

26TH MARCH 2023
ST BARNABAS GRANGE PARK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 23



LOOKING BACK / LOOKING FORWARD

Welcome to our annual general meeting as we look back and look forward to all that God has done and will do through our church community.

Our vision is:

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 2022, hear stories from our church community, receive a financial report, formally welcome our trustees and pray.

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 2022.

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

2022 has been a year of growth, as we have continued to welcome new people to our church community and deepen our discipleship in Jesus Christ. I can't wait to see what God does in and through us during 2023. Here are some of my highlights from 2022:

- **Tanzania** - it was such a privilege to visit the Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro with Claire Rowles and Paul Oxbrough in May 2022. Seeing church planting in another context was inspiring and reminded me that God's plans are always bigger than ours and that all we need to plant is faith and a willingness to go.
- **New Wine Summer Conference** - this was a fantastic opportunity to deepen relationships within our church community and receive some great teaching. I can't wait for this year's Summer Conference!
- **Loughborough Streets of Light** - it was incredible to connect with around 500 people (adults and kids) from the estate during the evening of Halloween. What impressed me the most was that we were distinctively different to all that was going on that evening and people noticed.
- **STB Kids 'Wake Up' Gathering** - Wake Up continues to gain momentum and connect with those on the fringes of church and Christianity. I really believe that we are going to see more baptisms as a result of the amazing ministry of Wake Up.
- **Evening Gathering** - I am really pleased that the evening gathering has finally found its unique style in creating a space to pause and receive. Numbers have grown during 2022 and I sense that this space will be important for meeting and encountering the Holy Spirit.
- **Carol Service** - despite the Arctic conditions it was great to welcome the local community, sing some carols and eat lots of mince pies!
- **Community Acts of Remembrance** - 2022 has been a significant year for the world as we watched in horror the war in Ukraine unfold and grieved the loss of our Queen. It was therefore important that we created a space for people to respond and I am grateful for all those who made these acts of remembrance happen. It's so important to connect with our local community.

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 about our vision.

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 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 2022 we have covered a wide range of topics such as Amazed By Jesus, Summer Psalms, Our Values, Broken Signposts, and 1 John. As well as observing Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas, which are parts of our yearly rhythm.

We have also seen growth in our worshipping community and average Sunday attendance, which is something that we should give thanks for, as this is not the norm in our culture.

I would like to thank all those who make Sundays happen, without you Sunday Gatherings would not be able to take place. Thank you.

Average Sunday Attendance

	2019	2020	2021	2022
10AM	36	45(Jan-Mar)	54(Aug-Dec)	65
Wake Up	0	60 (online)	40	42
Evening Gathering	0	12	12	18
Online Views	0	60	50	24**

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Online Views				
(all STB Content - Sundays, Lent Reflections, etc)	0	5,341	4,300	3,003

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Worshipping Community				
(those who are regularly* attending STB)	35	63	63	95

* Attend at least once a month

** Estimated based on number of devices

STB KIDS

By Chrissy Whitehead

There's been a big change in STB kids with Charlotte stepping down as STB kids Pastor. Chrissy Whitehead, Pauline Anderson and Helen Gardner have now formed a STB kids leadership team. The legacy left though is a thriving, growing and wonderful group of children.

We have two groups roughly split into ages 0-7 and 7-14. We have been following a New Wine series and have just moved onto a 6-week series on the book "The garden, the curtain and the cross".

Our youth is slowly emerging, and they are lovely group of young people. We have engaged with Townwide youth events and pointed to other local youth offerings.

STB kids have also got involved in local community events including a scarecrow competition, where we made Joseph and his colourful cloak. We made Christingles at the Arc Christmas community event and did a litter pick led by the children around the estate.

There are challenges with the wide age range in both groups. The hope would be that we have enough leaders to cater well for all ages. Space is sometimes an issue with our growing numbers (a nice problem to have). We have a brilliant team of leaders and helpers and it's exciting to be part of this wonderful ministry - helping children learn more about and connect with Jesus.



WAKE UP

By Chrissy Whitehead

Wake up is our monthly morning gathering, aimed at young families with little or no church connections. They have gained momentum, with new families turning up each month. The last one we had over 30 children. They are fun, energetic and creative, with action songs, games and crafts. We always try to have a bit of a 'wow factor' such as a confetti explosion, a giant sunflower that grows, an overflowing champagne glass tower...

The team has grown and it's great to have new ideas and input. It was sad to see Charlotte step down, but lovely to hear her say Wake ups are just as she pictured they would be. We've had some great feedback including the simplicity of the messages. My favourite is when someone described it as 'Fun church'.

It's accessible, easy to invite your friends to and hopefully an entry point to other church activities. I'm excited to see it growing and feeding into things like Alpha courses or just the other Sunday gatherings.





