



APCM 2023

ST MICHAEL'S, ST STEPHEN'S &
ACKROYDON COMMUNITY CHURCH

**being transformed | in Christ
bringing hope | for everyone**

CONTENTS

Welcome	1
Worship	2
Toolbox Tots	3
Toolbox & Toolbox Xtra	4
Youth	5
Small Groups	6
St Stephen's	7
Ackroydon Community Church	8
Social Action	10
Ministry Moments	12
St Mike's Cafe	13
Mission Partners	14
PCC Members	15

WELCOME

being transformed | in Christ | bringing hope | for everyone

Welcome to St Michael's, St Stephen's and Ackroydon churches.

Welcome to our annual report. In the pages that follow there is good news.

Psalm 91 speaks of the good news as the presence of God.

'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust'.

Paul encourages us to remember the good news of the gospel, to share it and hold firmly to it.

So 'good news' is both to be enjoyed as presence, and shared as hope.

This has been a busy year of activity, change and growth. We have said goodbye to friends, both congregation and staff. And welcomed new congregation and new staff. Our amazing team, so ably supported by many of you as invaluable volunteers, have created the content that follows. The gospel has been preached, the hungry fed, disciples encouraged, neighbours cared for, and we have grown.

We have enjoyed His presence and shared His hope.

Thank you to so many of you who have served and given throughout this year.

We are thankful.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen". The script is cursive and fluid.

Rev Stephen Melliush

WORSHIP

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- **A Growing Team** - The team has grown in number since coming out of lockdown, particularly in singing - we are a blessed team with many excellent vocalists. Some of those vocalists have also grown in their roles from being singers to taking on more worship leading responsibilities. The congregation as a whole has been blessed by the fruits of this growing and developing team.
- **Kingdom Come Worship Nights** - This year we began to turn some of our regular prayer meetings into hour long times of extended worship. These were really successful events and times of powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit. This was a new challenge for the team, who have grown in their ability to worship freely during extended times as a result.
- **Technological Advancements** - Through careful updating of the necessary equipment, the team has worked hard to share our worship with a wider audience through high quality online streaming. This has also increased the workload and knowledge needed for our sound desk and tech teams who have worked really hard to deliver this excellent quality live church streams for our online congregation.

COMING UP IN 2023/24

- **Development of Younger Team Members** - We continue to work with some of our younger church members in the development of their musical abilities, with the intention of getting them to the necessary standard to join the team and contribute to the worship of the church
- **Growing the team** - The further recruitment, training and development of worship and tech team members
- **Musical Releases** - Some of the team have been working on our own arrangements of worship songs as well as creating and writing new worship songs. We are looking to release these through platforms like Youtube and Spotify this year.
- **New Worship Pastor** - We will miss Jo and her beautiful voice and we send her with our blessing to all God has for her next. We are pleased that we will have a new worship pastor who will be with us from mid-June.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for our tech, visual and sound team, as we are particularly stretched in this area.
- Pray that we are guided by God in the best ways to lead our congregation into the presence of Jesus this year.
- Pray for our incoming worship leader as he arrives and settles in with his family.
- Pray for all those serving on the worship team as they ably hold the fort and lead us in the meantime.

TOOLBOX TOTS

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Toolbox Tots** - Our Sunday morning program is running really well and is so wonderful to be a part of. Each week we worship together as a church family and then head to Tots sessions. The sessions have a theme which is taught through play activities, Bible stories, object talks, songs, games, crafts and more. We have a wonderful time together.
- **Early Bird** - This monthly service is full of families, faith and fun. Our vision is to communicate Gospel truths in a way that is accessible to under 5's but also nourishes parents and equips families with the tools to practise faith together at home.
- **Thursday Tots** - Every Thursday, the church is transformed into a brilliant space for parents, carers and children to enjoy. Our sessions include free flow play activities, crafts, singing, snack time and a story. Our vision for this session is to provide a space for families in the community to connect and feel supported by the Church and one another, especially after the impact of COVID19.
- **Peace and Play** - Every Monday, parents gather in the Church to have coffee and chat as their children play. There is also a time of prayer and reflection on the word. We are so grateful to Jess Harwood who is leading this group for new parents.
- **Pre-Baptism Alpha** - This course runs over 3 sessions and is an opportunity for parents to talk about their faith before having their children baptised. It is also a wonderful opportunity for families at the same stage in life to meet and form friendships.

