**Crossnet Annual General Meeting**

**19th April 2021**

**Reports to the AGM:**

**Rev’d Nick Crawley – Licensed leader of Crossnet**

It has been so exciting watching the Lord work across all the different Gatherings and ministries of the Crossnet Network during the past twelve months. Whereas I could write at length about what has happened, I prefer to stand aside so those leading and working for Crossnet can give their own testimonies about the grace of the Lord.

There is one change I need to explain which is that having overseen ‘Crossnet’ with the assistance of ‘The Executive’ for a number of years we shall from this AGM form Crossnet Church Council. This will meet every two months for a slightly longer time to oversee the wider Crossnet Network and to which each Crossnet Gathering is invited to nominate two representatives.

1. **Crossnet Battersea - Report**

It is just over a year since we multiplied from Crossnet Wandsworth and definitely not the year we expected!! Highlights of the online season of meeting were sharing our testimonies with each other, doing The Prayer Course and catching up with each other each week. We also were able to meet in person for a number of months as we rented out the local Scout hut on Sunday evenings.

More recently, we have been doing prayer walks and outreach around the Battersea area on Saturdays and have been getting to know lots of lonely neighbours and people struggling to be hopeful. It has been a really interesting time getting to know them and trying to work out how best we can introduce them to Jesus and be good news to them.

A big highlight was Easter Day, where we made up bunches of spring of flowers and handed them out around our area - people opened the door suspiciously but were then so delighted to receive a bunch and talk.

On the one hand, it has been a challenging year where we have constantly had to revise and reimagine what our meetings look like. On the other hand, it has been a hugely rewarding time of deepening relationships.

1. **Crossnet Wandsworth – Report**

"Crossnet Wandsworth has enjoyed a creative 12 months since lockdown and its own creation began. We have met online and used the time to hear one another’s testimonies, focus on ways in which we can serve the world’s poor and vulnerable as well as studying the book of Romans and now just finishing life through the Psalms. The best parts of it have leading together with Ali T, Caitlin and Josh and now Sam and Ellie Matthews. Additionally, it has been wonderful to grow in loving one another. We have started a Thursday night Prayer Course with 24/7 prayer which has been shared with others from outside of Crossnet Wandsworth too. Finally, two of us are now planning an online alpha for someone who is interested in knowing more about Jesus. And we are really looking forward to meet in person outside very soon!"

1. **Crossnet Bristol Report**

As for every church in Crossnet - and the UK - this year has been hugely affected by the global pandemic. We have however continued to see God work in many wonderful ways.

As a result of the pandemic, Sunday Gatherings have almost entirely been held over Zoom. The decision was taken to opt for Zoom over ‘live’ services immediately following the first lockdown announced in March 2020 for the simple reason that we were small and zoom made sense. We wanted to prioritise keeping the community together and we weren’t so big that it’d be unreasonable to expect zoom to work as other churches have had to reason. This has meant we’ve been able to meet together each week still at the same time and share in what God has been doing.

We’ve been continually amazed to see our number of members increase month on month. We went from around 15-20 at the beginning of the pandemic, to 36 now, with some weeks seeing close to 40 people on the call. This has been hugely encouraging to see, not simply because of the increased numbers alone, but more because we are seeing people filled with the spirit and excited to become part of a community of disciples. We have also been able to welcome many guests to our gatherings and pray for most of them.

The leadership at the start of the year was: Harry Fenner Crawley, Claire Fenner Crawley and Harry O’Conor. In September, Harry Fenner Crawley - after a year of incredibly faithful service - decided it was right for him to step back from the leadership role. Claire and Harry O’Conor led as a two for a few months, before welcoming Roscoe Crawley and Sam Duquemin to the team in December 2020. The fact that Roscoe and Sam had both moved to Bristol during the summer and were able to take on the role was amazing provision.

Sam and Roscoe came onto the team with the objective of pursuing student ministry and have prepared separate reports into how this has been. Further to this, they have added a huge amount to the setting of vision for the church and to the values we are forming around. A conversation that has continued in the team (and the church) over the year regards our vision to multiply. We made the decision not to multiply whilst we’re still online, but very much have this as our goal, especially as we see membership numbers increase.

We have enjoyed a range of different series over 2020/21. These included:

* Ephesians: **The riches and tools of the faith**
	+ A 12 week series going through both the riches of faith in Jesus and the foundational tools of following him. By ‘the riches’ we mean the rewards and blessings of the faith (e.g. adopted sonship, a glorious inheritance etc.). By the ‘tools’ we mean the fundamental ways in which God helps and equips us to know and love him and others.
	+ **Guest Speakers**: Tim Kovoor on Eph 1, Silas Crawley on Eph 6
* Summer Series: Members sharing
	+ Our summer series gave us the opportunity to hear from new members. We heard testimonies from: Kat Allen, Jack Allen, Alison Horney, Pam and Mike Collier, Elizabeth Lamb, Grace Shepherd, and Sarah Maguire.
* Gifts that Build Up the Church
	+ This gave us an opportunity to focus on equipping and empowering everyone in the church to identify their particular role in the body of Christ and grow in it.
	+ **Guest Speakers**: Marjorie Allan on Prophecy
* Mission
	+ The purpose of this series was for all members of Crossnet to become excited about mission, church multiplication and their role in it; for every person to have a fresh understanding of the call on a disciples life; and, to empower people, so they feel confident they can be missional in their context.
	+ **Guest Speakers**: Nick Duffey on Life as a Missionary, Alain Emerson on Living as People of the Spirit.