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 an important element of our pastoral care system. The team consists of 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, and to pray for them regularly. This year, as we grew in number as a church, we put out an appeal for more people to come forward and support this mission and the team now comprises 16 people, an increase of 5 over the previous year. 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 more mid-week communities are established, (see below), the Pastoral Contact Team remains an important means of ensuring that we are still connecting regularly with those who are perhaps more on the fringes of our church. The pastoral care of the team is very important and is overseen by me as the Pastoral Coordinator. In November 2022 we had our latest get together to examine what pastoral care is about and to pray with and for each other and similar events will continue to be arranged at regular intervals in the coming year.

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 2022, we have continued to see 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 2022 we have supported those who have had new babies, as well as those who have had periods out of action following illness or surgery and as ever, this has been so well received. We continue to be alert to 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 2023.

Mid-week Communities

It has always been our intention that the majority of pastoral care will take place within mid-week communities and I am delighted that following the establishment of our first group during 2022, a second group emerged during the summer of 2022 that eventually became a Ladies' Alpha Course. This group now continues to meet regularly and there is some amazing pastoral care taking place among the members of that group. At the time of writing, a third group, a Men's Alpha Course, is just starting up and it is my prayer that this will also become firmly established and continue to grow in 2023. In addition, a Men's Social Group has been set up through WhatsApp and is another important source of pastoral contact and support. Again, at the time of writing, a women's group is beginning to emerge who meet for walks periodically and I look forward to seeing how this will develop and grow over the coming year.

Conclusion

2022 was a year of real growth for STB, in numbers of people, but also in terms of depth of relationships. It has been really encouraging to widen the team involved in pastoral care and to see the great work being done in the communities that are beginning to be established, outside of Sunday gatherings. My prayer for 2023 is that this will continue, that people will feel more connected, despite larger numbers, and that all will go deeper in their relationships with each other and with God.

OPERATION MANAGERS REPORT

By Jason Rowles

Sunday Gatherings

One of my responsibilities as Ops Manager at STB is to ensure that all of our gatherings can happen, and the fact that we are a 'pop-up Church' means we have to heavily rely on 'team'. Every single week I'm blown away by the amount of time people give and the amount of bodies it actually takes for us to put on a Sunday gathering. We simply couldn't do what we do without you, so thank you!

2022 was most definitely a year of growth which is fantastic. But as we grow, we also discovered that we need more space, to put more chairs out, to serve more refreshments, to accommodate larger kids groups, more time after our gatherings for people to chat and pray for each other.

We also needed to store more kit at The Arc where space is already tight. Fortunately, we have a really strong relationship with The Arc and they were happy for us to install an outside lockable unit for some extra storage.

We finally got our contactless payment machine to make it easy for people to make one off donations to support the work of STB and this is now set up for every 10am gathering.

We continue to live stream most of our gatherings (we are still learning about tech all the time!) and I know that there are many people who either watch live when they can't be there in person, or catch up later in the week.

As I look forward to 2023 I already know that one of my biggest challenges is to grow our teams so we can as a Church, continue to serve our gatherings well, as they grow in number, so this is my hope and prayer!

Seasonal Socials

These are such valuable times that we spend together as a Church community and also a great opportunity for us to invite friends or family who don't come to Church. Our Autumn social was really popular again in 2022, as we set up an outdoor cinema for the kids and served hot dogs, drinks and treats to all who came. A really lovely time to chat and catch up around the fire pits.

We also had a few summer socials during our time of abiding and we're really grateful to those who hosted these.

In 2023 we are already planning a spring social which could also become a regular in the diary.



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.

Safeguarding Officer

Ian Craig is the Safeguarding Officer for St. Barnabas Church, Grange Park, Loughborough, and has been in this position since September 2019 when the church was planted.

The role of the Safeguarding Officer is to be the named person to whom volunteers and church members would report any disclosures or child protection concerns.

If required, the Safeguarding Officer will refer any disclosures or child protection concerns to the Diocese.

The role is regularly communicated within the church to ensure church members are aware of who they should approach with any concerns. Information on the Safeguarding Officer can be found on the website, information banners are visible at every service, and slides are shown during live streaming of services.

Safeguarding Sunday

20 November 2022 was Safeguarding Sunday. This was marked in our gathering by showing a video highlighting the importance of safeguarding and the fact that it is everyone's responsibility. There was also an interview with the Safeguarding Officer, giving further explanation of our approach towards safeguarding at STB and resources from the Diocese of Leicester were used to help children engage with this important topic.

As a leadership we encourage all members of the STB community to complete the 'Safeguarding Basic Awareness Training' session. As the name suggests, the course provides a basic knowledge of safeguarding in order to keep people safe in the church community, as members of STB. The course is completed online using the Church of England Safeguarding Portal, and can be completed in your own time.

