

# **Bottesford Baptist Church**

Showing and Sharing Jesus in Bottesford  
and Beyond

## **AGM REPORTS**

**2016 to 2017**

**Bottesford Baptist Church  
North Lincolnshire**

## **MINISTER'S REPORT:**

You are about to read an amazing report about people, activities and most of all about what God is doing in and through BBC. Having been the Minister at BBC for almost four years now I have to say that each year just gets more incredible. Since our last report so many things have happened displaying to us all the faithfulness and goodness of our God. This time last year we were wondering if we were ever going to fill the post of Co-Leader and now it feels as though Ian and Alison have been with us forever (in a good way!). It has been wonderful to welcome them both and work alongside them, it has brought an added dimension to our church life and has enabled us to grow in a number of areas already. We have also welcomed two new leaders to the leadership team and as we have done this we have developed finance, administration and building teams which enable us to draw on more skills to be able to fulfil these vital aspects of church life.

We have developed and deepened our relationship with Scunthorpe Baptist Church and Epworth Baptist Church through a joint service in September and more recently a joint leadership training day. Our Ecumenical relationship with colleagues in Ashby, Bottesford and Riddings grows as Ian and I pray with the other Ministers weekly - a blessing indeed. We have also welcomed a significant number of new people to our community through many of the activities included in this report, strangers are quickly becoming friends.

As we look ahead to the coming year it is another year of change, growth and development. As I write, my sabbatical is fast approaching and I hope it will be a time of personal growth for me, as I look at how people in various places are doing discipleship, but also for all of us. We want to continue to build on our recent Lent course thinking about what it means to be a Missional Church with an outward focus as we grow as Missionary Disciples.

There are so many people that contribute to the life of BBC, some are seen and upfront while many work quietly behind the scenes. As we thought about recently, the church is the Body of Christ and we all have a part to play - no role is more important than any other - each one is vital and I want to thank you for the part you play. However, I do want to give special thanks to the leadership team who provide so much encouragement and support to me as I seek to follow God's leading in leading BBC.

I pray you will join me in rejoicing at God's faithfulness over the last year. Let us not rest on past blessings but rather press on towards the goal that is before us, to show and share Jesus to Bottesford and Beyond. With best wishes and every blessing,

**Jonathan**

## **Administration Team:**

Over the last year there has been a transition from the secretary completing all administrative tasks to a team approach. The team consists of Lesley, Trevor and Jonathan. If anyone has administration skills that they would be willing to offer please speak to one of the team. Lesley has taken on the named role of secretary for the church. Over the last year we have in partnership with Scunthorpe Baptist Church produced Ian's contract of employment and a staff handbook.

The notice sheets have changed to become a fortnightly sheet that includes a Bible reading plan and prayer pointers plus a three monthly sheet that contains the diary dates and contact details. We are in the process of creating a welcome pack for people who are new to our fellowship. It continues to be a steep learning curve but God has been faithful and has blessed us abundantly.

**Lesley Robinson**

## **Building Team:**

The Building Group is a sub group of leaders, Zoe and Chris E and Jonathan, who oversee the running of the building. Most of the real work gets done by Howard and Norman, who do a lot of day to day maintenance, and many helpers assist with cleaning and supplies, including all those who have come to our two cleaning days. Dave Gair has helped with

finding us better utilities contracts, and Sue and Stewart keep the kitchen stocked. Much of what we do is behind the scenes stuff that keeps the building running - fire safety, electrical testing and so on.

We're planning some improvement projects, as finances permit - the crèche as a multi use quiet room, ideal as a prayer space. We hope to provide a fence to make the lawn a safe area for church events for children. The building is getting to an age where things are starting to need some attention, and investment. God amazed us in providing this new building for us to worship Him in, through the generous giving of those who worship here, and we prayerfully look to Him to do this again!

**Chris Ellerby**

## **SMALL DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS:**

### **Stewart and Sue's group:**

Our group began the year as a 'small group' and although meeting sometimes intermittently because of other commitments, we have had invaluable times together.

We love, support, share, laugh and cry with one another, have social times, pray, and learn together with study times providing fresh insights, discussion and application as we seek to show and share Jesus.

