 100 in the audience.

In June, **Musicality Singers** (a community-based choir in Worksop) were at The Crossing for their summer concert. The choir gave us a fantastic evening of music from the shows and films.

This month (September) we have **Anston Male Voice Choir** returning after 2 years away, with their annual concert starring Oliver Harris, just back from Edinburgh fringe.

Future events this year are: -

9th November **Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band** will be returning for a remembrance eve concert at 7pm. Carlton Main Frickley are one of the top brass bands in the country at the moment and are a joy to hear.

Tickets for this concert will be available either from the Welcome desk from the end of October or from myself. Please come along and support us – it promises to be a magical evening.

16th November **Ryton Chorale** return for their Autumn concert.

6th December **Musicality Singers** return for their contribution to our Christmas Celebrations.

As we are only having 6 concerts a year this has taken us up to our full number. We are also fully booked for next year. Details for next year will appear in the What's On at The Crossing in January.

It has been decided that tickets for outside events will NOT be sold from the Welcome desk after September. All tickets (except for the Brass Band) will only be available from the event organisers

Once again, I want to say ONE BIG THANK YOU for all the volunteers who help with refreshments on these occasions. Without these people there would be no concerts. These include Margaret Merrill, Chris Hagen Sue Dunn, Jean Boulding, Elizabeth Jones, Iris Franks, Diane Neal and recently Vinnie Warmington and Amanda Harris. Sorry if I've missed anyone.

My own ONE BIG THANK YOU to you all for your help.

Please keep supporting these concerts and, if you can spare a couple of hours or want to hear the concert for free, come along and help with refreshments or stewarding at the events.

Hoping to see you all soon.

Netty (Annette Barker) 

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!

We started off in the Autumn term last year with a challenge badge called 'In My Pocket' which saw us try lots of activities with anything that fits in your pocket! We played dice games, made paper aeroplanes and sock puppets and had a go at drawing with our feet. We also tried out lots of experiments for our Innovate badge. We 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 Reading Challenge and our Book Lover's badge. We enjoyed a visit to Worksop Library, made bookmarks and shared our favourite books. We discovered a love for the 'Oi!' books by Kes Gray and had fun doing Elmer the elephant activities and making (and eating) marmalade sandwiches with Paddington.

In March we held a Fairy Tale themed Sleepover, at Ollerton Scout and Guide Centre and had a great time making gingerbread men, planting beanstalks for Jack, following Red Riding Hood's trail and designing fabulous castles.

We spent the Summer term with an outdoors theme for our Nature badge. We had fun making s'mores, building dens and making clay decorations as well as making wristbands and singing campfire songs. Some of us took part in the County Big Rainbow Slumber challenge, sleeping in home-made dens too.

We finished our year with a fun night out at Roughbreck campsite, hunting for bugs, leaves and seeds and playing nature I-spy. We're very proud to have presented Bronze and Silver Rainbow Awards to some of our Rainbows at the end of the Summer term.

Our Unit has been running now for over 30 years and for almost 20 of them I have been extremely lucky to have had the brilliant support of both Joanne Ball and Sarah Buckler as part of our Leader Team. They were both nominated for well-deserved County awards last year to mark their dedication to our unit.

Sadly for us, Joanne moved house last November and started a new adventure near the Lincolnshire coast - close enough for lovely walks on the beach and seal spotting at Donna Nook. It's not the same without her on a Tuesday but the good news is she's staying involved but from a distance and was able to join us for our Sleepover and Roughbreck evening. We miss her a lot and I can't



thank her enough for everything she's done over the years – Thank you Joanne, you're a star!

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Sarah. In October last year she was taken ill and given a devastating cancer diagnosis. She was determined to do everything she could, but sadly despite enormous strength and courage she lost her fight in July. As a team, we are devastated. Sarah loved being at Rainbows and was great with the girls. She was full of energy, chatty and funny, a wonderful friend, with a smile that could light up the room. She often had us in hysterics with her stories and exploits – she really was a very special person and we miss her so much.

Thank you to Ilana and Stef – for all their help and much needed 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 3 leaders, Brown Owl (Chloe), Snowy Owl (Jean) and Tawny Owl (Clare).

