
Annual General Meeting 2026



St Barnabas Grange Park

Welcome

Thank you for being part of STB.

I always look forward to receiving the final copy of our AGM report as it captures some of the amazing stories of God at work in and through the life of our incredible church community.

This report offers us an opportunity to stop and look back to see all that He has done and to pray for the year ahead.

I hope that the stories within this report will encourage you as we give thanks for the amazing things He has done.

Revd Ben Gardner



Leaders Report

2025 and 2026 have been years of battles and blessings. There is much to give thanks for: the launch of a new midweek community, times of genuine worship, baptisms, growth of congregants at the care home, a new church plant emerging on the Beacon Academy estate, and the incredible generosity that enabled the building of a house for our friends in Tanzania. However, many within and beyond the church have and are facing the battles of life, which we feel deeply about because we are the body of Christ. That is who we are!

St Paul Writes:

***Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.
(Romans 5:3-5)***

We never want to experience the battle, the suffering, the bewilderment of this life, but when we do, we have the hope of Christ within us to hold on to, to look to and to put our trust in.

We have witnessed many blessings since we launched in 2019, but I believe that it is in the times of challenge that we can truly choose to deepen our faith and discipleship in Jesus Christ. In his book, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*, Charlie Mackesy reminds us that the good thing about storms is that they will pass.

My prayer for us at STB is that as we face the battles and blessings together, we will mature and deepen our relationship with Jesus, with one another and continue to share the hope of Christ with others.

It is a genuine joy to lead this church community, and I would like to thank the trustees, leadership team and all who give and contribute to the life of STB.

By Revd Ben Gardner

UP IT'S A NEW DAY DAWNING
SING YOUR SONG AGAIN
S AND WHATEVER LIES BEFORE ME
G WHEN THE EVENING COMES



STB Gatherings

During 2025, we covered a wide range of topics such as The Life of Abraham (Genesis), To the Ends of the Earth (Acts), God Moves In (John's gospel), as well as observing Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas.

It was also great to welcome new people to the life of STB and see our kids grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus.

I would like to thank all those who make the Sundays and Woodthorpe Lodge Care Home Communion service happen; without you, our Gatherings would not be able to take place. Thank you.

Average Sunday/Care Home Communion Attendance

	2022	2023	2024	2025
10AM	65	60	63	68
Wake Up	60	63	58	58
Evening Gathering	18	23	24	27
Mid-week Communion at Woodthorpe Lodge Care Home	N/A	N/A	17	12
Online Views	24	6	14	16

Total Online Views (all STB Content - Sundays, Lent Reflections, etc)

2022	2023	2024	2025
3,003	1,900	2,070	1,300

Worshipping Community (those who call STB their 'home' and attend at least once a month)

2022	2023	2024	2025
95	107	128	133

STB Members (those who have signed up online to become a voting member)

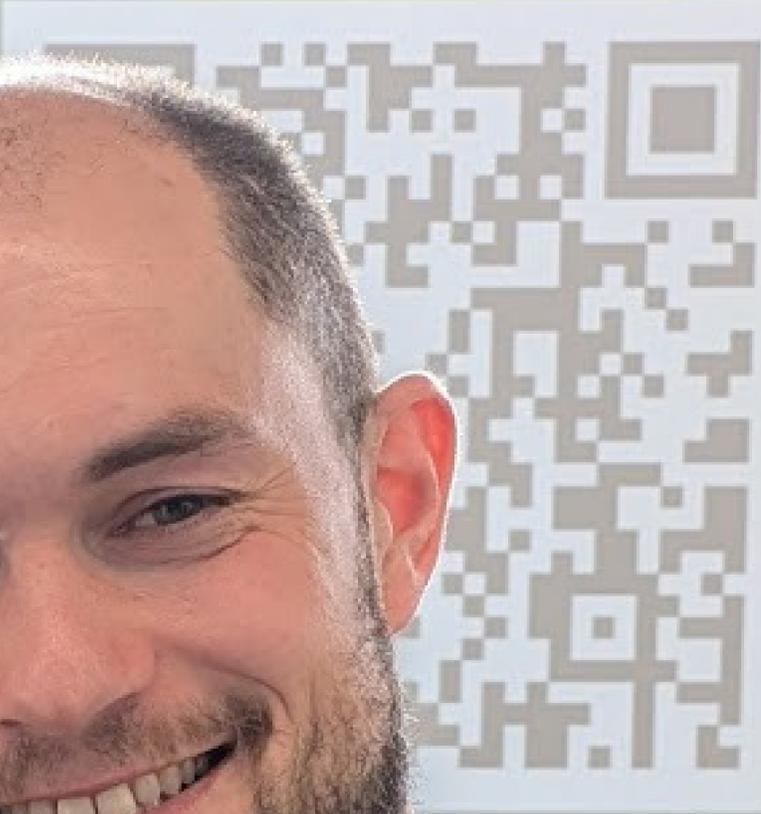
2023	2024	2025
24	32	34

Giving

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our website for



STB Kids

I am pleased to report that STB Kids continued to thrive and multiply in 2025. The 56 children having or having had some recent contact with our church continued to receive a birthday card, wishing them God's blessing and our love. We have four babies and three toddlers whose needs were met on a Sunday in the worship room by their parents and a Crèche corner with toys. Our Younger Kid's Breakout Group (ages 3-7 yrs.) has potentially 15 children and we generally had at least 10 turn up each week for a jolly and exciting time. We have 20 eligible for the Older Group (7-11 yrs.) and had a record 15 arrive on Baptism Sunday! We retain contact with 14 Youth and Alex will report on them.