For volunteers working with children and/or vulnerable adults we request that the 'Safeguarding Foundation Training' be completed.

The courses can be accessed via the 'Diocese of Leicester' Website at <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/training-and-events>.

Volunteers/DBS checks

All volunteers working with the youth and kids team have a DBS check prior to undertaking their role. DBS checks are renewed every five years.

There are currently seven volunteers working with youth and kids who have been DBS checked.

There are currently two volunteers for youth and kids work, whose DBS check is being processed.

In addition to youth and kids work, all Trustees are required to be DBS checked, and there are currently two recently appointed STB Trustees whose checks are under way.

Disclosures

There have been three instances of disclosure to the STB Safeguarding team since the last AGM.

Two instances were reviewed internally, and no advice was sought with the Diocese Safeguarding team, but details have been securely recorded.

One instance was reported to the Diocese, but no further action was taken, again details have been securely recorded.

Conclusion

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Acting on your concerns or seeking advice is rarely a bad idea. People often question 'What if I'm wrong' but we have to also ask ourselves 'what if I'm right'. We can't assume that someone else has seen what we may have seen or will pass on concerns. I am always willing to be asked for advice around any concerns.:



GENEROUS CHURCH

By Claire Rowles

The amazing generosity of God through everyone involved in the life of STB has continued to go from strength to strength 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 the wonderful donations made that enabled us to bring joy to the faces of children in Tanzania. Also we have continued our support of the OPAL project with Outwoods Edge Primary School in a contribution towards building their new SEN hub. Your incredible donations to 'Give to Give Away' have played a critical role in supporting 'Your Store' and providing a weekly shop for the many families that visit on a weekly basis. We also went back to old school cash envelopes on a couple of 'Give to Give Away' Sunday's this year and it is always really encouraging to hear the personal stories of where these envelopes end up and how God's love and generosity is shown in this physical act of giving. This physical act of giving and particularly 'Give to Give Away' embraces so much of the heart of STB, I am excited to see how this continues to develop in 2023.

In January we held our second 'Generosity Sunday', this was a fantastic opportunity for us to hear the STB story of giving and generosity over the last three years. We are blessed that generosity is lived out in all we do and want to 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 2023 and beyond. If you haven't already returned your pledge cards, then please do so as these will really help in building our teams and plans for the coming year.

As I step down as Generosity Champion, I want to thank everyone for the way that all elements of generosity have been embraced with so much energy and enthusiasm in the last few years and I pray that this trajectory continues upwards so STB can continue to bless the Grange Park community and beyond.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Stephen Adshead

The financial reporting period is from when STB was established as a charity in July 2021 to end of 2022. This includes the transition of banking arrangements from Emmanuel accounts to STB's own bank account which was first available in May 2022.

General fund donations for the reporting period are £35,602 plus £7,580 associated gift aid. For the calendar year of 2022, donations were £26,733 with gift aid of £5,973. Gift aid has been claimed where possible and represents 22% of donations. Donations income has grown steadily from approximately £1,500 per month from 12 named donor to approximately £2,500 per month from over 20 named donors.

Thanks to everyone who gives so generously to the church!

Significant expenditure items are staffing, gathering and worship costs. Total general fund expenditure was £70,495 and total income was £70,672 including grant funding of £27,490 from start-up and continuing SDF grants.

Trustees have agreed a budget for 2023 with an in-year deficit of £12,000, which reduces to £4,000 after applying the residual of our start-up grant. Trustees seek to raise income in by approximately £4,000 to cover the anticipated deficit in 2023 and then set a balanced budget in 2024.

Generosity Sunday

29th Jan / 10AM



STREETS OF LIGHT

By Helen Gardner

The last week in October is a time when some people celebrate Halloween. However, instead of celebrating dark scary things, we like to get creative and celebrate Jesus' light, hope and love. We encouraged households to make window decorations that brighten up those autumn evenings for people walking past on the street. We had some incredibly beautiful designs this year.

One evening, a group went round following the window trail. The children collected a sweet for each window they spotted that was decorated for LSOL and we had a great time.

On the night of Halloween each year we have a big giveaway of hot chocolate, s'mores, sweets and glow sticks. This year it was pouring with rain, but that did not put people off going outside! We were able to bless between 400-500 people that evening and received lots of positive comments from the community. We are looking forward to LSOL 2023 already!





YOUR STORE

By Paul Chung

Shelthorpe Your Store is a pop-up shop hosted at the Good Shepherd Church Hall every Saturday from 11am to 12noon. The shop has been running since November 2021. The items for sale come from John Storer House (JSH) and donations. JSH has a permanent Your Store in their building and it is funded by the Charnwood Borough Council.

