

St George's

The Annual Report



Preach Jesus, Make disciples, Serve the city & Send out leaders



Oh happy day happy day
I'll never be the same

CLOSED



Dear Church Family

At St George's we have a vision to preach Jesus, make disciples, serve the city and send out leaders. We hope this 2022 Annual Report gives a glimpse of what that looks like in practice.

In 2022 we have welcomed new people and invested in our wonderfully diverse church community. We have also continued to look outwards, seeking opportunities to bless our city. Thank you for the part you play in the life and ministry of St George's.

Lizzy Woolf (Team Rector)

Eve Ridgeway (Clergy Lead for St George's)



Sundays & Special Services

Our Sunday services at 10.30 and 18.30 are central to life at St George's. Both services are livestreamed and include sung worship, biblical teaching, prayer and a lively sense of community. Two services a month are translated into Farsi, and prayer ministry is available after every service. Sermon series included 'Made for More', Hebrews, 'Around the World' and 'The Gift of Science'.

Services at the start of the year were affected by Covid restrictions, but from Easter, all ages joined together to worship before children went to their groups. We keep an area (the balcony at 10.30) for those who wish to remain masked and distanced.

Highlights included:

- Vision & Gift Sundays (raising an incredible £62,000)
- 44 baptisms (including 29 Farsi speaking adults & 5 youth)
- 5 weddings and 1 wedding blessing
- Youth Band special video for Pentecost
- Church plant commissioning service on 2 Oct as we sent a team of 19 to St Peter's Bramley led by Julia Wilkins
- Joining with Leeds Minster for a Service of Commemoration following the death of Her Late Majesty The Queen
- Over 120 diverse congregation members leading services, prayers and Bible readings
- Guest speakers Jo Young, Christian Selvaratnam, Bishop Arun and Ken Benjamin
- 19 squad preachers (5 minute talks) & 10 congregation members speaking at summer services
- 15 new hospitality team & 5 new stewards, in answer to prayer
- 62 worship & tech team including 17 worship leaders
- 4,000 people connecting with Christmas services and assemblies in person, with more online.

Kids & Youth

Numbers increased over 2022 as we built back from the Covid pandemic. By the end of the year, we typically had 60-65 children and young people at our Sunday services, with age-appropriate Sunday morning groups and 'Youth Zone' at 1830.

Events for 0-11s & their families were a focus for invitation and mission. The Pancake Party & Family Sports Fair were attended by around 60 people, with 114 at Light Party, including many guests.

Youth Night on Wednesday evenings grew to 28, including 6 coming up from kids groups. Youth Band has grown to 13 young people meeting fortnightly.

2022 highlights included:

- Youth weekend away for 28 young people at Herd Farm Activity Centre in March, with space for big questions, meeting with God, activities, and community
- Year 9 small group appeared on Songs of Praise in July
- Youth sleepover for 22 young people in October
- Kids & youth served the wider church by leading worship, prayers, actions, cameras, PA, and Bible readings
- St G's Tots, our Tuesday morning toddler group, started the year with an average of 4 children each week, and grew to 10.
- Special Breakfast Churches at Easter, Pentecost & Harvest
- 600 children from 6 Leeds primary schools attended our Schools Nativity
- Contemporary Carols and Easter assemblies for all year groups at Abbey Grange, with St G's student worship band
- 2 youth team joined the Bramley church plant.

Thank you to our wonderful team, including those helping in groups, and our safeguarding officers who help us follow legislation and good practice.





Students

Around 90 undergraduate students consistently attend St G's, from all 5 Leeds universities. We usually see 40 students at Student Night on Thursdays, and 45 at Student Teas (before 1830 each week).

Our Postgraduate Fellowship has around 20 from the UK and around the world. They met 3 times, including the first 'Christianity in the Academy', with speakers sharing how their research and work is influenced by their Christian faith.