As the year progressed the group has grown, and with Neil, Liz, Norman and Susan we have been privileged to welcome Matthew, Tom and Holly and together with Jean, have attended the Lent series, with a small group evening being run concurrently by request showing an eagerness to meet and study together for which we give thanks.

Over the Easter holiday period we had a great social evening where both Jean and Maureen were back with us - Jean journeying from Quorn to see family and Maureen 'back on dry land' seeing family also.

Stewart and I would like to say a special thank you to everyone in our group for their love and support not only to us, but to one another, and we look forward with expectation and anticipation of that which God will do in us and through us as we continue to seek to show and share Jesus better and in new ways with family, friends and in the wider community.

### **Chris and Nader's group:**

The small group led by Chris and Nader have met most weeks during term time, and we've enjoyed a time of bible study, prayer, friendship and fellowship. We have mainly worked through questions linked to Sunday morning's teaching. There has been a bit of break as we joined the lent groups. It has been good to share our news and needs. We have been blessed by being able to pray together and sharing answers to prayer. We also enjoyed working together to host the family lunch at church. New members are always welcome. We usually meet on Wednesday evenings at the home of either Nader or Howard and Lesley.

### **Dave and Zoe's group:**

We continue to be a larger group of 16 and have enjoyed the addition of Jacob Wheeler to swell the number of children to 3 this year.

We meet regularly, except for the recent Lent course and the regular Central Church, on Wednesday evenings. We endeavour to develop strong and lasting relationships by being supportive to each other, as members start new ventures such as Ruth Fowler leading the Hygge Café team, and Sarah and Chris Wheeler organising the Men and Women United events.

We are pleased to have Stuart and Sheila returned after their time in the Canaries and are being encouraged by the outreach they have been involved with whilst away. We also had the pleasure of Easter Sunday's baptism of Angie. A wonderful occasion and we later had a buffet at Sarah and Chris' place to celebrate.

We support each other outside of Church activities by having tea together on Monday evenings and meet some weekends for takeaways or coffee and cake. Most of our

gatherings seem to revolve around refreshments!

It is a blessing to have the love, support and care of such an amazing group of people who are willing to share their lives and children. We continue to hope and pray that we become more like Jesus as we grow in faith and as disciples.

### **Nick and Chris's group:**

We have had a good year of study and fellowship our group are very open and all take part in discussion, reading, or prayer. We have had new members join us and our numbers range from 10-14. We have been studying scripture via "The Bible Reading Plan" covering the New Testament books, chapter and verses as they fall each week we meet.

We believe everyone has found this approach worth while and challenging.

### **PARISH NURSING:**

Parish Nursing is blessed by God's goodness and continues to be a wonderful mission field for our church.

My clinic on a Tuesday has seen 101 people come for advice on a range of health problems some in church others not, one lady came from Winterton and one because she wanted a "Christians view on her health concerns". Two clients were referred to their G.P. because of serious health issues which saw them both admitted to hospital for treatment. I liaise with the community well being officer and North Lincolnshire health watch team which enables us to work together in the community. I was invited to take part in the 5th health matters at the Baths hall. I also assisted with the promotion of self care week. I was then asked to write a report about how parish nursing fits into self care for the council. I have given eight talks about parish nursing and I continue to be in demand. These groups usually give a donation to the parish nurse fund and Lesley writes to thank them for their kindness.

I still visit the chancel monthly and Norman is a great support on these days. We are slowly building relationships.

It only took six months for someone to seek health advice. Norman and I talk to a couple of men both with mental health issues. The men are beginning to open up about their lives and I have had occasion to pray with someone in a desperate situation. Norman often suggests he will pray for the men through their illness or job situations, and I must say it appears to be very much appreciated. We have come a long way since my first visit when I was told " I hope your not expecting to convert us".

Visiting clients at home and giving pastoral care is a lovely part of my parish nursing especially as some live alone and I know how much my visit means. They think I'm blessing them but actually it's the other way round. We have some lovely prayer times together often seeking Gods intervention into their situations. I have also arranged for Jonathan to give home communion. Norman helps me to get a client to our coffee mornings safely and his carer gets a rest at this time too.