COMING UP IN 2023

- **Development of New Team Members** - We continue to work with new team members to ensure they feel confident and equipped to teach and care for the children in our Church community. Our Team Together Night was a great success this year, with another planned for the coming year.
- **Expanding the Team** - As the number of under 5's attending our sessions steadily grows, we are committed to the further recruitment and development of team members.
- **Tots Worship** - We look forward to working with our new worship pastor to develop worship opportunities with our under 5's.

PRAYER POINTS

- **Families** - Pray that new families find community here and that existing families continue to grow in their faith and love for God.
- **Volunteers** - Pray that our volunteers grow in confidence and gifting as they lead the youngest members of our congregation. Pray that they know the impact of this ministry on the lives of the children in our community.
- **Community** - Pray that the Tots team meet the needs of the local community, drawing more families to Church and planning events that enable people to meet with God and come to know Jesus.
- **Children** - Pray that children continue to form the foundations of faith and know God's love for themselves. Pray that they build deep friendships with their peers and feel secure and supported by the Church leadership and community.

TOOLBOX

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Toolbox is growing** - We are so grateful for the faithful and committed families who bring their children to Toolbox and we are loving seeing new families through our doors on a regular basis.
- **Prayer stations** - Our half termly prayer stations continued in Feb 2023 and many families came and used the space together to connect with God as a family.
- **Communion Course** - 16 Children took part in their first communion on 5 March 2023. We loved celebrating their commitment to following Jesus with the wider church family.
- **Bible Journaling** - Our scripture based art and craft after school club continues to grow 18 months after it was started. We have seen many children asking for Bibles for birthday and Christmas presents, and starting to build their own personal faith journeys. It is also the place where we see our oldest Toolbox children get down on the floor and help the youngest with various craft activities.
- **Cell groups** - Continue to grow and be a vital part of the Year 5&6 kids' discipleship, with social trips planned to allow Christian friendships to grow.
- **Links with schools in the community** - We have hosted and visited many primary schools since September 22, including Southmead, West Hill, Sheringdale, and of course S. Michael's, giving us the chance to connect with children of all faith or no-faith backgrounds.
- **Serving:** During the Christmas fair, the year 5&6 cell group children helped run 'Kidzone' selling toys to raise money for our church projects.
- **Community:** We ran a summer club over 3 days of August '22 for Ukrainian children, giving out around 15 Ukrainian children's bibles thanks to sponsorship from church congregation members.

COMING UP IN 2023

- **F-factor (24 September)** - Our annual family faith day is back, encouraging faith within the family. The day includes kids activities, family challenges, all age worship and more - we are so looking forward to it.
- **Toolbox on the Field** - We will be moving our Sunday morning Toolbox sessions in the summer onto the church field. Families can then stay for refreshments & picnic after the church service to connect and build relationships.
- **Forest Church launches alongside Bible Journaling club** - April 2023 sees the launch of Forest Church, utilising the church field, where the children can explore nature, seeing God's beauty in creation through arts & crafts.

PRAYER POINTS

- **F Factor** - For families to come, for faith to rise, for fun to be had and for some amazing encounters with God.
- **For the children in our church** - That they would know how important they are to their Father in heaven, how loved by Him, and how He has a plan and a purpose for their lives.
- **Forest Church** - That more families join from the Southfields community to experience church in nature. That the children who attend regularly begin to see God in new and exciting ways.

YOUTH

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- **South London Youth Event** – St Michaels Youth has partnered with 5 other youth teams with the aim of uniting youth in South London. Our first event was held in January where we had more than eight youth groups join us with over 120 youth! We had a guest speaker, nacho party, worship and Neon party with a DJ. A huge success!
- **Light Fest** – In October last year we held a large event that served as an alternative for Halloween. Vineyard youth group joined us as we played laser tag and had a neon disco!
- **Community** – Our Friday Night Youth group is all about giving youth space to build strong friendships that will last and provide an entry point into church for youth that have not been before. Cell groups and cell group socials are also a great way of doing this.
- **SeptemberFields Youth Festival** – This was our youth festival run on the church field in September and was a great way to embed the new year 7s into our youth group while having fun and discovering more about God together.
- **Youth Sundays on the Field** – Last summer we held 'The Six' evening services on the field, and explored different ways of doing church together, as well as having a relaxed, social time together. Following last year's success we will be doing this again.
- **Church community involvement** – Volunteering at the Christmas Fair, and in services at The Six and over Christmas.
- **Cell Groups** – Over 50 youth taking faith deeper.