We are very fortunate to have our Kid's Team of 10 willing and able leaders and helpers to work with these Groups on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays in the month. A highlight in the Autumn Term was linking our planning to the themes introduced at the Wake Up Service on the 1st Sunday of that month. In particular November Wake Up gave a lively introduction to 'The Armour of God' and by the end of the month the children had a full set of armour- sword of the spirit, shield of faith, Good News shoes, belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness and a helmet of salvation. Spending four Sunday sessions on this theme enhanced their understanding and gave a deeper dive into the Bible topic.

My hopes and prayers would be for more to come forward and join our team as we may well be losing a couple of helpers, and this would ease the rota situation. It is important that the rotas allow the team 'time off' each month to fully participate in Worship and teaching. We really do have a fun time and an important mission, so do think carefully if you can help with this. On our ALL IN 3rd Sundays Chrissy and I take turns to run an activity for younger children on the table by the window. I am looking for a further volunteer to join this particular rota and ease the load. Finally I would pray that the children would continue to enjoy our groups and activities and share their Bible and Christian learning with their parents over Sunday lunch and during the week.

By Pauline Anderson



www.stbgrangepark.org



1st Sunday of each month, 10AM
The Arc Community Hub

Fun Church For Families

STB Wake Up

STB Wake Up is our kids and families service we hold once a month. It is a fantastic opportunity to introduce young people and families to faith. We are really blessed with a great team who work really hard each month to create fun services grounded in Jesus.

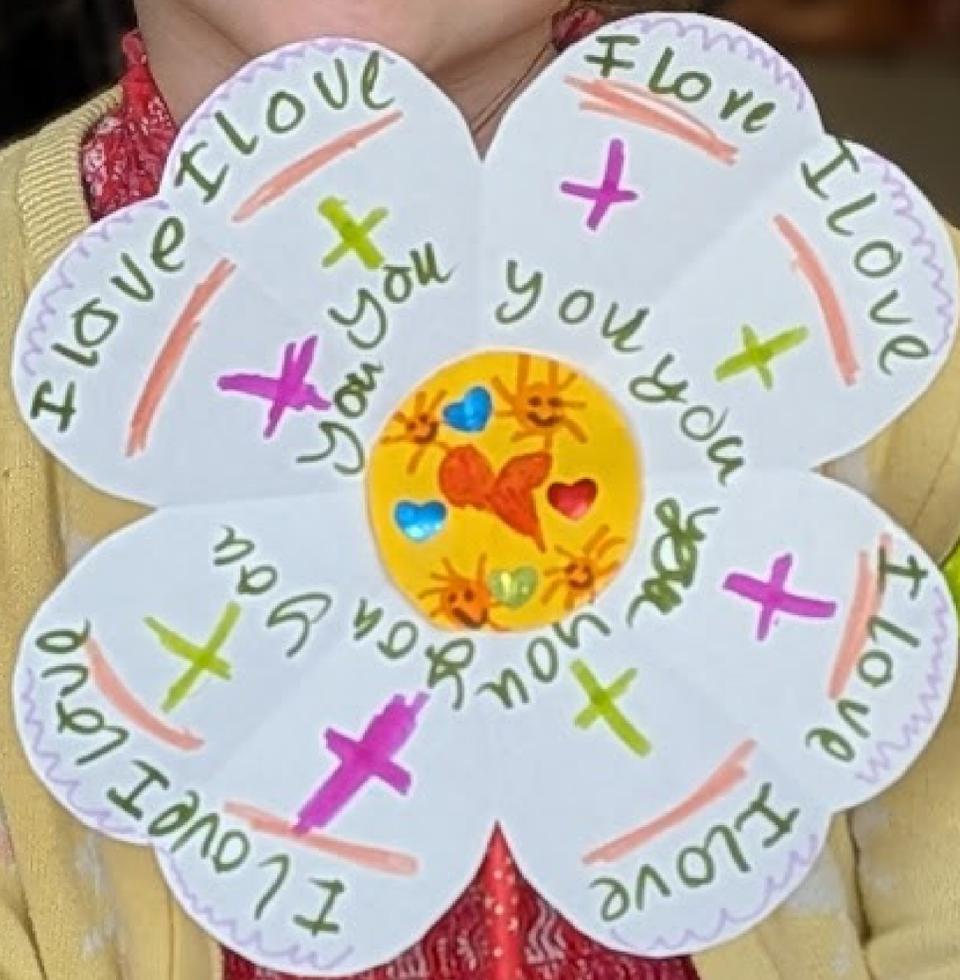
We love welcoming new people into the church and have been going through a series on the Fruits of the Spirit and recently journeying deeper into faith. Each service is centred around a Bible story, often acted out with interactive prayer time and a takeaway craft.

A huge thank you for everyone who helps and supports our kids ministry!

By Tim Whitehead







Proverbs 31:25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; and she laughs without fear of the future.

Safer Recruiting and Safeguarding

Ian Craig is the Safeguarding officer, and Charlotte Falconbridge is the Safer Recruiting lead for STB, Grange Park, Loughborough.

Volunteers/DBS checks:

We endeavour to see that all our youth and children's volunteers follow the Safer Recruitment process, expertly overseen by Charlotte Falconbridge. Part of that process is the DBS review, to ensure all volunteers are thoroughly checked by a highly qualified independent external body.

The role of the Safeguarding officer is to be the named person volunteers and church members would report any disclosures or child protection concerns to. If you are more comfortable talking to a female you can also contact Charlotte.