This year we have had another busy year working towards badges, including Inventing, Space, Charities, Dancing. Reflect and Make Change Skills builder and we are currently working on our Live smart skills builder. 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. Apart from working for badges, we have also done lots of exciting things. The girls have to organise an activity in order to gain their Gold Award which has been fun to see them planning this and then being in charge which they enjoyed. The girls doing it made us a quiz night about Harry Potter and Disney.

This year we have also done a chocolate evening and learned about where it comes from and how it is made. We have also had a Cheese night taste testing different cheeses. That was a smelly night. We have also had a Mexican night making fajitas. Other evenings included celebrating Thinking Day in February and making Mother's Day cards.

We have also been out and about doing our annual canal walk in Shireoaks, this involved learning about water safety and the environment and spotting things and writing down what we could see, such as ducks, benches, trees and flowers. But also things that damage the environment such as rubbish and dog poo and things that have ended up in the canal that shouldn't be there. To end the night we had chips from the fish and chip shop which all the girls enjoyed.

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

We are looking forward to another action packed year.

Chloe Biddle

Guides

We have had a busy year!

In the autumn term we completed the cupcake challenge badge, doing lots of cupcake themed challenges, including making cupcake board games, decorating cupcakes, cupcake hama beads, cupcake pompoms and many more.

The girls represented the division well at the Remembrance Day parade from the town hall.

We also got busy crafting and made Christmas pinecone tree decorations and homemade candles, ready to sell on a stall at the Christmas fayre. The girls helped at the stall, which we also held at our Christingle evening. Overall we raised over £100 for unit funds.

We also had 2 girls achieve their Bronze award in December 2023.

In January 2024, we started the 'I am a Physicist' Challenge, which saw us create sail cars and ballon rockets, make a vegetable orchestra, conduct a biscuit dunking experiment, create CD hovercrafts, and construct egg safety nets which we tested. This term also saw us celebrate Thinking Day, and make cards and bath bombs for Mother's Day. We saw another 2 girls achieve their Bronze awards.

Our summer term was equally as busy, girls completed their First Aid skills builder, mixology badge, craftivism badge and lots of unit meeting activities, including creating travel guides for different planets, creating lava lamps out of plastic bottles, and design structures for local community activity.

We took 3 girls down to participate in Girlguiding Nottinghamshire Ginormous Choir, which involved travelling down to the Albert Hall in Nottingham, where we spent the day with Guides, Brownies, Rainbows and their leaders from all across the county learning and singing together before performing in the evening.

We also did a walk along the canal as part of the 'I went the extra mile' badge campaign from Girlguiding Nottinghamshire. We started at the church before heading through Bridge Street to the canal and walked to McDonalds where we enjoyed some well-deserved chips!

In June we were extremely lucky to be invited to have a campfire with some visiting scouts from Finland. We met up with 2nd Priory Guides, Bassetlaw Scouts and the group from Finland, which also included a scout from Australia, and held a campfire at Walesby Campsite. It was enormous fun, and we just about missed the rain!

At the end of July we had a 2 night sleepover at Ollerton Scout and Guide Activity centre. We had 11 girls attend, where we completed the 'I'm a survivor guide me out of here' challenge. This included making Australian style cork hats, eating bugs on a log, completing obstacle courses and bushtucker trials (girls had to collect starts out of baked beans, slimy jelly and pasta), scavenger hunts, Aboriginal art, friendship bracelets, and cooking their own food. We all had an excellent time, though tiring. The weekend was part of Ilana earning her next part of her going away license.

We ended the term at Roughbreck, where we made bird feeders and smores. Two girls also earned their Silver awards.

Over the year we have said farewell to some of our older girls and welcome to some new guides who have come from both our own Brownie unit and from elsewhere. The unit has now grown to 15 girls with 3 leaders.

Ilana Duveen

12th Worksop (URC) Scouts, Cubs & Beavers

The Beavers and Cubs have been meeting weekly (Term time only). Our group is only small but sometimes suits the younger ones. It is increasing in numbers slowly.

We still offer a wide variety of activities to the young people, who work towards their badges, developing skills and interacting with our local community.

The Scouts ceased to meet in April 2024 due to low numbers but the leaders are hopeful that it can restart when there is a demand.

The Leadership Team

Church User Groups

Children's Bereavement Centre.