COMING UP IN 2023

- **Dreaming the Impossible (DTI)** – A group of us are going to Nottingham for the festival this summer.
- **Youth on the Field** – Youth church and Friday Night Youth club on the field this Summer Term.
- **Summer** - Fun and games on the field including our annual BBQ!
- **South London Youth Event** – Our second event will be held soon, date TBD.



PRAYER POINTS

- For all that's coming up in **2023!**
- **For more volunteers** to help us on Friday nights.
- **That the youth continue to grow in relationship with each other and God.**
- For the exams between **April** and **July**.
- **Thank God** for the young people and all our volunteers and pray blessing over them.

SMALL GROUPS

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Groups continued to support one another** through prayer, encouragement and discussion - enabling friendships to flourish and deepen
- **The wide variety of small groups** happening at St Michael's, St Stephen's and Ackroydon including evening home groups, day time groups, Men of Bacon first thing in the morning, and our informal evening prayer walking group
- **New small groups** have started and instantly thrived including 'Ignition' a new early morning women's home group, 'Peace and Play' for mums and carers and their little ones and a Lent group at Ackroydon Community Church
- **Lectio Divina Course** over Lent was a beautiful time of hearing God's voice in the Bible and experiencing the wonderful ancient practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer

COMING UP IN 2023

- **Interest based groups** - do you have an interest that you could share with others? Cycling? Dog walking? Let's do these things together and use them as a gathering point. Get in touch with your ideas.
- **We continue to look to find ways** to share the vision of home group life and make small groups as accessible as possible to everyone in the congregation
- **Encouraging new members** to join an existing or new small group this year - please help!



PRAYER POINTS

- **Pray for our amazing small groups leaders** – that God may sustain and bless them in this vital ministry
- **Pray for more members** of our church community to find small groups and have regular discipleship
- **For new small group initiatives** such as potential shared interest groups, and for all those who have gone and will go through the Baptism Preparation Course

ST STEPHEN'S

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Our small but deeply faithful congregation** who meet every Sunday morning
- **Our midweek group gathering** every Tuesday afternoon to pray and read Scripture
- **Being there to support and encourage** one another through challenges and celebrations
- **The launch of Sparkle** which has become a thriving community at St Stephen's

COMING UP IN 2023

- **We celebrate** the 1st Birthday of Sparkle and its growth to a second day
- **Seeking ways** that the congregation can grow both numerically and in discipleship



We are so excited that Sparkle is growing! The vision for this project was to create a space where relationships can 'spark' and bring light and joy to the young, the old and the communities around them. Having launched in June 2022, Sparkle now has over 25 members and has engaged with over 100 primary school children, 20 nursery children and many community organisations such as the local police, council, social prescribers, GPs, arts & culture groups and conservation groups. Thanks to many prayers and generous funders, we are now in a position to launch a second day at St Stephen's and also a new venue at St Michael's Wandsworth Common.



PRAYER POINTS

- **Pray that new people** will be drawn to Sunday worship and the Tuesday Group
- **Pray for the couple of young people** who come on Sunday mornings that they may keep growing in their faith
- **That Sparkle would be a success** and a source of light and joy for all who come
- **That Sparkle would be the catalyst to a community** forming around St Stephen's and that through this community we can create pathways to faith

ACKROYDON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Outreach on the West Hill Southfields Estate began years ago with a youth club, and has continued with numerous activities, events, and the formation of a new church, with Bishop Christopher of Southwark Diocese awarding us a Bishop's Mission Order at the end of 2018. **Praise God!**