The role of the Safer Recruitment lead is to ensure the recruitment process for our members of the staff team, and volunteers is followed. If required, the Safeguarding Officer will refer any disclosures or child protection concerns to the Diocese Safeguarding team.

Each November we have a dedicated Safeguarding Sunday. Information for the Safeguarding Officer can be found on the website, information banner visible at every service, and dedicated screen slide used during services.

Importance of Safer Recruiting and Safeguarding:

Safeguarding is regularly discussed at Senior Leadership team meetings, and a safeguarding report is produced for every Trustees meeting. The Safeguarding Dashboard is regularly reviewed by the Trustees to ensure we are up to date with all the requirements of the diocese safeguarding requirements.

Latest position

All safeguarding concerns during 2025 were dealt with in accordance with our Safeguarding policy, and Diocesan advice/support was sought when required.

All our current staff and volunteers working with children and youth have successfully completed the Safer Recruitment process, and all DBS checks are correct and in date. As the DBS certificate is only valid for three years, we are currently going through the process of DBS renewals as and when required. There have also been several new volunteers who have recently completed the Safer Recruitment / DBS process for the first time. We are truly blessed with the time and dedication provided by all of the volunteers at STB.

Please remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Ian Craig and Charlotte Falconbridge



Give to Give Away

As members of STB we give to the church our monthly collection for the furtherance of our Lord's work.

In addition to this STB has decided to further our key giving in Give to Give Away (GTGA) to others by generosity & hope. The Bible in 2 Corinthians 9:7, Acts 20:35 & in Matthew 10:8 reminds us of the heart of a giver. Giving to others is categorised by the themes of cheerfulness, promise and practical action.

Thankyou to all that have participated in any way in GTGA in 2025. In 2026 I would encourage you all to participate in GTGA and when we have a cash collection, please remember to bring some folding notes in your wallet/purse to send to heaven (give to others) ahead of us.

The following month by month is what we the STB congregation freely gave away in 2025:

January: We encouraged each other as we used GTGA to give to each other words (prayers, Bible quotes or general words) of inspiration for 2025.

February: On the 9th we had a visit from Mr Peet, headteacher of Outwoods Edge Primary School as he came to collect new books that we had bought and donated for Key Stage 2 children.

March: STB raised £331.89 for brown envelope give away.

April: STB folk brought in Easter eggs which were then donated to John Storer House & Your Store.

May: We sent the GTGA money of £739 to Tanzania project for Jasper & Mary.

June: We raised £274.60 for the brown envelopes that we give away to someone in need.

July & August: no GTGA

By Paul Anderson



Pastoral Report

For us at STB, building community has always been about more than just Sunday mornings. We take our inspiration from the early church and the model set out in the Acts of the Apostles of sharing life together, not just worship. That means being there for one another in the challenges of life, as well as in the good times, which is what pastoral care is all about.

It has always been our intention that the majority of pastoral care at STB will take place within mid-week communities as this is where the closest relationships can be built and where need can be shared and supported most effectively. There are now a range of different groups who meet with varying degrees of regularity, ranging from weekly, to fortnightly, to monthly, to ad hoc social gatherings.

We now have three midweek communities that each meet fortnightly. The Wednesday evening group meets at Ian & Katherine's house and continues to have a focus on Bible study. In the last year, this group has looked at the book of Ruth in the Old Testament, explored how to become better disciples of Jesus using the resource *Practicing The Way* and returned to studying a book of the Bible, choosing the letter from the apostle James in the New Testament. The evenings provide an opportunity to ask questions and learn from each other, seeking to go deeper in faith whilst navigating the realities of day to day life. There is always time devoted to praying for each other, for the church and for the wider world and it is both humbling and uplifting to see how God answers those prayers.

The Thursday group meet on alternate Thursday evenings see write-up from Debbie.

New in 2025 is the Friday group who meet during the day with a focus on families with young children. It is an opportunity for parents and grandparents to meet and explore how God can enrich relationships within families and strengthen all those involved in the crucial work of raising children. As well as reflection and discussion, there is always a time of supervised play so that adults can pray without distraction. There has been a tangible sense of strengthening bonds and learning from each other and we are delighted to see this new group flourishing.

Further additions to our midweek communities are the two prayer groups that meet weekly, one on Zoom early each Monday morning and one in person each Wednesday lunchtime. These are times to simply pray for the life of our church, as well as wider issues and have proved a fantastic enriching of our life as a community seeking to encounter Jesus and see lives transformed.

Pastoral Report (continued)

The Wellbeing Group continues to meet monthly and more details are shared in a separate report. There is also a Men's Social Group, a Women's Social Group and the STB Walking Group who meet to walk, chat and share tea and cake on the first Saturday of each month. All of these groups provide further sources of connection, friendship and pastoral support. If you are not yet connected to any of these important communities, please consider whether one or more may be right for you - we would love to see all who count STB as their church feeling connected through one of our groups beyond Sunday gatherings and if that means having to offer more groups, that's a challenge we'd love to rise to!

The WhatsApp prayer circle consists of 10 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 2025, we have continued to see some amazing answers to prayer and we faithfully expect to see more in the coming year. If you have a pastoral concern or a prayer request, please contact me and I will liaise with you to ensure that prayer requests are passed on.

We also look to provide practical support whenever we can. Sometimes, that may mean someone to talk to, but there are times in each of our lives when some practical help is welcome. In 2025 we continued to offer meals rotas for those in our community facing situations where having one less thing to think about for a couple of weeks was a source of blessing and I continue to see this as a core strand of our pastoral care as we move into 2026.

