

2020 – AGM – Crossnet

Report by Reverend Nick Crawley

Since the beginning of 2019 Crossnet has developed from being a single church to being, as our name suggests, a network of Gatherings centred around the message of the Cross. We thank and worship God that through His grace the original vision from 2004 is now being established.

These are Crossnet's leading features and developments ...

1. Crossnet Bristol usually meets on Sundays in Elia Café (formerly Convivio's). The numbers attending have grown significantly since last year. Harry and Claire Fenner Crawley and Harry O'Connor are the Leadership Team for Crossnet Bristol.
2. Large numbers of guests are regularly attending our meetings – total weekly attendance has grown from being around 10 to three or four times as many across the three venues.
3. Crossnet London has grown soundly and in early 2020 has multiplied into two gatherings: Crossnet Wandsworth (led by Josh and Caitlin Heslop and Ali Trudinger – see their separate report), and Crossnet Battersea (led by Ed and Catriona Hill and Kate Hames).
4. Crossnet have commissioned, and we support, Jake and Beth (and Faith) Spencer to working with the Roma people in Western Romania.
5. I am in discussion with a couple who are exploring coming to join Crossnet in September 2020 in order to minister to students in Bristol.
6. We have moved the Crossnet banking online.

Once again, I end with special thanks; to **Andrew Wood** for auditing the Accounts, to the **Diocesan Authorities** for their patience and encouragement and long-term support, to **all those who support us financially and in prayer**, and especially to our **members**. But above all we thank the Lord for His faithfulness, grace and love.

Reverend Nick Crawley

3rd May 2020

Crossnet Bristol developments during 2019

Report for Crossnet AGM, Sunday 3rd May 2020

2019 has seen significant changes in the direction, membership and leadership of Crossnet Bristol.

During the first half of 2019, there was lots of prayer during weekly and monthly prayer meetings about the direction of Crossnet. We prayed that a student worker would come along if that was the right thing, and advertised for a post. Numbers were small but steady and we continued to meet at Elia café. We had an excellent series delving deep into Romans, and a couple of excellent guest speakers (Matt Lynch and Helen Paynter).

The Spencers decided to go to Romania on mission for a year and there were a few months of uncertainty in April and May over what Crossnet Bristol would look like come September. We continued to pray and wait. One of the first answers to prayer was the Gilberts joining us in late April.

Over the summer, Harry and Claire Fenner Crawley and Harry O’Conor felt an unexpected prompt from the Spirit to think about taking on leadership, which was confirmed by Nick and Lucy and then the Exec. We slowly started taking on leadership responsibilities from October onwards. This included thinking and praying about reinvigorating the vision and values ready for 2020 and asking the church to join us in seeking prophecy about this.

The new academic year started with a wonderful Day Away combined with Crossnet London, and we were overjoyed to have many new people join the congregation as we baptised baby Faith and said goodbye to the Spencers.

The year ended with a sermon series based on pioneering in Acts, lots of new enthusiasm from our members new and old and a beautiful baptism of a new Christian, Alex, and set us up feeling excited, motivated and intrigued for what God would do in Crossnet in 2020.

Crossnet Wandsworth 2020 AGM Report

Dear Crossnet AGM,

Please find a short summary of the events of Crossnet Wandsworth in the last 12 months.

Crossnet Wandsworth has enjoyed an exciting and novel birth since it’s genesis in January/February 2019. At that point, we had hosted an alpha course with four others hoping at least one of the four would want to start following Jesus and that we, Caitlin, Kate Hames and myself, could become a home for them. It didn’t happen like that! Instead, we started by having someone return to Christ and the Church after a

long time away from the body. We then found that over time more people started to find us and become part of our gatherings, which became a huge blessing. I think the most precious fruit which has been shared amongst those that have come to Crossnet Wandsworth has been a growing love for Jesus but nonetheless I shall include some other highlights since we began.

We studied Mark's gospel, 1 Corinthians (which one must study when you know the Crawleys) and then Acts which has strongly influenced some of the decisions we have made together. We punctuated our gatherings with "Spiritual Discipline Sundays" where we would have a very short instruction on a practice of Jesus and then spend the rest of the time doing it. These included: prophecy, reading scripture, prayer, prayer walking, singing, silence, fasting and others. We also had meals together once every 6 weeks or so and shared updates on each other's lives. Nick has frequently been able to teach and share communion with us which has been wonderful. We additionally had a christmas meal in December where everyone invited one or two friends that didn't know the Lord and a friend of ours shared his testimony of salvation and following Jesus. This was really exciting and was the fulfilment of a lot of dreams. Through another friend, Crossnet Wandsworth were able to help disciple a new believer in the first few weeks of following Jesus before she emigrated abroad. In the month of January we started to actively pray about whether or not we wanted to continue meeting as a gathering of 14 people + or whether we wanted to become two smaller gatherings. After a lot of prayer and discussion, we felt the Lord was leading us, remarkably clearly, to multiply. And so we did! We had one meeting in the flesh before we started meeting online, and it has been such a blessing, particularly as we would have struggled to love and know one another at this unusual time as a bigger group. We continually thank Jesus for the extraordinary blessing of the body of Christ.

Much love,
Josh (and Crossnet Wandsworth)