2022 highlights included:

- 7 student small groups led by 14 student leaders
- Student Weekend Away with 60 students, great community building, teaching on Romans 8, and workshops.
- 3 student Alpha groups with 23 students exploring faith
- 1 international small group connecting with around 12 students in the first part of 2022
- Student Summer Party with 61 students and team to celebrate the end of academic year and thank team
- 7 volunteer team members, who each come alongside a small group to share wisdom and life experience
- Students serving in teams such as worship, kids, youth, interfaith, Nativity, student teas, including 5 head chefs
- 79 new students connecting with us during Freshers' season, with 48 settling at St G's
- Student Staycation in October with 41 students, teaching on joy, workshops on finance & reading the bible, bingo, silent disco.
- Too many pastoral coffees to count, sharing joys, struggles, and signs of God at work

Small Groups

Our small groups are at the heart of the church. 25 small groups meet regularly for community and discipleship, including around 320 congregation members. A huge thank you to our 44 small group leaders. In February 2022 we transitioned from 1830 Networks to a system of small groups on different nights of the week. Between September and December 2022, 52 people joined small groups.

Special Groups

Farsi Group & Farsi Women's Group met online during 2022 with an average of 25 and 10 people respectively. The groups grew in prayer during difficult times, and in their sense of belonging to the wider church. Many came to faith and invited friends.

Extra Time connects with around 100 over 55s, who met for coffee, lunch, outings and a monthly midweek Holy Communion. The weekend away was a highlight, with 35 folk reflecting on calling in retirement. The group supported each other through bereavements and other challenges.

Interfaith Group (successor to Dialogue & Reconciliation Network) hosted interfaith student meals and a new interfaith leaders' breakfast, bringing together Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Africa Group met in December to relaunch and discuss their vision going into 2023. This includes being a prophetic voice around race, equality & diversity, and supporting active church participation.

Walking Group met monthly in 2022, including a weekend away. Walks were well attended, featuring wonderful views, great conversation and a wide variety of weather!





Church Life

Alpha

Alpha creates space for people to bring their friends for a conversation about faith, life and God. In 2022 we ran Alpha twice with 25 guests engaging, and several joining the church.

Corporate Prayer

Facebook Live prayers took place Mon-Fri 9am. Our monthly prayer meeting took place either in person or on zoom. In May, we joined Thy Kingdom Come global prayer movement, with at least 78 people participating in a virtual prayer room.

Church Night In

We held 3 'Church Nights In' onsite & online, with interviews, prayer, discussion and games. In January we heard how different people are involved in our vision; in April (the ACM) we reflected on our team values of generosity, creativity & relationship; in October we focused on rebuilding following our latest church plant.

Courses & seminars

In 2022, we offered the 'Living in Love and Faith' course again, and Mark Powley led a popular follow up series of 3 seminars exploring a theology of sexuality with a focus on biblical texts. In 2022 we also ran the CAP money course twice.

Summer Camps

Around 50 St G's students and young adults went to Sixty One, where they enjoyed worship, community and wonderful weather. A small group went to New Wine, where Eve Ridgeway gave the early morning Bible talks.



Resource Church

St George's is a Resource church in the Diocese of Leeds. This means we have a city-wide vision, and are committed to church planting and giving away resources strategically in order to bless our city.

The big news of 2022 was our church plant to Bramley! In October we sent a team of 19, led by Julia Wilkins, to join the existing congregation of St Peter's Bramley. We also pledged £50,000 from our Strategic Mission Fund. Their vision is to reveal God's love in Bramley; already Sunday services have increased in size, and there is positive school and community engagement. Thank you to those who worked hard behind the scenes to enable this church plant to go ahead.

In other church planting news: in April we sent 3 people to join a church plant in Osmondthorpe, East Leeds. This plant was sent by St Matts Leeds and we were pleased to support it. We also led the Plant Course to equip and prepare 5 Leeds church planting teams.

2022 also saw the launch of St George's Worship School to resource Spirit-led worship in the local church. We were delighted to host 10 churches (30 people) for 6 monthly sessions, providing practical training and a supportive learning community.