We also saw various mid-week groups started in the church. Wednesday morning prayer meetings began and were taken on by Zsumana Awad. Discipleship Group (Deeg) continued on Thursday evenings. Mens and Womens groups - led by Roy Macguire and Allison Horney respectively - have also continued.

Overall, we feel that God has really blessed us in our three values that we aim towards:

**Mission**: We saw various missional initiatives grow despite lockdown and especially have seen a real increase in testimonies of people stepping out in faith to share the gospel and love people recently.

**Discipleship**: We learnt a lot about discipleship during adverse circumstances this year and the faithfulness of the congregation to God and his word has been amazing. Some of our members had a very difficult year social, financially and health wise and we have been impressed by their patient endurance of these trials. Videos from members about scripture have been a highlight.

**Community**: This has been difficult due to Covid but we saw people support each other through the lockdown with practical and social support, various members now share housing, prayer triplets have been started and the online community has thrived.

**Sam Duquemin - Crossnet Bristol Leader i/c Mission and Evangelism**

As a part time employee of Crossnet, I have the privilege of helping to lead the Bristol based church. Doing so with particular oversight of mission within the church, alongside pioneering a student ministry with Roscoe.

Since my appointment in December:

1. We have had a 10-week Mission series, putting a spotlight on the importance of mission, with the aim of increasing its significance culturally within the church.
2. Members of Crossnet coming out onto uni campuses. As Roscoe and I have head onto university campuses to pray with students and share the gospel, members of Crossnet have come to support, learn and have a go.
3. Beginning to engage with other churches and students for outreach. Our connections with other churches is growing around mission. We have had 4 different churches wanting to join us on street outreach.
4. Cultural observation:
I noticed when I arrived at the church, the communication was very pastoral; from the leaders, on the WhatsApp and during testimonies. This is an area that Crossnet is strong in and I have seen that the church has continued in its pastoral care through new structures brought in by Roscoe. However there has been a positive change to accommodate more mission based testimonies and encouragement, particularly in the areas highlighted above. There is new momentum in this area of the church, which was culturally not overly present, even back in December. This is of course bigger picture observation and there have certainly been examples of mission before recent months, this point is simply to outline a cultural shift I see happening. One that we are still in. I see crossnet is approaching its 3 core values of discipleship, mission and community in a more rounded way, with equal attention to all 3.
5. Going forwards:
- We will be exploring Mission before Sunday services to give all the opportunity to try sharing the gospel with strangers or neighbours.
- Discipling training: Training the church in how to make a disciple, using tools from No Place Left
6. Alpha. Continuing to offer alpha as a way to help new believers of people interested in faith engage with the church, whether that is one on one or as a larger group.
7. Exploring engagement with local charities (i.e. shelters, food banks or rehabilitation projects)

**Roscoe Crawley – Crossnet Bristol Leader i/c Pastoral Work:**

I started working for Crossnet one day a week at the beginning of December 2020. Only a few weeks later an announcement was made to put the UK into another lockdown which has affected the missional parts of my role. Having said that, the pastoral side of the role has gone well and we were able to set up a prayer group structure with the aim that every member of Crossnet Church would feel seen and known during this time. I check in regularly with prayer groups and, on the whole, this has been a success. This has also been in addition to sending out messages to various members asking if there are any specific prayers to pray for or needs that the church could meet.

I also maintain the running of the Crossnet website which is a simple job and mainly involves uploading weekly talks. I also launched Crossnet on Fusion's Student Link Up platform to make us searchable to students who are moving to Bristol. We will hopefully see some fruit of this after freshers week in September.

Lastly, weekly outreach hasn't been put on hold despite lockdown restrictions. We've been able to walk Bristol Uni Campuses and even talk to students and offer prayer. It's been encouraging to see other members of Crossnet join in alongside students and student workers from other churches. We're now at the point of possibly having multiple groups walking around Bristol sharing faith each week which feels very exciting!

**Crossnet – Bristol 2021 AGM Safeguarding report**

During the previous twelve months I am pleased to say there were no safeguarding issues.

I was asked for advice regarding a new person to Crossnet around mental health issues and I advised and sign posted them accordingly.

Roy Maguire

 3rd April 2021