I attended a pastoral community care conference by the North Lincs CCG. . They are keen to see how the churches role in health can be effective through GP Chaplains parish nursing and any other appropriate roles. It was interesting to find that Keelby church set up their own home care sector in their village several years ago to meet a community need.

I have made several GP and hospital visits with clients and still visit Teapot Hall - again it's great to be building relationships and I am known as that nurse from church. They were thankful to receive the Christmas card from us. Jonathan and Ian came to do carols at Christmas and next week we celebrate Easter with them. It's great to take church to them many who are being reconnected with a faith they once had.

What's next? I am now trained to teach chair based exercises. This will be a huge commitment, so please pray what God's' will in this is to be.

**Barbara (Parish Nurse)**

## **TIDDLYWINKS:**

It's been another busy year at Tiddlywinks, we continue to be full and still have a waiting list. We care about each family who come, and strive to show them the love of Jesus through our words and actions. One of our grandmas recently said that Tiddlywinks is the most lovely group she has ever been to. Another mum comes all the way from Gainsborough – she says Tiddlywinks is the best group in the area - when she's working, her mum travels from Broughton to Gainsborough to pick her granddaughter up to bring her to Bottesford. Another mum has just started work full-time so she's using all her flexitime to enable her son to still come to Tiddlywinks for a few more weeks until he leaves to start school in September.

Tiddlywinks is a sanctuary for parents who sometimes need to get out of the house, meet other parents with young children and have someone to talk to and it's our privilege to provide a caring, loving place for them.

Last summer we lost a third of our group due to so many children starting school. We had a summer picnic in the church garden with the most beautiful sunshine, and was greatly enjoyed by all. We presented all the leaving children with a Lion's First Bible. One of our grandmas had been coming for over 6 years so it was very emotional. It's been lovely to see her and her family at three different church events since then.

In September, for the first time, we actually cleared the waiting list – for a couple of weeks at least. All the new families have integrated well into our group. It's a lovely group and it's good to see new friendships being made. Last Christmas, half of our existing families came to the Christingle, also another 10 past families. Several families also came to the Christmas services. We had a Tiddlywinks Christmas party with food and games and Jonathan also played pass the parcel with objects telling the story of the first Christmas. Each child received a bible story book.

This Easter we had a fun egg rolling event and an Easter egg hunt. Several families, past and present, also came to the Easter Eggstravaganza.

We currently have 31 families on register which includes 40 children between the ages of 4 months and 4 years. This summer, 11 children will leave to go to school, some of whom have been coming to Tiddlywinks for at least 3 years so again we will lose a large number of families. It is always sad to see people go but we keep in touch with many people which is lovely. Thank you to the Tiddlywinks team who give up their time faithfully each week – Chris, Nick, Sue and Stewart – also to Edna who comes each week to help in the kitchen. It can be tiring doing this every week but it's also very rewarding and a great privilege to serve God in this way.

**Helen Ellerby**

## **JUMP:**

We continue to be blessed!

Following the last session of Activ8 in June 2016 we had a review. The team decided to canvas the families of the children that were registered with Activ8 to see how we could improve and make the sessions more accessible.

With good feedback and lots of prayer we decided to re-launch JUMP but change the time of the sessions to 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm on Tuesday evenings. We also changed the sessions from 2 monthly (alternating with Who Let the Dads Out) to monthly making JUMP now more regular and accessible.

JUMP is planned and delivered by a team of regular three leaders. However, on some occasions we have needed short notice support from other people due to commitments at work. Thanks Ian.

We share God's love through a range of diverse activities including games, word, prayer, craft, songs, reading, puppetry, video clips, takeaways and refreshments based on the Scripture Union resource 'Dress Rehearsal'. Topics covered include Noah, Light Party, Hope, Christmas Party, Good Samaritan, Feeding 5000, Easter and the Prodigal Son. We

have a great time with lots of fun and interaction.