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Gradual growth** – Numbers at the church have stabilised really well, heading towards some sustained growth. We were sad to see James leave at the end of the summer, but happy to have Kadin with us every other week. People are really committed to creating a welcoming church for anyone in the community.
- **Warm Spaces** – To help people cope with the winter fuel crisis, we had a warm space open on Monday afternoons for soup and sandwiches, games, newspapers, and company.
- **Nativity Live** – We kicked off the festive season telling the Nativity story featuring farm animals! What an amazing way to become immersed in the story of Jesus' birth. The smells really added to the atmosphere... It's become an annual treat for families.
- **Christmas bundles** – Over 140 families in the area received an amazing Christmas bundle - some from Ackroydon Hall, and some from Brathway Hall. It was lovely seeing smiles on people's faces as they were blessed with food and gifts. Thank you to all who gave financially and all the incredible volunteers who spent hours preparing and distributing the bundles.
- **Christmas Party** – Halima and Fiona (members of the church) ran a phenomenal Christmas party. There were games, crafts, and food galore! The grotto, and Santa with pretty dodgy accents (Rich), were highlights too.

OPEN HOUSE

- **Social club for older residents** meeting weekly on Mondays. It's been running for 9½ years now and is still viewed as a highlight for many of our regulars.
- **Pray** for isolated older people and for friendships to deepen.
- **Pray** for more older people to join us - our numbers are really low at the moment.
- **Pray** for more volunteers to make it a more dynamic service.



'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'

Matthew 5:14, 16

AFTER SCHOOL POP UP CAFE

- **Every Thursday** James and a group of local families ran an after school club with games, crafts and friendship. We had to close this down because of some problems. We are exploring ideas for a new after school offering.
- **Messy Easter** - it was lovely to have Celia, Megan and Kadin hosting families for a walk through the Easter story.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023/4

- **PLEASE PRAY** - we have had some vision and dreaming sessions with the church recently. It was clear people have loads to be thankful for about the church. They have amazing capacity for joining in with all God wants to do in the community.
- **IDEAS WE HAD TOGETHER** - Kingdom Come type prayer nights at Ackroydon, and 24/7 prayer; to restart a toddler group; activities for young people; a local community fundraiser to invest into new activities and services in the community; more worship on Sundays; host mental health awareness workshops for young people.

We pray for God's Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.



Outdoor Services



Warm Spaces



Christmas Party



Santa's Grotto

SOCIAL ACTION

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

Community Lunch

- In November 2022 Community Lunch moved back to St Michael's from Brathway Hall
- Throughout the last six months guest numbers have steadily increased

Wandsworth Foodbank

- **11,145** emergency food supplies were given out during 2022-23, a **12.5%** increase since last year. **1 in 3** emergency food supplies were for children
- Winter Warmer Appeal in Wandsworth raised **£41,000** which provided over **500** emergency fuel vouchers to those in hardship in the borough

Glass Door Winter Night shelter

- Reopened in November 2022 and ran each Saturday night until the end of March

Ukrainian Supper

- Launched in June 2022, as a weekly social evening for any Ukrainian refugees in the local area. English lessons, a hot meal and the chance to meet other Ukrainians made this a popular event with between 25 & 30 guests attending each week

Warm Spaces

- Four separate Warm Spaces were set up at our various sites to help those most affected by the cost of living crisis to keep warm and access hot food through the winter months

St Mike's Kitchen Garden

- The number of vegetable beds grew through the year. All the produce is given, free of charge, to local residents in need, mainly via St Michael's Food Bank, and Community Lunch
- Continued to play an important role in supporting the physical and mental health and well-being of all volunteers and in promoting St Michael's green and sustainable ethos

Heidi Klein Sample Sales

- An amazing £46,230 was raised in 2022/23 from these twice yearly sales. This money has been used to fund all our social action projects

Women's Refuge

- Christmas and Easter gifts were delivered to 20 women and 25 children

COMING UP IN 2023

Upcoming Plans

- CAP Lifeskills Course to be delivered three times a year at St Michael's and Ackroydon Community Church
- Extend Community Lunch to develop friendships and address isolation among our guests
- Provide evolving Ukrainian refugee support - reacting to the situation as it unfolds
- Link the Kitchen Garden with local schools and youth to support learning about the environment, the importance of sustainability and healthy eating
- Holiday Hunger - investigate the viability of a project to address this across the summer months

