



# APCM 2022

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

being transformed | in Christ  
bringing hope | for everyone

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# WELCOME

being transformed | in Christ | bringing hope | for everyone

Welcome to St Michaels, St Stephens and Ackroydon churches.

The pages that follow will give a snapshot of the life of our church community. You will see that it is good news. Over the recent few years, the challenging conditions of life, have demanded considerable reinvention and creativity. I am blessed to be part of an amazing team who bring all their gifts and characters to bear with energy and passion to the mission of this church. They have worked unbelievably hard, and I hope you will be able to see the fruit of this within the pages that follow.

Thank you for standing with us in this season and for the many of you who share, serve, and give so generously. All that follows would not be possible without you.

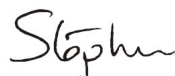
It is so good to now be back in our buildings, enjoying worship, being with one another, and slowly rebuilding community life. Welcome back, and a very warm welcome to all of you that have joined us over the last 2 years.

I am also very aware, that while we celebrate and give thanks to God for so much good news, that many of you will also have experienced deep loss, illness, and disappointment. The challenge of life and our faith must also be grounded in the reality of world we live in, the word of God and His presence. As J R R Tolkien once wrote:

*"Deep roots are not reached by the frost.  
From the ashes a fire shall be woken,  
a light from the shadows shall spring".*

There is an important hidden work, perhaps not celebrated in these pages, but one where, amongst all the funerals, illnesses, and losses, we pray for you and stand with you. Grace and peace to you.

Rev Stephen Melliush



# WORSHIP

## 2021/22 HIGHLIGHTS

- **A Growing Team** - The team has grown in number since coming out of lockdown, particularly in area of singing - we are a blessed team with many excellent vocalists. Some of those vocalists have also grown in their roles from being singers in the team 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 our regular prayer meetings into hour long times of extended worship. These were really successful events and times of powerful encounter 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 consideration of updating the necessary equipment, The team has worked hard to create the ability to share our worship with a wider audience through online streaming with great quality. This has also increased the workload and knowledge needed for our soundesk and tech teams who have worked really hard to continually deliver excellent quality live church streams for our online congregation.

## COMING UP IN 2022

- **Development of Younger Team Members** - Continue to work with some of our younger church members in the development of their musical instrument, 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 of new worship songs. We are looking to release these through platforms like Youtube and Spotify this year.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for our visual 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 God to breathe into and ignite any new songs that are either introduced or written by the worship team this year.

# TOOLBOX TOTS

## 2021/22 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Toolbox Tots** - We continue to teach about the love of Jesus through worship, Bible stories, prayer, play, craft and fun.
- **Early Bird** - Our vision is to communicate Gospel truths in a family friendly way and equip families with the tools to practise faith together at home.
- **Thursday Tots** - Our vision for this playgroup is to meet the need of parents and care givers in our community by providing play opportunities, singing together and building relationships.
- **New Mums' Coffee Morning** - Started online with mums who had their babies during lockdown and is now a relaxed face to face session and support group to new parents.
- **Pre-Baptism Alpha** - This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to explore three Alpha sessions before getting their little ones baptised. It is also a wonderful way for families to meet.



## COMING UP IN 2022

- **Re-Launch of Little and Loud** - This session is lead by St Michael's dads and will be re-launched in September 2022.
- **Team Building** - Socials to be planned for the summer, such as a thank you fun day for volunteers and their families.

## 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

## 2021/22 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Toolbox is back up and running after the pandemic** - Being able to meet as a kids church again has been a real highlight.
- **Prayer stations** - We began running half-termly family friendly prayer stations in February '22. Families can come and use the prayer stations set up in the church. Some very special times were had, giving families creative ideas for praying at home.
- **Communion Course** - 28 Children took part which resulted in a brilliant communion service on 15 May '22 where we celebrated their commitment to following Jesus with the wider church family.
- **Bible Journaling** - A mid week craft club every Wednesday started in September 2021. The group is run by Celia. Children of all ages can come together to get creative and base their artwork around a particular bible verse to learn more about the bible together.
- **Cell groups** - Continue to grow and be a vital part of the discipleship of our older Toolbox children.
- **Links with schools in the community** - We have hosted and visited many primary schools since September '21, including Southmead, West Hill, Sheringdale, and of course St. Michael's! It is great to do so again since the pandemic, giving us the chance to connect with children of all faith or no-faith backgrounds.