Residents in the Shelthorpe area who are struggling financially can become a member of Shelthorpe Your Store. Every time they come, they pay a flat fee of £3, which gives them a shop of fresh produce, meat, dairy products, tins, and other essentials. Over the past 12 months (Mar 2022 to Feb 2023) the average number of people/families coming to Shelthorpe Your Store every Saturday is a modest increase from last year.

We thank God for the work of Shelthorpe Your Store which alleviates in a small way the financial worries of some local residents and it provides a safe environment for them to socialise. We also want to thank volunteers from the Good Shepherd Church and STB who make it all possible.

The immediate future of Shelthorpe Your Store beyond March 2023 is to continue in its present form. May the good work continue.



MEN'S GROUP

By Chris Martin

During the latter part of 2022, the STB Men's group was created, with the goal in mind to have a space to talk about faith and form new friendships.

A few social activities that have been done so far have included local runs and cycles, meals out and a very wet trip to the pub!

The highlight has been seeing the group formed and the joy and friendships that it has brought us, although the Christmas meal trip to Nando's is a close second.

The hope for 2023 is that the group continues to expand - there is a planned Alpha Course due soon and we pray that God blesses us with much fun and laughter throughout the year, as we continue our journey with Christ.



LADIES ALPHA

By Chrissy Whitehead

Last summer we organised a baby blessing for a lovely mum to be. The idea was to get together, eat lots of puddings, play a few games and pray for mum and baby. When we began praying there was a real sense of God's presence and it was a very powerful time. We ended up praying for lots of different things and I think everyone went home with a sense that God had touched their lives. This seemed to form a bond with this particular group of ladies and we decided to keep meeting and do an Alpha Course together.

About 12 of us met on Thursday evenings to watch the Alpha videos over tea and cake. We had some wonderful discussions and prayed regularly together. There were comments about how peaceful it was when we met and how some felt God more in their lives. There were answers to prayers and support over yet to be answered prayers. It's been lovely to witness friendships and a real caring community being formed.

We had an Alpha away day, where we met together to watch the Holy Spirit videos, eat together and then finished up going to the Hilton Spa. This was a really special time. The group continues strong and it is exciting to see what God does next with this lovely group of ladies.

The Alpha Course

The Alpha logo consists of a white circle containing the word "Alpha" in red. This circle is positioned at the bottom right of the page, overlapping a large red graphic element that resembles a stylized arrow or a path leading towards the top right corner.

Alpha



Encou
Jesus

ST
W

First Sunday

#WAY
#TRUTH
#LIFE

MIDWEEK GROUP

By Pauline Anderson

In the Wednesday evening Midweek Group at Ben and Helen's house we eat cake/chocolates, study the Bible, discuss points arising, relate it to our lives and finally pray together.

The real highlight for me has been the sense of community and getting to know other participants better. We may meet briefly before Sunday Service or over a coffee after the Service but this cannot compare to an evening spent together talking about things that matter. I personally have got to know STB people by going to this group.

My hopes and prayers for this year are that more midweek groups would develop in different people's homes. Different evenings and daytimes could be offered so that all those at STB could have the opportunity to join a group. I have always enjoyed attending a midweek group and hope and pray that others would wish to do so.

Welcome

We always begin with cake and refreshments!

Worship

We often have a short time of worship (i.e. Youtube clip, times of silence, a song, etc)

Word

We spend time exploring and discussing certain topics and books of the Bible

Witness

We pray for each other as we go out into our everyday lives to live for Jesus and make disciples

LOUGHBOROUGH CHURCHES PARTNERSHIP

By Ben Gardner

Loughborough Churches Partnership (LCP) consists of 19+ churches committed to working together to see transformation in Loughborough.

2022 was a year of prayer. Many individuals and churches took part in prayer walking as many streets as possible. Over 70% of the streets were prayer walked and prayed for during the year.

LCP also funded the creation of a community well-being allotment near the Bell Foundry estate. According to local residents, it has transformed the local community and has provided a safe space for people to connect and flourish.

LCP church leaders continue to gather monthly for breakfast and to pray for our town.

Please pray for LCP as it moves into its 'Year of Participation', as it seeks to practically serve the town through its new initiative, The June Project (more information about this will be coming your way soon)!



LOUGHBOROUGH RESOURCING CHURCH

By Revd Michael Broadley

Our vision as a RCP is to plant churches that plant churches to reach the 93% that do not know Christ. Since STB was planted 3 years ago our plans were stalled due to COVID. However we are now looking to plant again into the Beacon Academy School as well as start something new at the Good Shepherd. Revd Kat Marjoribanks, our curate, has started to make good links with the Beacon Academy School and is establishing good relationships with the local community.

As a RCP we now need to discern who feels called to join our next Church Plant to continue to plant churches that plant churches.





Charity No. 1195102