My prayer this time last year was that we would see more new members of our church, that people would feel more connected, despite larger numbers, and that all would go deeper in their relationships with each other and with God. I see God working to fulfil that each week and pray that He will continue to bless this area of our church life in 2026.

By Katherine Craig





Thursday Midweek Group

The focus of our group is to create a Christ-centred space of prayer, openness, and loving accountability where lives are transformed and faith grows

Our meetings take place every other Thursday from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. We begin by sharing a meal—a chance to come together much like the disciples did, enjoying food and each other's company. This is an ideal time for casual conversation and to offer mutual support. We then transition to another room to spend time in devotion.

A group member selects a song and shares its personal significance. We listen together and discuss how it affects us and what it reveals about our spiritual journey. Then, someone else introduces a Bible verse connected to prayer, explains their reason for choosing it, and we reflect as a group on its past, present, and potential future impact on our walk with God.

Every meeting ends with a time of prayer. We pray in 2s or 3s specifically for issues relating to ourselves. These are then shared on our group WhatsApp and members are encouraged to pray for at least one person within the group every day.

When preparing this report, we wanted to get a feel for how the group might be helping each of us to draw closer to God. These were the key highlights:

- Prayer and spiritual encouragement
- Authentic relationships and safe sharing spaces
- Strong fellowship and sense of belonging
- Shared learning and spiritual wisdom
- Relational connection through social interaction
- Emotional and practical support
- Loving accountability within the church community

This group is facilitated by Claire Dyson and Debbie Wilson. For further information, please feel free to chat to us at Church or send us a message.

Wellbeing Group

The focus of our group is to nurture wellbeing and faith side by side, creating a confidential and encouraging space where each person is valued as God values them.

Wellbeing group meets once a month on a Tuesday evening between 7.30-9.00pm. We are currently using a resource called A-Z of Wellbeing, (finding your personal toolkit for peace and wholeness), by Ruth Rice. Ruth is a Christian who has developed a Wellbeing centre within her Church and supported others in doing the same.

Each session begins with a brief activity to help us reflect on our current state and connect with one another. Afterwards, we dive into the month's topic, such as Compassion. Occasionally, we engage in creative exercises, though no special artistic skills are needed.

The focus of our discussions is always on how our Christian faith can help support our wellbeing. Everyone is free to share as much or as little as they feel comfortable with, without fear of judgment. Each evening concludes with a time of shared prayer. This has helped us feel more connected throughout the month, especially on Sunday mornings when we check in with each other to see how everyone is doing.

When preparing this report, we wondered how this group might be supporting people in nurturing their wellbeing and faith side by side. These were the key highlights:

- **Safe & Sacred Space:** A welcoming spot where everyone feels comfortable, accepted, and spiritually cared for.
- **Wholehearted Faith:** Encouraging each other to be real with God—sharing ups, downs, questions, and things we're thankful for.
- **Prayerful Presence:** Setting aside time to pause, reflect, and pray together so we can connect with God.
- **Authentic Community:** Building genuine friendships and cheering each other on so we all feel stronger.
- **Reflective Growth:** Having honest chats about faith and supporting each other as we grow.
- **Peace & Restoration:** Finding God's peace and renewal together, which can be tough to do on our own.

This group is facilitated by Claire Dyson and Debbie Wilson. For further information, please feel free to chat to us at Church or send us a message.



Walking Group

This is a welcoming 5-mile community walk supporting wellbeing, friendship, and gentle faith-based encouragement.

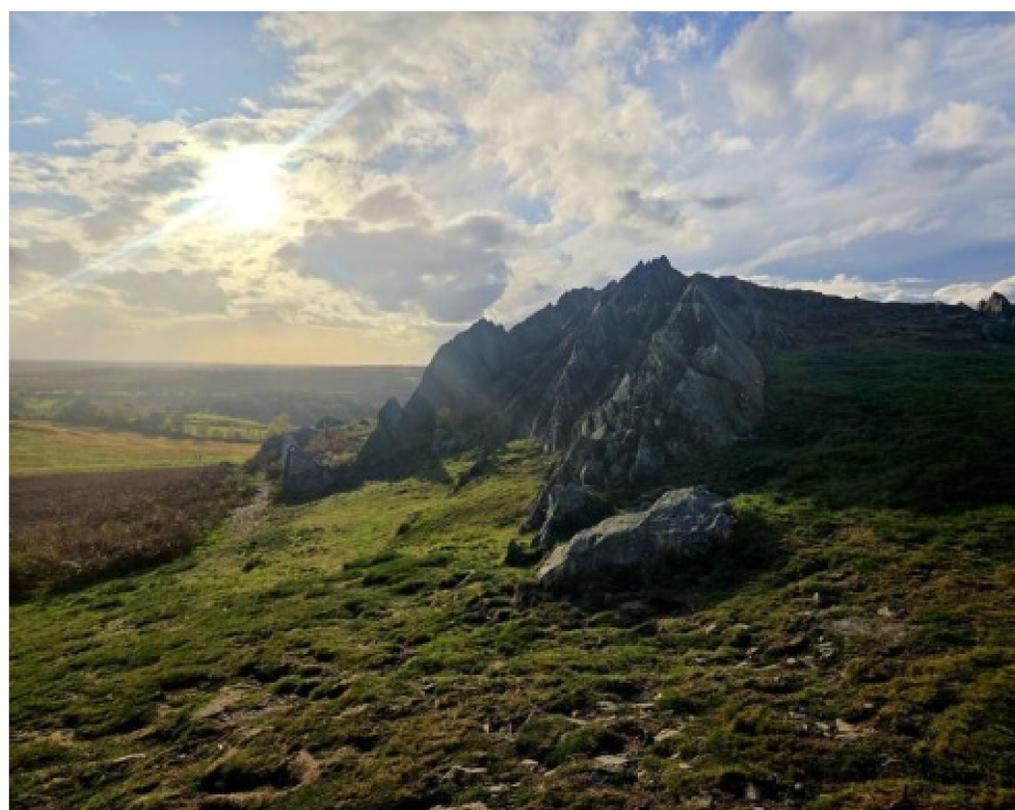
Walking group meets on a Saturday once a month. This is usually the first Saturday of the month. We meet at the Arc Community Centre at 1.30pm.

