

A photograph of a family performing on a stage. On the left, a man in a blue blazer and light blue shirt smiles while holding a microphone. In the center, a woman in a dark blue dress holds a baby in a white dress. On the right, a man in an orange shirt sings into a microphone. In the foreground, a young child in a floral dress is eating. The background features a large screen and stage equipment.

**20TH MARCH 2022  
ST BARNABAS GRANGE PARK**

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

# **22**

A white geometric graphic consisting of three overlapping, stylized mountain-like shapes or peaks, located in the bottom right corner of the image.

# LOOKING BACK / LOOKING FORWARD

Welcome to our first annual general meeting - what a significant moment this is for us as a new church community! This one-off gathering is an opportunity to celebrate all that God has done throughout 2021 and look forward to all that He is going to do as we continue to pursue our vision:

**To plant and grow an authentic Christian Church that seeks to encounter Jesus, build community and see transformation on Grange Park, Loughborough and beyond. And plant again!**

During our AGM we will worship, look back on 2021, hear stories from our church community, receive a financial report, formally welcome our trustees and pray. Revd Ben Gardner will also share his highlights and a short message from the Bible as we look towards future growth and future church plants.

Within this report are a collection of stories from our church community celebrating all that we, through the power of the Holy Spirit, have achieved during 2021.

I am incredibly proud of this church and I hope that after reading this report you will be able to give thanks for all that God has done, is doing and will do in the coming year.

Thank you for being a part of STB. Helen and I love this church!

Ben Gardner

**STB Church Leader**





# CHURCH LEADERS REPORT

By Ben Gardner

2021 was a year of recovery and rebuilding as we emerged from lockdown. Despite spending the majority of our life online as a new worshipping community, it was great to re-launch in September as we gathered together again and also welcomed new people to STB.

Here are some of my highlights from 2021:

- **Stations of the Cross & Hunt for Hope** - many people and young families from the local community connected with the story of the cross & resurrection as they walked the local countryside and scanned QR codes.
- **Food Drop Off & Your Store** - during the pandemic, we, in partnership with the Good Shepherd, provided an opportunity for the local community to drop off food for the local Food Bank. This simple idea evolved into the launch of Your Store Shelthorpe in Nov 2021.
- **Loughborough Streets of Light** - it was good to see so many people and local schools, including Outwoods Edge, connect with this project across the town as we shared the light of Jesus in the midst of the darkness of Halloween.
- **STB Kids Wake Up Gathering** - 2021 also witnessed the launch of a monthly gathering aimed at young families who have no or very little contact with the church. Since its launch, we have connected with new families and I pray this will continue to grow as we reach out and make disciples of Jesus Christ.
- **Give to Give Away** - We were really please to partner with our local primary school, Outwoods Edge, as we raised and gave £1500 to their OPAL Project (an award winning outdoor play and learning initiative)
- **Carol Service** - over 200 people from the local community attended our outdoor carol service. Mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas gifts for the children were given out.
- **BMO & CIO** - STB became a registered charity (Charity Incorporated Organisation) and an official church within the Church of England (Bishops Mission Order).

All this would not have happened without you, your support and prayers, thank you!

I would also like to especially thank Jason Rowles, the leadership team and the trustees who work very hard behind the scenes, who support me and continue to be passionate focus on fulfilling our vision to make Jesus known.

# SUNDAY GATHERINGS

By Ben Gardner

Gathering together as God's assembled people on a Sunday is still an important thing to do. It reminds us that we are a part of a bigger story, a global and historic Christian community. It also provides a space to encounter Jesus, build community and see transformation within in our lives, as we go out to love and serve the Lord.

During 2021 we spent most of our Sundays glued to our TV screens, as we were still in some kind of lockdown. Online church has it's limitations but it has also enabled many people to connect with church (often for the first time), worship, pray and discover the riches of the Bible.