Furthermore, we now have Mums and occasionally some Dads stopping back throughout the sessions. Not only are the Mums engaged in conversation but they are actively involved with some of the activities and serving each other with refreshments from the kitchen.

Typically we have 12 children at each session along with parent(s). Please pray that our JUMP community continues to grow and develop.

We have been blessed at so many sessions but the team have also learnt we must pray at the planning stage and before each session..

**Neil Reeder**

## **WHO LET THE DADS OUT?**

Every second Saturday in the month a team from BBC open our doors to welcome Dads and their children for a morning of food, craft and games. We aim to help Dads to be the best Dads they can be and give them opportunities to build deep relationships with their children as well as providing the opportunity to connect with other Dads. It all started after we listened to a number of Dads and their children who wanted to do something together and so we discovered WLTD and began at BBC two years ago, initially bi-monthly and now monthly.

Each month we have around 8 Dads and 10 children, varying in age from pre-school up to Primary school year 6, that attend. The smell of bacon greets each person as well as sausage rolls, bagels and crumpets. At each session there is a different craft activity and various games, such as table football, push along toys, cars and table tennis, to cater for the wide age range.

Over the last year we have partnered with North Lincolnshire Council's Word Count project with staff coming to two of the sessions and introducing the FRED initiative - "Fathers Read Every Day". It was well received and encouraged Dads to spend time reading with their children. It also provided a great opportunity to work with others who are seeking to serve people in our community.

A number of the children who attend WLTD also attend Tiddlywinks or JUMP and so WLTD provides the opportunity to get to know the Dads. As a result many of the families come together to the Creative Christingle at Christmas and more recently to the Easter Eggtravaganza. At these events it is wonderful to see the whole family feeling at home with us and relationships continuing to grow with whole families.

As we seek to journey with those that come to WLTD we are seeking God for what the next step is. A number of Dads have expressed an interest in going for a curry together so we are in the process of arranging this which will give an opportunity to deepen our relationships with the Dads.

None of this would be possible without the amazing WLTD team which consists of Richard Sims, Lee Coleman, Norman Neil Reeder, Lesley Robinson, Helen Ellerby and myself.

As we draw to the end of one year it is a good time for us all to consider whether we are serving God in the right place. As we consider this individually, let me encourage you to also consider whether God is calling you to serve on the WLTD team in the coming year from September. If so please speak to

Jonathan or one of the team mentioned above.

**Jonathan Oatridge**

## **JUNIOR CHURCH:**

We have one class with a 4 years to 11 years age range. The teaching is shared between Barbara and Dave and Chris and Nick.

Barbara and Dave are teaching about the people/stories of the New Testament while Chris and Nick are covering the people/stories of the Old Testament. Which seems to be working

very well.

The number of children vary each week from 2 – 10 so choosing stand alone bible stories works very well. Hopefully we will have more continuity and regularity as time goes on. I wish to thank my team for their enthusiasm, hard work, and reliability, Great job!!

Sunday School Coordinator.

**Chris Barnett**

### **WEBSITE:**

www.bottesfordbaptistchurch.com continues to be popular with internet visitors. There has been a steady number of recorded hits on the website averaging out at 175 visitors per month. On the website you will continue to find, among other items, sermons, church events and a diary. It is good to know that you can access our church community from anywhere in the world.

**Lesley Robinson**

### **COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING:**

Firstly it is a great joy and privilege to serve with such a wonderful team. The attendance has increased from around 6 to 40+ if everyone attended at the same time, it is not just the increase in numbers but seeing the group grow closer together that keeps us all going. The whole group have taken ownership of the coffee morning by bringing supplies of tea, coffee, biscuits and cake – to the point where we have asked if the supplies can be used for other church events.

Many and varied Christian elements have been introduced, with many prayers ministered and received with many remarking that the coffee morning is their church. A few are starting to attend Sunday worship, with one lady saying that she found God in the midst of the people and one lady having an encounter with the Lord.

The attendees have contributed to activities like the 'toilet twinning', Christmas hampers and raising £130 during a Macmillan coffee morning.

We have had trips out to the Shires Inn for lunch with 28 people taking part and a trip to Brigg Garden Centre for afternoon tea. Two Tuesdays during December we sang Christmas carols that was well received and attended.