This group is a lovely mixture of people from various Churches or none who enjoy gentle walks in the beautiful Leicestershire countryside. Each walk is approximately 5 miles, and we always incorporate a stop for cake, drinks and lots of chat. Places we have walked around include Charnwood water, Beacon hill, Bradgate park, Great Central railway, Swithland and the Granite café at Mountsorrel.

We are hoping to do an additional walk further afield before the summer. We will head into the Peak District where there are a number of very special walks that still aren't too far or too strenuous.

We always welcome new people. It's a great opportunity to get to know one another better, and a space for informal spiritual conversations if people wish. We see the group as important in its own right, as well as sometimes being a stepping stone into the Wellbeing or other STB groups.

This group is facilitated by Claire Dyson and Debbie Wilson. For further information, please feel free to chat to us at Church or send us a message.



Christ is risen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



STB Grant Fund

The STB Grant Fund is our Church initiative launched on Sunday 30th June 2024 using the amount of general tithed money set aside to be used in supporting local missional and Kingdom-focused projects. It is an online application and located on the STB website and advertised through e-news.

Throughout 2025, Emily, Paul Anderson and myself as Committee of the Fund have had the opportunity and blessing to connect with, pray for and financially support four very different projects on your behalf.

These were:

- The Community Allotment Project based on the Braunstone Estate on the outskirts of Leicester.
- The Charnwood Listeners.
- Cameron Benoy's trip with SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad) to Western Uganda as part of his ordination training.
- Tim's Race around the Bible - Childrens game and teaching resource

The reports that we have received back are so encouraging. Please do read them and be blessed and celebrate all that God has done and continues to do through the generosity of each one of you as our Church family. Thank you all so much.

We look forward to receiving further applications in 2026 and pray that we will know God's heart and His leading.

(reports are in the appendix)

By Shirley Whitlock.





Summer

abundance

Men's Group

2025 was a fantastic and memorable year for the men's group. The group exists to create a welcoming space where men can come together, talk openly about their faith, encourage one another, and build genuine friendships. It has been wonderful to see the group grow closer through both meaningful conversations and time spent simply enjoying each other's company.

Throughout the year we shared many great moments together. Some of the highlights included our walks to the pub for chicken wings, which always brought plenty of laughter and good conversation. We also enjoyed trips to the cinema, giving us the chance to relax and spend time together outside of our regular meetings. One of the standout moments of the year was our Christmas meal at the curry house, where we celebrated the end of the year with great food and even better company.

Beyond the activities themselves, what truly makes the group special is the sense of brotherhood that continues to grow among us. It's encouraging to see friendships deepen and faith strengthened as we support and learn from one another.

As we look ahead, we pray that these friendships continue to grow stronger and that the group continues to expand, welcoming more members who are looking for community, encouragement, and a place to grow in faith together.

By Chris Martin



Streets of Light

Streets of Light is a national festival which takes place at the end of October each year. It offers an alternative message of light, hope and love at a time when Halloween is celebrated. 2025 was the 6th year that STB has joined in, and it continues to grow and reach more and more people. During the last week of October, houses take part by putting up beautiful window decorations that spread joy to the outside world on those early dark nights! One evening, we take the children on the trail to spot windows and then collect sweets for every window they see! Postcodes that take part are marked with a lightbulb on a national interactive map, and this year was by far the biggest year so far, as a wave of light spreads across the UK and beyond. It is wonderful that our church can be part of this beautiful project! On the night of Halloween, we do a big giveaway of hot chocolates, sweets and gifts in two locations. In 2025, we gave out hundreds of hot chocolates and connected with over one thousand people.

It is such a wonderful opportunity to bless and serve those in our community. We love to be present on the night of Halloween but offer something distinctly different, with warmth, welcome and hot chocolate! We love to chat with, bless and feed hundreds of people, and we always receive such positive feedback from the community too. We are so grateful for all those who join in the crafting side and also those who help with the giveaway!

We are already looking forward to what Streets of Light 2026 has in store! We pray it will continue to grow and be a blessing to our local community. And that those who come across the project will see something of the light, hope and love of Jesus.

By Ben Gardner







Loughborough Resourcing Church Partnership

Over the past year, the whole of the Resource Project has had a major reset. As part of the Reset, it was discerned that we, as the LRCP, should focus on the Beacon Academy School with a greater degree of intentionality as well as resources. Since September, a group of around 8-10 of us have met in the Beacon Academy School to pray, worship and discern where God is leading us. We have trialled the 3-2-1 Course [a Christian Basics Course], which we hope to launch later in the new year. We are also looking at governance structures, including a steering group. The focus of this new plant will be serving the local community, building relationships, as well as becoming a worshipping community. The next question is “Where Next?”