We also covered a wide range of topics such as, Hope in Jesus, Hope in Suffering, The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry, Rebuild and Church...What's the point? As well as observing Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas, which are parts of our yearly rhythm.

My personal highlight was our Outdoor Carol service which saw over 200 people from the local community come and hear the story of Christmas and consume lots of mince pies! It has also been a real joy to welcome new people to STB and I pray that we will continue to grow more in love with Jesus and with one another.

## Average Sunday Attendance

	2019	2020	2021
<b>10AM</b>	36	45(Jan-Mar)	54(Aug-Dec)
<b>Wake Up</b>	0	60 (online)	40
<b>Evening Gathering</b>	0	12	12
<b>Online Views</b>	0	60	50

	2019	2020	2021
<b>Total Online Views</b> (all STB Content - Sundays, Lent Reflections, etc)	0	5,341	4,300

	2019	2020	2021
<b>Worshipping Community</b> (those who are regularly* attending STB)	35	63	63

\*once a month

# STB KIDS

By Charlotte Falconbridge

Wow! What a year (or two) we've had with STB Kids. Despite, the global pandemic, STB Kids has continued to be blessed with an increase in numbers. It is amazing to think that since starting STB with an initial 14 children (including 4 who have since gone off to University or moved away) our numbers have continued to rise. We now have up to 18 children regularly attending, with another 5 or so who come occasionally. This is just amazing, and we thank the Lord that we are so privileged to be able to share His love with so many. If all who have attended at some point, were all to arrive on the same Sunday morning, we would have an incredible 27 children aged 0 – 13 and that doesn't include our young adults who often are part of the Tech or Kid's teams themselves.

The move to online church, at the beginning of the pandemic, meant that we had to think differently – this inadvertently, was the start of our Kids' team growing too. We were able to provide something for our children and families each week which was an essential part of what STB Kids is about. We sent out activity packs and gifts, as well as having a dedicated section as part of the weekly gatherings. This also led us to Wake-Up (see separate report).

Since being back in the Arc, we have been able to look at how we develop our children's' work. We are very aware of the large age range that we have within our children and young people and therefore are excited about being able to deliver two groups and a creche every 2nd and 4th Sundays. As a result of on-going prayers, we have a team of leaders and helpers that is continuing to grow, which means that we can really offer something special to all the children that come through our doors.

We would love to be able to continue to grow this wonderful ministry as it is such an important and exciting part of our church family. We pray that God will place this ministry in people's hearts. As it has been said before, we always welcome fresh ideas, faces and an extra pair of hands!

Our hopes and prayers are that the children will continue to actively seek to follow Jesus and listen with open hearts to His plan for them.

# WAKE UP

By Charlotte Falconbridge

Back in 2020, we held Wake Up – a gathering aimed at young families and then we went into lock-down. Our online kids' work took on a different look, but we wanted to give the children of STB and beyond something especially for them and their families and out of that came STB Kids' Wake Up in a compact, fun-filled fifteen minutes.

We had a terrific response on line, with our 2020 Christmas Wake Up receiving 135 views and our May Wake Up 97 views! This ministry has such an important place as part of STB – we wanted to continue this when we moved back into meeting in person – so, in October 2021, we relaunched STB Kids' Wake Up live in the Arc! We were so amazed when three completely new families walked through the doors on that first Sunday. And, every month since, we have seen some new and some familiar faces. This month, we had a 15 regular children and 5 visiting children plus their adults – more than 40 people AMAZING! We have continued to have incredible fun, fellowship and praise in these new sessions and always seem to end by 'GOING BIG!'

