

Crossnet AGM Report

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Nick stood down from officially leading Crossnet at the end of Dec 2021. I was then recognized as the formal leader of Crossnet as far as the diocese is concerned as I've had years of experience of leading Crossnet and hold a Bishop's license for lay ministry. In practice, I'm simply overseeing three capable leadership teams in Bristol and London. I feel bad that for the majority of the last four months I've either been traveling or recovering from a second bout of Covid so I realize that I've been quite absent, but I'm also fully confident that the LT can lead Crossnet in my absence. In practice, as far as the day to day running of Crossnet is concerned, they are fully in control and I really only need to be there for back up when needed and to liaise with the diocese.

I'd like to begin by thanking Elizabeth for her contribution to Crossnet on the LT. She's brought great wisdom, compassion, and grace to the team and we'll miss her, John, and Jethro enormously.

I also want to thank Sam for his contribution. Sam has brought enthusiasm, some great sermon series, fun, and a passion for church planting, which we hope to see unfold in the months to come.

I'm delighted and grateful to both Esther and Sam Mahoney-Jones for joining the LT and agreeing to act as our treasurer respectively! Thank you both so much.

For me personally, the last year has marked a huge transition with Nick stepping down after 17 years of leading Crossnet with me and transitioning to working solely with Bible for Life. I feel very excited to see so many young people joining all three Crossnets and to see the kind of vision and energy that they/you all have for mission and discipleship. It's a huge privilege to see what Crossnet is becoming in its next phase and we're excited about the future.

We had a wonderful stepping down service for Nick and I also want to thank him on everybody's behalf for his vision for Crossnet and his determination to make it work even when it was really tough!

Church Planting

Since we held our meeting about church planting on xxxx Sam and Ellie Duquemin have been exploring the idea of planting out with a small group. The plan from now on is that they begin to meet as a small group to get to know each other better, pray, and seek the Lord for the vision ahead and think about planting out after the 24-7 gathering in Belfast at the end of October. We're really fortunate to have the support of 24-7, specifically in Roger Ellis, who is a seasoned church leader with both apostolic and pastoral gifting. He will help us to think about how we go about planting in the future and I believe will be enormously helpful to us in seeing pitfalls before they arise!

The Future of Crossnet

As most members of Crossnet are aware, Nick's resignation has raised some interesting questions about how we relate to the Anglican church from now on. We're currently in discussion with both the diocese and the London Crosnets to discern the way forward. We're meeting with all the leaders and the Crossnet Council tomorrow evening to have an initial chat and will meet again in two weeks after we've had time to pray and reflect on the implications for all of us. We'll keep you posted and value your prayers. I'm happy to take questions on this.

Going Forward

I've always loved what God has done through and in Crossnet, and every year seems special in different ways, but this year has a particular sense of excitement for me as I look at what God is doing through growing our little groups and bringing more and more young people into our sphere. I'm excited about Roscoe's outreach to students as that's always been a part of what we've been praying into at Crossnet. I'm also excited about new leaders growing up through Crossnet and moving out to do new things. I believe very strongly that God has an agenda for us as we move into a time when much about the church has been and is being shaken and God seems to be breaking and reforming ways of doing church in almost every nation. I've always felt that Crossnet was a prophetic community and I still feel that today. I feel people are hungry for authenticity, depth in biblical and theological knowledge, and the leading of the Spirit where we allow him to unsettle us and move us into new places. These have always been marks of Crossnet and I think they still are. I'm grateful to all of you who have joined us in the last year and I'm looking forward to seeing what God does next and the impact that has for the kingdom!

Church Plant Update - Sam Duquemin

It is a joy to be part of this church and it has been such a strength in the many seasons of covid and lockdown and after. It has a real passion for discipleship, knowing the bible. Being fervent in prayer, following the spirits lead.

There is a continuing conviction in me to plant out. To take the things that Crossnet holds in high regard and work them out in a smaller house church setting, with the prayer that this will make space for new leaders to emerge; for discipleship to Jesus be worked out in an intimate way together; for the unchurched to experience Christian community. I believe that God has put church planting as a mandate over Crossnet, in order to become that network around the cross, as the name suggests. I pray that, along with the london churches, that we are at the very start of the reach God will have through crossnet. Not for our glory or name but for his.

As we gather a team together to do this, I am excited for the road ahead of learning and outworking Christian community and committed following of Jesus, with friends! I think of all the people in Bristol, even people we know, who God is preparing in ways we don't see. I want there to be an invitation and a welcome for them in a church family where they can get to know Jesus. We need more churches, we need more disciple makers to see the lost be found in Christ. Church planting makes space for those people to be known.

The plan is to plant with a core team that will be meeting throughout the year, but officially planting in late October. As it stands there are 5 potentially 6 people who are forming that team. Please pray for us as we discern God's will and form vision over the next few months/summer

Report - Roscoe

I have worked at Crossnet for over a year now focusing particularly on student mission, believing that this is a calling for the crossnet as it was one of the words given to the church as it was formed 18 years ago now. In the last year I've made connections with 4 students, currently discipling 3 of them through going out each week and sharing the gospel with students. In September I represented Crossnet at the Try Church freshers stands at UoB and UWE. Which felt fruitful, as some of you know I connected with the visitors who came to the Easter Sunday service last week at those events. On reflection I missed out on attending the Church Search event which is hosted by the CU and is a really key part of meeting with students in the year and I'd like to make sure Crossnet are represented there this September.

There's been a huge amount of favour on UWE campus, already connected with 2 students after only going on 4 times on campus this year. UoB has felt like tougher ground in terms of evangelism and fruitfulness but we have seen favour in terms of leadership on UoB campus. The head of resident life is a Christian who actively asks Churches to come onto Campus to pray for students which is largely the reason we have the open doors to do what we do (as far as I know there isn't another university in the UK which has the same level of openness towards evangelism as UoB does). This has also resulted in us setting up a 24/7 prayer weekend, 20-21st May. It would be amazing to have Crossnet involved and I'll send more information on this later. The idea is that we gather churches all across Bristol to come together on the University campus and pray for the students of the city.

To summarise, I'm really encouraged with what we've seen in the last year but there is definitely a sense that there's more we could do in terms of student mission and, in a wider sense, helping us as a church engage with mission.

I was also really excited to set up the Church planting group in February. This is open to all Crossnet members who want to be involved with Church planting and explore that as a calling over their life. It came from the idea that, if we really want to pursue church planting and make it sustainable, we need to have a way of opening up the conversation so that we can start equipping our members to start these new gatherings. I really enjoyed it and I was so encouraged to see 14 of us turn up with a handful who wanted to come but couldn't make the date. We'll have another meeting in May, date tbc.

The last thing I'd like to say is thank you to all who support Crossnet Church and make this role possible. Your prayers and encouragement have made the last year a joy to journey through. Being part of Crossnet has certainly been a blessing to me and I feel excited for what God has in store for this coming year.

New Paid Role (maintaining crossnet but I think we can push further into mission, into engaging with the Bristol community and also helping us navigate the CofE decision - whatever happens it will require a bit of work so we want to position ourselves well for that)
And also a new volunteer role!