PRAYER POINTS

- **Give thanks** for our amazing volunteers, without whom none of these projects would be possible.
- **Ask God** to inspire others to use their skills and passions to join existing and new projects, so that we can continue to show God's love to our community.
- **Pray for justice** for those facing big struggles at present and especially for lives made more difficult than ever by the cost of living increase and the invasion of Ukraine



MINISTRY STAFF

Senior Leadership Team

Rev Stephen Melliush

Rev Richard Boothroyd

Rev Louisa Davies

Megan Taylor

Kate Elliott

Worship and Youth Pastor

Sean Skinner

Accounts

Christine Lipton

Susan Sangamneheri

Sparkle and Social Action

Emma Chisholm

Gaby McWhinnie

Kathy Melliush

Kids Team

Jen Constable

Celia Richardson

Kadin Barber

Megan Bremner

Cafe Team

Eithne Brading-Keane

Josh Rowing

ST MIKE'S CAFE

2022/23 HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Refill at St Mike's** - celebrated its first full year and is used by many people across the community
- **Under New Management** - the dynamic duo of Eithne and Josh are now in charge and taking the cafe into a new, exciting phase
- **Work Experience** - we have had a number of young people volunteering at the cafe for their Duke of Edinburgh award, and we have provided training for students with additional learning needs from Lindon Lodge.
- **The Pavilion Café** in the church field, on Fridays in the summer term
- **Christmas Fair** in December – a wonderful, and profitable, community event
- **Hosting** a LOT of guests from our local communities for Thursday Tots, Community Lunch, Foodbank, Book Swap, Heartbeeps, Monkey Music, Kumon, Ballet and Dance, Friday Movies, NCT Breastfeeding Cafe and more!
- **Curious Roo Partnership** - our favourite roasters and wonderful supporters of St Mike's Cafe
- **Brand new coffee machine** and continued professional training from Artisan Coffee

COMING UP IN 2023/24

- Continuing to develop the lunchtime panini menu
- Summer drinks menu and other seasonal beverages
- Knit and Natter potentially starting



PRAYER POINTS

- That the café continues to be the front door to the church, welcoming all who enter.
- Discernment as to whether to open the café on Saturday mornings for the whole community
- That our customers might become part of our congregation and that increasingly the café can facilitate a fresh expression of church.
- That we welcome all faiths, those not following a faith and treat everyone with equal respect.

MISSION PARTNERS

AS A CHURCH WE SUPPORT SIX MAIN CHARITIES:

- **Regenerate UK** runs a variety of programmes for children, young people and their families in Roehampton, and partners with other London estate communities to initiate similar projects.
- **Medair**, particularly in South Sudan, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria – saves lives in emergencies, provides healthcare, nutrition, safe water, sanitation, shelter and infrastructure.
- **iThemba**, South Africa, runs education, sports, training, crèche and feeding programmes.
- **Christian Solidarity Worldwide** works in over 20 countries across Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, defending everyone’s right to freedom of religion or belief.
- **RedTribe** works in partnership with a remote and traditional Maasai community (Kenya/Tanzania border) to bring hope for a better future by improving health, education, and alleviating poverty.
- **Hope For Justice** exists to bring an end to modern slavery by preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives, and reforming society.



RECENTLY IN 2022

- **Mission Possible** dinner, dancing and auctions night on Saturday 14 May was our annual fundraising event, and all profits went to our mission partners and social action projects. It was a brilliant evening to hear from our mission partners and be together at last after two years online. Thank you for coming, giving and to the amazing team who organised a cracking evening.

PRAYER POINTS

- For each of the **6 charities**, particularly for their leaders and management.
- For **home groups** as they pray for the charities on a regular basis.

PCC MEMBERS

Church Wardens Andrew Lucas, Jess Harwood

PCC Liz Jukes (Treasurer), Toby Beazley, Anthony Bell, Emma Chisholm, Caroline Crowther, Jon Frostick (Safeguarding Officer), Max Griffin, Jonathan Moorese, Sarah Perrott, Jo Withington

SAFEGUARDING

At St Michael's Southfields, and St Stephen's Putney and Ackroydon Community Church we are committed to safeguarding the children and vulnerable adults in our care. You can read our safeguarding policies on our website.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officers are Jon Frostick and Megan Taylor