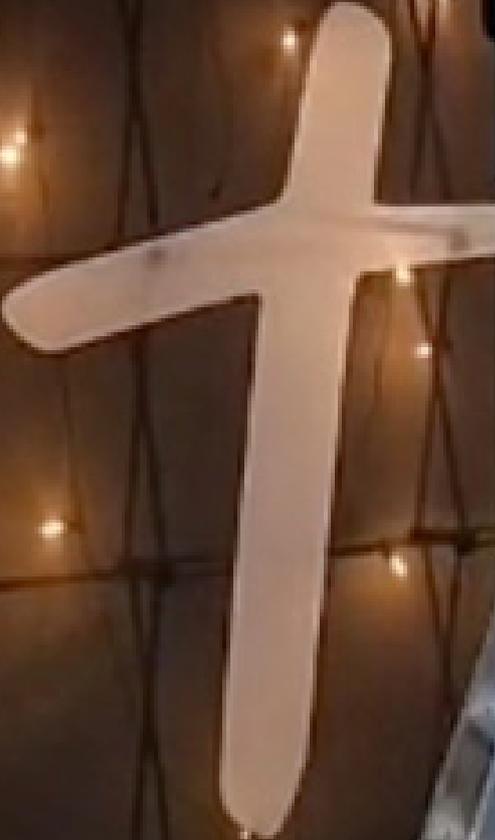
We continue to pray that this gathering continues to grow and that those families who come will feel God's love through the fun and fellowship we share together.





WAKE UP  
WELCOME

  
kids



# PASTORAL

By Katherine Craig

## **Pastoral Contact Team**

The Pastoral Contact Team was established during the first national lockdown in 2020, and whilst we are no longer subject to the restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, we continue to see this as the central facet of our pastoral care system. The team consists currently of 11 people who are committed to keeping in contact monthly with the people on their list, just to chat and to offer to pray with them. The team also commit to pray regularly for the people on their list. Over the course of the year, arising pastoral concerns have been shared with me as the Pastoral Coordinator and with the Church Leader as appropriate in order that additional support could be provided.

As the church grows, we are committed to expanding this team and I am delighted that at least one additional person has registered interest in joining us through the recent pledge cards. The pastoral care of the team is very important and is overseen by me as the Pastoral Coordinator. In July 2021 a retreat evening was organised for the team and we hope to repeat this at regular intervals.

## **WhatsApp Prayer Circle**

The WhatsApp prayer circle consists of 7 people who have committed to pray for pastoral needs among our community as and when they arise. With the permission of the person concerned, brief details of the issue are shared and individuals then pray. Over the course of 2021, we have seen some amazing answers to prayer and we faithfully expect to see more in the coming year!

## **Meals Rotas**

At important points in the lives of members of our church community we offer to provide meals for up to two weeks. Over the course of 2021 we have also had opportunities to widen this beyond those with an immediate connection to STB as a means of outreach. We see this as an important aspect of our generosity as a church and will continue this in 2022.

## **Mid-week Community**

It has always been our intention that eventually the majority of pastoral care will take place within mid-week communities and I am delighted that after the faltering of prior attempts due to Covid, we now have our first group up and running, which we hope to see grow and multiply in 2022.

# OPERATION MANAGERS REPORT

By Jason Rowles

For our gatherings in 2021 we spent the first part of the year predominantly meeting online and the latter part of the year both online and in person and I'm so grateful to all those who helped us learn how to live stream a Church service. We are still learning but so proud of what we manage to achieve each week. I would also like to thank every single person who serves in any way on a Sunday to help at STB, we really couldn't do it without you.

We had some amazing events away from the Arc including many socials and a fab autumn 'Hot Dog & Outdoor Cinema' evening which was really well attended and a particular favourite of mine, one I believe we should do every year! Our outdoor carol service was attended by over 200 people which was just amazing!

For me, my role as Operations Manager is changing slightly as STB changes. We became a registered charity and a Church with a BMO so there are now other things I have responsibility for i.e. licences, insurance & policies etc...

Please continue to pray for STB, that we continue to find ways of engaging and connecting with those around us on Grange Park and beyond.



# SAFEGUARDING

By Ian Craig

At STB we are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our community, and as such we will:

- Promote a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church.
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Respond to those that may pose a present risk to others.