St George's Team

St George's is part of a team of 3 churches: St George's, Holy Trinity Boar Lane, and St Augustine's Wrangthorn. The churches are very different, but share values of relationship, generosity and creativity, and work together to facilitate mission.

Holy Trinity Boar Lane

Holy Trinity is a church with a midweek ministry to love and serve workers in the heart of the city. In 2022 the ministry took shape, establishing a weekly prayer breakfast, 2 lunchtime services, and excellent relationships with local businesses. In November we welcomed nearly 6,000 people to the Our Earth Our City exhibition, with the artwork 'Gaia' and various events.

St Augustine's Wrangthorn

St Augustine's is a parish church of about 50, serving its local community in various ways including Park Run hospitality and a new weekly community event: 'Space'. It is also the base for Church@Hyde Park Corner (C@HPC), a student church for unchurched students, which is a partnership between St Augustine's and St George's. The regular coffee cart on Woodhouse Moor and Freshers Week were particular highlights.





Mission Partners

St George's has 2 closely affiliated charities who minister to those on the margins of society:

St George's Crypt

In 2022 St George's Crypt provided over 12,000 hot showers and 65,000 hot meals. 5 new projects created extra bed spaces, so there are now 158 beds available across the city, 365 days a year.

Growing Rooms, the residential drug & alcohol recovery project now houses 22 men plus 6 in 'move on' flats. In 2022 the charity Spacious Places closed, and their staff were incorporated to deliver Growing Rooms therapy to 15 women as a day programme. A generous donation allowed the purchase of the first Growing Room Ladies house which is currently being refurbished.

In 2022 the Crypt entered negotiations to become a Registered Provider of housing. This would enable construction of further supported housing across the city, and allow more flexibility in the space beneath the church for health and wellbeing engagements.

Lighthouse

Lighthouse is a community that reaches out to those battered and bruised by the storms of life. Around 70 vulnerable adults are actively engaged with Lighthouse.

In 2022, Lighthouse met for Sunday services and meals at the Crypt, Day Centres at St George's (with Bible study, healing workshops, and games in a safe warm space), plus days out to the seaside. As part of the Homeless Charter, Lighthouse has facilitated conversations between vulnerable adults and the council. 60 students graduated from training courses run by Lighthouse in partnership with Leeds School of Theology.





Local mission partners

In 2022 we continued to support our partners Kidz Klub and Leeds Faith in Schools in a variety of ways including money, prayer, trustees, volunteers and hampers. We also made donations to Transformations

Overseas Mission Partners

In 2022 we supported 5 overseas mission partners doing inspiring work in Ethiopia, Japan and Central Asia. This included dubbing the Jesus Film into a new language.

St Hild Theological College

As a founding church partner, we provide a trustee, and many of our clergy are associate faculty members and lead teaching modules. We work very closely with the St Hild Centre for Church Planting to train and support church planters across the North of England.



Resourcing the Ministry

Staff team

Our wonderful staff team includes clergy, ministry and operations staff, and interns. A key focus is supporting and equipping our many volunteers. In 2022 we welcomed a new curate to each of our 3 churches and several other new staff members.

We sent 3 people, including 2 staff members, to train for ordination: Bex Davidson, Karen Flood and Tim Riman.

Interns

Our interns live in community houses, receive weekly teaching and supervision and serve in a ministry area. They also had 2 great weekends away and served alongside an Eden team in Bradford for a week. 8 St George's interns and 2 St Augustine's interns graduated in summer 2022 at a special celebration with Bishop Nick Baines.

In September we welcomed 5 interns to St George's and 2 to Holy Trinity Boar Lane. These interns are part of the wider diocesan intern programme which has a cohort of 19 serving 13 churches in Leeds, Bradford and Huddersfield.

PCC

The Parochial Church Council consists of churchwardens, clergy, and elected representatives of the congregations. They work prayerfully with the Rector to oversee all our ministry and mission, with a focus on finances, buildings and HR. In 2022 the PCC discussed low carbon heating options, leadership values, and covid measures. New chairs arrived, and work to remove cladding was completed.