By Revd Michael Broadley



STB Media

2025 was a big year for social media at STB with the launch of the new website! This was done as part of the redesign of STB's branding. Other highlights included designing the new look E-News and increasing the social media presence for the church, especially around Wake Up.

It has been a true honour to capture so many powerful moments and witness the incredible ways God is transforming lives among us. I pray that STB continues to grow and flourish, and that our faith and community become even stronger throughout 2026.

By Tori Martin



STB Finance

Giving from the Heart

Thank you to everyone who gives so generously to STB. Your faithful giving enables us to meet the day-to-day operating costs of running our church and supporting our ministry and we have seen a steady increase in our giving in 2025 once again. Thank you!

What your giving supports

Your contributions help fund the following areas of church life:

- Gatherings and Worship – enabling our regular services and times of worship
- Discipleship – encouraging and developing disciples, including hospitality
- Staffing – employment and team development costs
- Office and Administration – essential administrative support
- Parish Contribution – our contribution to Leicester Diocese ministry costs
We benefit significantly from the Resourcing Church Programme, which covers our direct ministry costs
- Giving to Others – setting aside a tithe of our income to support others and wider projects

Around half of our total budget is spent on staffing costs (excluding clergy stipends).

We also give away at least 25% of all STB funds to others and to the Parish (generosity costs), living out our core value of generosity.

The average cost per service over a 42 week period is on average £1,203 (excluding our generosity costs for the year) and £1,587 if we include our 25% generosity cost.

Budget and giving update

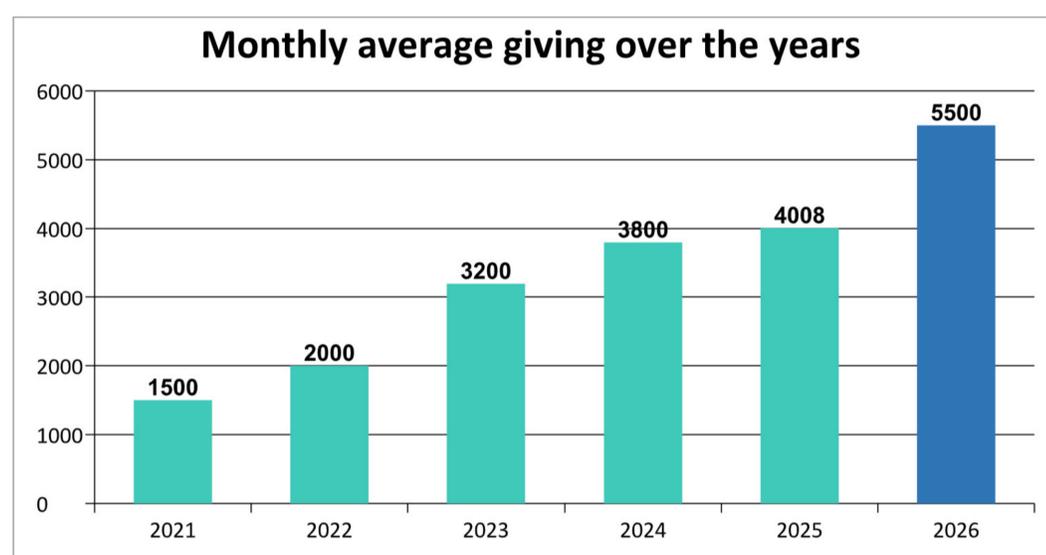
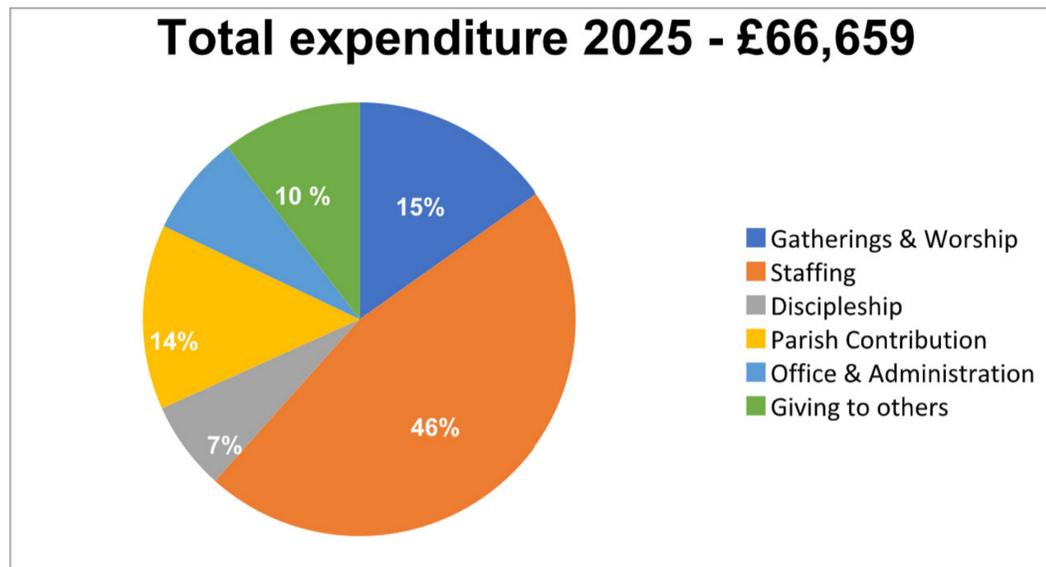
Our budget for 2026 is broadly in line with 2025 spending. We have been careful in making commitments while ensuring the church continues to function well.