The team are now praying for God's guidance for the direction to move forward. Please pray for the team. It is important that the balance between Sunday worship and community fellowship is maintained.

The coffee morning is the perfect vehicle for the Parish Nurse to be based in.

**Norman Hancock**

### **HYGGE CAFE:**

The Hygge Café started on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and runs on the first Friday of each month from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in the church building. The aim of the café is to provide a safe, friendly and comfortable space where people of all ages can come and relax with friends or on their own, to play games, chat or read and where hopefully relationships can be built. Hot and cold drinks and cakes are provided and we ask for donations to cover costs, thereby making the café sustainable. Any additional money raised is ploughed back into church funds.

The café is run by a team of volunteers from BBC, led by Ruth Fowler and including Rachel, Jonathan, Rebekah and Talitha Oatridge, Sarah, Naomi and Esther Sims, Zoe Gair and Ruth Quinn. The number of people attending each café has varied from 12 to 24 people, including volunteers. Approximately 16 people have come to the café, on at least 1 occasion, who are not yet a part of the church community. Some of these people are now coming regularly and friendships are developing.

As the Hygge Café has now been running for 6 months, a review of the café is being undertaken. Amongst other issues, as a team we need to consider how we could promote the café to the local community. We are also aware that running the café over the summer may prove difficult, if we are unable to attract more volunteers, due to several volunteers being unavailable for some or all of the summer months.

**Ruth Fowler**

### **CARE HOME OUTREACH:**

During the Christmas walk around Ashby shopping area distributing mince pies it was suggested that we might consider visits to care homes as many of the shop assistants had relatives in care homes. As a church we did not carry out any visits anymore, but it was suggested that Susan and I joined Scunthorpe Baptist Church (SBC) who already carried out this ministry. We have so far visited three care homes, Bridgewater Park, Edmund House and The Valleys, with SBC running the services in each care home once a month. The services are a great blessing, witnessing to residents, staff and visitors. Susan and I have been asked to take on the weekly visiting of The Valleys Care Home, during which we talk to staff and pray for residents and visitors.

The latest monthly meeting included 16 residents, 1 visitor and 5 members of staff, with everyone joining in with the Easter well known hymns and prayers. The management are considering a suggestion of mine that on the day we visit there could be a possibility of someone coming with us to read to the residents for half an hour – calling it 'Hancock's Half Hour'. If it is accepted it may be an opening for others to become involved.

**Norman Hancock**

### **MUSIC GROUP:**

We are continually amazed at the number and range of talents that God has blessed us with at BBC, and the flexibility and quality of sound that it affords us. The band now consists of the following: Chris Wheeler, Dave Gair, Ian Richardson, Chris Ellerby, Andy Lister, Ruth Foster – currently taking a year off since her recent marriage, Irene McCabe, Sarah Wheeler, Trevor Grattage, Ian Hayward, Liz Hayward, Stuart Kemp, Sue Hancock and Howard Robinson.

The logistics of having two leaders has taken some adjustment for all concerned but things are starting to settle. Jonathan, Ian, Chris W and Dave G meet once a month to discuss how we feel things are going and to seek God's guidance on how best worship can be facilitated on Sundays and other meetings.

Each month we have a rota so that band members know roughly what is happening and when they should (ideally!) be available. Flexibility has to be prioritised, however, as people's weekend activities can inevitably lead to gaps. We do our best in these situations but perfect we are not!

We have also implemented the idea of every band member having a week off a month so that they can a) have a rest and b) experience and enjoy worship from the congregation's perspective. For most instrumentalists, this is usually the first or second Sunday in a month which is put aside for the stripped-back service where we have just piano and vocalists. Overall, as a team, the worship leaders and band are trying to emphasise worship over performance. Without sensitivity to the Spirit or the congregation then worship ends up being "done to" (a performance) and not "alongside" the congregation (worship). We have some way to go, but the "extended worship" session that we are having in May is one step in trying to change and improve our focus. Bear with us!

**Chris Wheeler and Dave Gair**