Social media and online presence

Our social media impact continued to grow in 2022; our Facebook page reached 82,314 people (54% increase from 2021), and our Instagram reached 11,976 people (66% increase). Instagram Reels became our most popular content online; reels of events such as Gaia, our Christmas services, and ministry updates, were viewed a total of 20,800 times. Our YouTube livestreams and videos were viewed a total of 35,179 times. St George's church building also starred in the national Church of England's Christmas video.

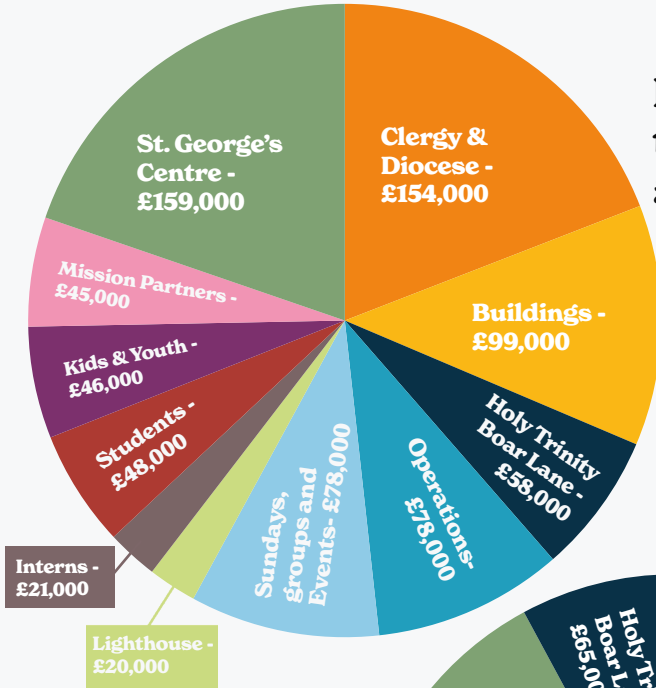
St George's Centre

St George's Centre offers flexible meeting space in the heart of Leeds. After a couple of difficult years due to the Covid pandemic, business recovered well during 2022. This meant that as well as covering its running costs, the Centre was able to contribute £48,000 to the wider ministry of St George's.

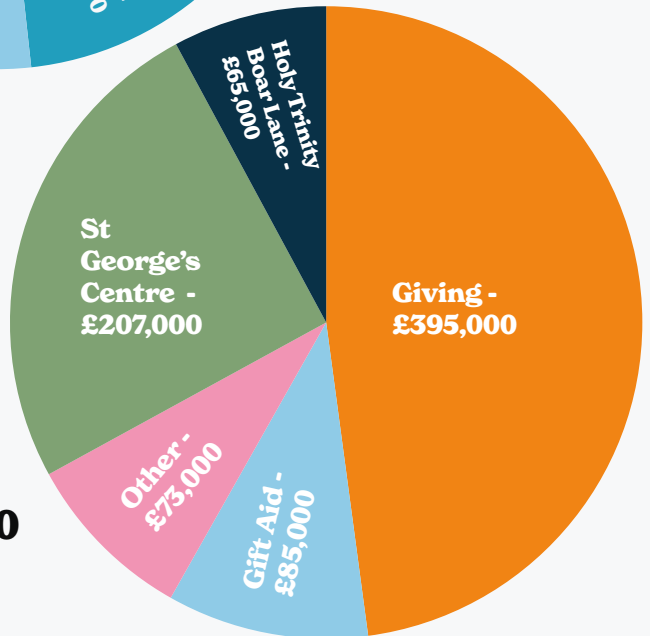
Financial Summary for 2022

(all figures have been rounded to the nearest £1,000)

Expenditure total - £806,000



Income total - £825,000



Surplus £19,000

(£12,000 for St George's Church & Centre combined, £7,000 for Holy Trinity Boar Lane)
We are so grateful to everyone who gave financially to support our mission and ministry in 2022.
St George's Church Bank Account No: 20178242 Sort Code: 60-83-01