We have been greatly encouraged to see giving increase steadily year on year. Regular monthly giving has grown from £1,500 per month at the end of 2021, to around £4000 in 2025. We cannot be more grateful to all our regular givers.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued generosity and support. We look forward to encountering Jesus in 2026, continuously building community and seeing transformation in Grange Park and beyond!

STB Finance



Through this time we've also benefited from start-up grants that we have used to balance the books year-on-year. As of 2024 we spent out those grants and now substantially stand on our own to cover our operating costs – we still benefit hugely from the resourcing church program meeting most of our ministry costs.

In 2026 then we need to make another step in giving to be able to fully cover our operating costs. The £4,000 regular giving per month needs to rise to £5,500 in order for us to break even on our own (without using our star up grants).

A £1,500 per month increase is about £44 per month or £0.85 per week over, across each of our 34 regular givers which we know it not possible for everyone. We ask you to stand with us in prayer and, if you are able, to prayerfully consider giving to the life of STB, helping us to continue planting and growing the church together.

We are faithfully trusting God to exceed our expectations for 2026! Can you help us do that?



Trustees

As trustees we provide oversight and accountability for safeguarding, supporting leaders and creating a financially sustainable future for our church.

This year Tim Whitehead was voted on as Vice-Chair and it has been great to welcome a couple of new trustees; Phil Densham, who is known to many of us in the congregation as well as Lisa Collins who is our critical friend from Emmanuel. The trustees consists of:

- Rev. Benjamin Gardner (Chair)
- Timothy Whitehead (Vice-Chair)
- Lisa Collins
- Phil Densham
- Chris Martin
- Paul Oxbrough
- Claire Rowles

We meet regularly to pray and provide oversight of the church and reporting to the Charity Commission.

Financial Sustainability: As seen in the financial report, we have been encouraged by the significant generosity of our congregation and the growth in giving year on year. A huge thank you for all those who give - this enables so much of the work we do!

Policies: We regularly update and review our policies to ensure we are working to best practice. All of our policies can be seen on our website and we continue to follow and develop these as we learn and grow.

This year we have seen a further development of **Minster Communities**. In simple terms this is a part restructuring of the local diocese. We have been creating a proposal with churches in Thorpe Acre, Rothley, Mountsorrel, Cossington, Emmanuel. As a group we have a shared theology, vision and values. The proposed grouping, known as a Minster Community, will mean that we can work more closely together, support each other and focus on church planting and discipleship.

We are excited to see how this develops and how we can reach more people for the gospel. If you would like more information, please chat to Tim Whitehead or Ben Gardner.

Cameron Benoy
31 Lorraine Road
Leicester, LE2 8ES
15th July 2025

Dear STB Grant Fund

I am writing to you to express my deepest thanks and gratitude for the way in which you partnered with me and SOMA UK in order that our small team could engage in ministry and mission to Liwolo Diocese in South Sudan. The Diocese of Liwolo also send their gratitude and greetings to you.

Having been invited by +Joseph and his leadership team, we were preaching and ministering to 200+ of his gathered leaders for their Diocesan Leadership Conference, which included about 40-50 clergy, young leaders, youth workers and a contingent from the Mother's Union. We were blessed to also receive a visit from the Commissioner, the Army Commander, the Police Captain and many of their travelling party who also came to sit under the teaching we were bringing. Outside of the conference, we were also privileged to visit local business projects, hospitals, schools, and different churches where we continued to preach, pray and minister (as was appropriate) across different archdeaconries.

Throughout our time we saw many, many people accepting the salvation of Jesus, receiving miraculous physical healing, turning away from the practice of witchcraft and witchdoctors, and also being able to hear God personally speaking to them for the first time. All of this coupled with an incredible response to a message about repentance and reconciliation was a joy to behold. It was deeply moving to see multitudes step into forgiveness, considering that they were releasing previously held unforgiveness for people who had murdered their family members, made their villages unsafe and caused them to flee to refugee camps. And yet +Joseph and his team report that it is a common occurrence for people to cross the border into their Diocese (now that they are returning from the refugee camps) to find themselves confessing their sins and Jesus' salvation before they even know why!

In summary, the good news of God's kingdom was present in both proclamation and demonstration, and leaders are now equipped to serve their people differently and to teach them to do likewise. Your generous giving has partly enabled all of this to happen, so thank you. If you would like to hear more from this SOMA mission, then these short blog posts detail more of what we got up to:

- 1) <https://somauk.org/stories/when-god-says-yes-last-minute>
- 2) <https://somauk.org/stories/liwolo2025>
- 3) <https://somauk.org/stories/liwolo2>
- 4) <https://somauk.org/stories/liwolo3>
- 5) <https://somauk.org/stories/what-is-it-like-being-on-team-with-soma>

With every blessing,
Cameron

Charnwood Listeners Report, for STB AGM, March 2026

We were immensely grateful to receive the £500 grant for 'Growing the work of Charnwood Listeners' which has given us real confidence to push forward for growth.

The Helen Jean Cope room in the ARC is perfect for Listening and the facilities in the training room are excellent. Both have already been used for these purposes with enthusiasm and success.

We've worked on updating our accounts, policies and procedures for our team before using the rooms for clients, and the staff at the ARC have been most helpful and accommodating. Not all referrals we receive are suitable for listening but recurring themes why people access our service are due to bereavement, anxiety, identity and loss, relationships etc. One client has fed back:

"The sessions were incredibly helpful at helping me to organise what was going on in my head and hearing it back and the questions asked really helped me to recognise and amend my own issues. The sessions were professional and eye opening"

We've invested a lot of time in promoting our listening service through securing slots in church services, circulating a promotional video via the LCP, and attending a LCP breakfast for church leaders as well as distributing our leaflets, cards and posters.