The Crossing has continued to provide a safe and welcoming environment for over 100 children and their parents/carers, who have received one-to-one bereavement counselling and support. Specialist support is 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. Early intervention can help them cope at what is probably the most devastating time in their lives and help to make a significant difference to immediate wellbeing and long-term recovery. Children and young people can adjust to their loss, reducing their risk of negative behaviour patterns and physical or mental health problems. Family bonds can be strengthened, and children are able to grow up healthier and happier and have brighter futures.

Thanks.

Kate Baxter Chief Executive

Just Good Friends

The Just Good Friends Club is a registered charity, which started in 1997 supporting adults with learning disabilities in Whitwell. Since then we have opened five evening clubs, four daytime social hubs, providing a safe and friendly environment in which members enjoy socialising and gives them the freedom to explore new activities independent of their parents and carers wherever possible.

In October 2021 we were asked to consider taking over the Valley Social Club at the Crossing which we were more than happy to and in January 2022 the Just Good Friends Club family grew even more.

We have 30 members attending regularly on a Monday evening 18:45 – 20:45. We hold a meeting every six weeks where members are asked what they would like to do thus giving them a voice and a choice.

On many occasions in the past at our programme meetings, members would suggest going to Skegness or Blackpool, obviously this is something we cannot do in two hours, but we listened to our members and now we offer day trips throughout the year and weekends away and much much more..

Trish Charity, Chief Charity Officer

Older People's Friendly Group

We meet on a Thursday 12 o'clock until 2.30pm we have been going for over 20 years now and we play bingo, do raffles etc and chat.

Some of our members never go anywhere since Covid except to our club, as they are afraid to go out but with us they feel safe we try to get them out by making money to take them out for day trips or meals and the money we make from the raffles helps with this.

Jayne & Hazel



Notts Mind - #well cafe

“Thank you so much for providing the room for us it is much appreciated and allows us to provide the #well café for the people of Worksop.

Our #well café is a weekly group for anyone to join us for a drink and a chat. The group offers social connection and we know that being part of a group is so important in reducing feelings of isolation which can contribute towards mental health issues. People who regularly attend the group benefit from a sense of belonging and the group gives meaning and purpose to their lives, something in their week to look forward to, a reason to get out of the house.

We offer support at the group with volunteers and a Recovery Coach to talk to individually, but the main support is peer support, talking to one another.

Mental health and cognitive function are connected, we feel better about life if we are connected to others, less lonely, and this reduces suicidal thoughts.

Annalise Porter

North Notts Association of National Trust Members

Once again, we at the North Notts National Trust Members' Association have enjoyed a valuable connection with The Crossing, benefitting from its hospitality and getting to know its staff & volunteers.

The Association divides the year between meetings at The Crossing over the winter period and organising visits to places of interest in the region in the summer.

From October to April we gather at The Crossing, usually on the third Wednesday evening of the month, for talks, beginning at 7.30pm.

The seven talks, presented by a wide variety of knowledgeable speakers, range across a broad spectrum of topics.

This year, 2023-2024, we have had features on:

- Food & Drink in Tudor and Stuart Nottinghamshire
- The Antarctic explorer, Tom Crean
- A History of early air travel
- The Medieval Pilgrimage
- Wild Life Photography
- Everyday life in Japan
- The Framework knitters of Nottingham

The Crossing makes a warm & sympathetic venue, and we appreciate the help given to us arranging seating in the spacious Sanctuary.

We welcome new members and you can appreciate stories from past and present.

We hope our website NthNottsNTAssoc.org will draw you to The Crossing in 2024-2025.

Haydn Lee – Chairman

Other Community groups who meet regularly at The Crossing but who have not submitted reports include:-

- Your Health Notts (Weight Management support and a Falls Prevention service)
- MHA (Methodist Homes for the Aged) – Lunch Club
- Portland College (training provider)
- Worksop & District Stroke Club
- Worksop Music & Drama Festival
- Derbyshire WEA
- Thera
- Young Theatre Group
- NHS – Blood donors sessions & Family health teams.

We have also provided the space for a few “**partnership projects**” alongside other local charities, during this year these have included:-

- YMCA – using our kitchen & servery for cookery lessons for their service users.
- CGL (Change, Grow, Live) – allowing some of their clients to use our shower at a supported weekly session – with staff on hand.
- Citizens Advice – support advice for the public on several occasions throughout the year.



Edited by Anne Taylor Oct 2024.