As a leadership we would like all members of the STB community to complete the Basic Safeguarding training session. This is essential for anyone volunteering within the Church, where there would be any responsibility for children and vulnerable adults, but we would recommend that the course be completed by all church members to develop their understanding of safeguarding.

As the name suggests, the course provides a basic knowledge of safeguarding as a foundation in keeping people safe in the church community, whether in a role, or as a member of the Church.

The course can be completed online using the Church of England Safeguarding Portal, and can be completed in your own time. The course can be accessed via the 'Diocese of Leicester' Website at <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/training-and-events>.

We love and cherish our children and vulnerable adults, and our combined awareness will only enhance the protection we can provide.

# GENEROUS CHURCH

By Claire Rowles

The amazing generosity of God through everyone involved in the life of STB has been simply awesome in the last year. We have continued to carry on with our Give to Give Away activities where we encourage everyone to embrace in the physical act of giving, this year our give to give away activities have included HUGE foodbank donations, The Real Easter Egg Campaign, delivery of home baked treats, supporting the OPAL project at Outwoods Edge Primary school, and the launch of the Your Store hosted in Shelthorpe to name but a few. This physical act of giving embraces so much of the heart of STB and we are set to continue this throughout 2022.

In January we held our very first 'Generosity Sunday'; this was a fantastic opportunity for us to truly celebrate all that so many give to STB, in time, spiritual gifts and in monies. It's so important to us that we continue to celebrate and give thanks for everything we give, receive, and can give to others as a result of what God gives to us. We also want to be really transparent on how we continue to grow aligned with our transformation vision through 2022 and beyond. We had a fantastic response to the pledge cards with many people pledging to continue to support STB in key ministries and financially in 2022. Thank you so much for your continued support and overwhelming generosity, I am very excited to see what God does through your generosity in 2022.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

By Karen Leishman

Following being accepted as a CIO, the first official accounts for STB will cover an almost 18 month period from registration up to 31st December 2022. (After this, accounts will be prepared per calendar year).

The below summary covers:

- Year 2 since the start of STB: September 2020 – August 2021.
- From registration up to 31st December 2021.
- (For info only): from registration up to 28/02/2022.

	y/e 31/08/2021	08/07/2021 – 31/12/2021	08/07/2021 – 28/02/2022
<b>Income</b>			
Donations	£27,818	£11,844	£16,161
Hire of sound equip	£80	£-	£-
Grant income	£12,473	£7,601	£8,233
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£40,371</b>	<b>£19,445</b>	<b>£24,394</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Giving	£6,029	£4,115	£5,160
Staff Costs	£22,808	£12,275	£16,760
Church Activities	£9,373	£6,442	£8,619
Community Events	£1,625	£259	£259
Administration	£1,928	£1,298	£1,731
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£41,763</b>	<b>£24,389</b>	<b>£32,529</b>
<b>DEFICIT</b>	<b>(£1,392)</b>	<b>(£4,944)</b>	<b>(£8,135)</b>
Memo: Deficit if no SDF Seed Funding	(£12,397)	(£11,394)	(£14,586)
<b>Cash balance</b>	<b>£30,206</b>	<b>£22,422</b>	<b>£19,459</b>

- Donations income includes Give to Give Away

- Giving expenditure includes: Tithe (not yet distributed), Parish Contribution and Give to Give Away

- Church activities expenditure includes: rental, office costs, cost of gatherings, worship costs, discipleship & course costs

Please speak to me at the AGM or contact me through Jason if you have any questions.

# STREETS OF LIGHT

By Helen Gardner

Loughborough Streets of Light. During the week of Halloween we decorated the windows of our homes with messages of light, hope and love. There were some amazing and creative ideas and it was great to see some of the classrooms at Outwoods Edge School filled with colourful designs.

This year, for the first time, we were able to host a craft event at The Arc Community Hub and watch some of the artwork come to life!

On the day of Halloween we gave out party bags, sweets, toasted s'mores, gallons of hot chocolate and an alternative message of light and hope on a dark scary day. It was great to connect with hundreds of people from the estate and share something of the light of Jesus with our community.