This has seen a tangible increase in demand for our service both from within the churches and the town wide community, mainly via NHS Social Prescribers. We have also been approached to deliver training for our local Street Pastors. This has resulted in the need to recruit and train new listeners to our team. Work is already well underway on both of these and we plan to deliver training later this year at the ARC and a Street Pastors venue.

In the coming year, we hope to have new training written, new trainers on board, and a group of enthusiastic new Listener recruits finding clients, as more people get to realise the value of our service.

Our work, and our reach, are definitely growing, though perhaps not quite as we had envisaged. The grant has been a powerful aid in moving forward in these early steps of growth. Thank you.

11th February 2026

Jancis Barlow, Sarah Reed, Helen Lowe

Report to STB Church from The Community Allotment, February 2026.

Dear members of STB church, thank you so very much for your wonderful spirit of generosity.

My Project, The Community Allotment, based on the Braunstone estate on the outskirts of Leicester, was awarded a £500 grant in 2025. Through the grant, we were able to purchase a much needed green house, lots of tools and gloves, seeds and compost.

The project began in September 2024, with 2 members, one of which was me! At the time of writing, we now have 10 members.

The group is run as an open and inclusive space for those on the margins of Christian faith and society. We meet twice weekly, and at one meeting we have a nature based Christian reflection. All who have joined us enjoy this part of the gathering, and have come to find some sense of Jesus in each other and the earth. This has led some to take part in the 'Wonderful Walks in Western Park' and other church events and services connected to St. Anne's, Leicester.

Our members are culturally diverse, coming from places such as Hong Kong, Iran, Brazil, Russia and the UK. Three of our members are asylum seekers or refugees. Until recently we had a 'looked after child' with her foster mum, she now goes to school. The food that we have grown has been shared with the local foodbank and amongst group members, especially those with most need.

Last year we also had several visits from pupils at the local primary school, who on one occasion participated in the diocesan young people's listening exercise on environmental care.

I hope you have enjoyed hearing how much has been enabled through your church's generosity.

With many thanks once again, and God's blessing,

Rev. Sharon Plant, on behalf of The Community Allotment.

(Assistant Curate, St. Anne and St. Paul with St. Augustine, Leicester).

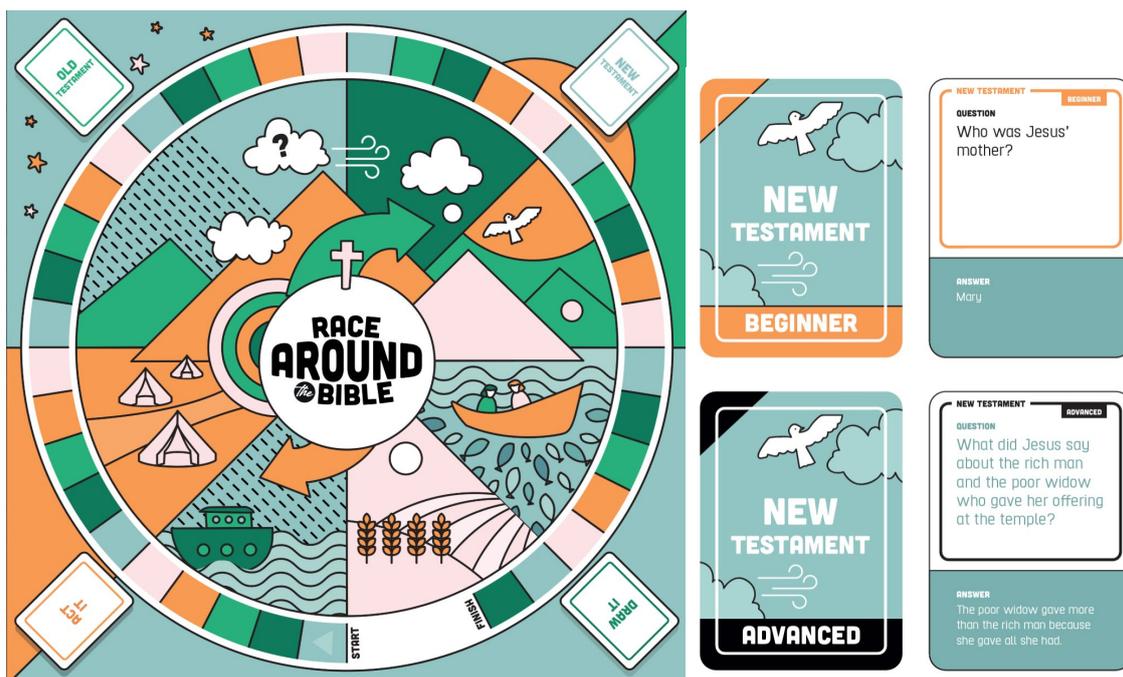
STB Grant Fund – Race around the Bible

The Race Around the Bible game is a kids learning resource developed as part of the older group. This is a team game in which the children answer questions on the Old / New Testament, draw or act parts of the Bible to score points and move around the board.

I created a quick prototype to test with the kids during the group's sessions, which went really well and really helped to explore areas of faith.



I then developed the board artwork along with question set.



We are soon going to be in a position to use the grant fund to print a full version of the game which will we test again and use as part of the kids' groups and look to develop into an actual board game for other churches and Christian families.

We look forward to sharing the finished product soon.

Tim Whitehead



Charity No. 1195102