We are really looking forward to this year!





# YOUR STORE

By Paul Chung

Shelthorpe Your store is a pop-up shop hosted at the Good Shepherd Church Hall every Saturday from 11 am to 12noon. It is part of a network of stores created by Charnwood Borough Council (CBC), The Bridge, John Storer House (JSH) and Charnwood Food Poverty Group. Shelthorpe Your Store is delivered jointly by people attending the Good Shepherd Church and STB.

JSH has a permanent shop with storage. It provides the food items to Shelthorpe Your Store for an annual financial contribution. The first year has been paid for by CBC. Next year's cost will be split between the two churches.

Residents in the Shelthorpe area who are experiencing hardship or struggling financially can become a member of Shelthorpe Your Store for £3 a week, which gives them a weekly shop of fresh produce, meat, dairy products and other essentials.

Shelthorpe Your Store first opened in November 2021; it now has a steady customer base of 6/7 each week.

We thank God for the work of Shelthorpe Your Store which alleviates in a small way the financial worries of some local residents. Please pray that more people who are in need of help will learn of the service and use it



# LOUGHBOROUGH CHURCHES PARTNERSHIP

By Ben Gardner

Loughborough Churches Partnership (LCP) continues to be a source of church unity across the town. Nineteen churches working together, to play our part in the transformation of Loughborough for God's Kingdom, is unique and encouraging.

Last year LCP gathered online for the annual January United Service and many also attended an online prayer event to pray for the people of our town, especially those who were struggling during the pandemic. LCP also took part in the Loughborough Streets of Light project in October and LCP church leaders continue to meet once a month for breakfast and to prayer walk different areas/parishes of our amazing town.

Towards the end of the year, I (Ben Gardner), took over as chair of LCP and with the new Executive, launched LCP's three year vision:

2022 - A year of Prayer - every street being prayer walked.

2023 - A year of Proclamation - to put on a Passion Play in the town centre.

2024 - A year of Participation - to organise a three day event to practically serve our town.

Please pray for the continued mission and vision of LCP.

If you would like to be STB's representative on LCP, please get in touch with [ben@stbgrangepark.org](mailto:ben@stbgrangepark.org).



# LOUGHBOROUGH RESOURCING CHURCH

By Ben Gardner

STB would not have happened without the support, generosity and prayers of The Loughborough Resourcing Church Partnership, which is made up of Emmanuel Loughborough, The Good Shepherd Church and now STB.

In 2019, STB was planted out of this partnership with the financial backing of the Diocese of Leicester, having been granted significant financial support from the Church Commissioners for the purpose of church planting. The heart of the resourcing vision is to plant new worshipping communities that reach and serve the 93% of people who have either little or no contact with the Gospel, and to plant again for God's glory. This continues to be our vision!

Some of you might be aware that Revd Sue Willetts (Vicar of the Good Shepherd) will no longer be leading The Good Shepherd Church, from Easter Sunday, as she begins her new role as Diocese Director of Ordinands. There are also significant structural changes going on within the Diocese, which will impact the number and role of the clergy.

Alongside these notable changes, is that the Church Commissioners have recently extended the timespan of the Resourcing Church Project and granted further finances, which is good news! In light of all the above, the church leaders of the partnership continue to meet regularly to pray and work with the Diocese in seeking how we might be able to serve the wider church and discern together where we might plant next.

Ben Gardner also continues to lead a small team who run the PLANT Course each year for new church planters and their teams as they prepare to launch. Ben is also the Diocese Convener for church planters, which is a support network for those leading new church plants.

Please pray for:

- **The partnership as they discern the next church plant and for the way forward with regards to the structural changes that will be taking place over the next few years.**
- **Sue and Andy Willetts as they begin a new season in life.**
- **The Good Shepherd Church as they discern the future.**
- **For wisdom of where to plant next.**



Charity No. 1195102