## COMING UP IN 2022

- **F-factor (11th June)** - Our annual family faith day is back with brilliant guest speaker Mark Griffiths encouraging faith within the family. Including kids activities, family challenges, all age worship and more - we are so looking forward to it.
- **Toolbox Xtra Day (9th July)** - A fun activity day run by Heidi with a talk and a ministry point in the afternoon, this day will be a time to hang out together and build relationships.
- **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 - much needed after the past couple of years!

## PRAYER POINTS

- **F-factor** - For families to come, for faith to rise, for fun to be had and for some amazing encounters with God.
- **Families to return** - We still have some families who haven't come back to church since the pandemic. Please pray that they would. For them to feel it's a safe space and for connections to be re-established.
- **For the children in our church** - That they would know how important they are to their Father in heaven, how loved they are by him and how He has a plan and a purpose for their lives.

# YOUTH

## 2021/22 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Community** – Our Friday Night Youth group is all about giving youth space to build strong friendships that will last & give an entry point into church for youth that have not been before. Cell groups & 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 7's into our youth group while having fun & 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 Christmas Fair, in services at The Six, Mission Possible, Christmas services, and planting new trees on the field.
- **Cell Groups** – Over 50 youth taking faith deeper.

## COMING UP IN 2022

- **Dreaming the Impossible (DTI)** – A group of us are going to Stafford for the festival this summer.
- **Youth on the Field** – Youth church & Friday Night Youth club on the field this the Summer Term.
- **Summer** - Fun and games on the field including our annual BBQ!
- **The Big Church Day Out** – A group of us are going to the festival for some great worship together.



## PRAYER POINTS

- For all that's coming up in **2022!**
- For the exams between **April** and **July**.
- That the youth continue to **grow in relationship** with each other and God.
- **Thank God** for the young people & all of our volunteers and pray blessing over them.
- For **new staff** as Mike & Heidi hand on the baton...and more volunteers to make it all happen!

# SMALL GROUPS

## 2021/22 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Groups continued to support one another** through the pandemic over Zoom and WhatsApp, and have had the joy being able to gather back in person again
- **The wide variety of small groups** happening at St Michael's and St Stephen's including evening home groups, groups meeting during the day in St Michael's and St Stephen's, Men of Bacon and Granola Girls in the early hours, an informal evening prayer walking group, reflective space with Compline, and a post-Alpha group continuing to meet on Zoom
- **New temporary small groups** meeting for a few weeks to look at certain themes including 25 people doing a mini Alpha course pre baptism, Lent Reading Groups, and a Monday Theology Group reading and discussing works of key theologians from the past 2000 years

## COMING UP IN 2022

- **A new small group** is launching on Sunday afternoons for those with young children who may find it hard to attend evening home groups
- **We continue to look to find ways** to 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



## 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 that they can do regular discipleship with
- **For new small group initiatives** such as the young family's group on Sunday afternoon, and for all those who have gone and will go through the pre baptism Alpha course



# ST STEPHEN'S

## 2021/22 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Being back worshipping together** in person on Sunday mornings
- **The launch of the weekly 9am service** and seeing the congregation gradually return
- **A new midweek group gathering** every Tuesday afternoon to pray, read Scripture, and share high quality biscuits with one another
- **Being there to support and encourage** one another through challenges and celebrations

## COMING UP IN 2022

- **The congregation is really excited** about the launch of the new intergenerational ministry (see below)
- **Seeking for ways** that the congregation can grow both numerically and in depth of discipleship

## SPARKLE

- **We are excited to be launching an intergenerational community centre** at St Stephen's in June. At 'Sparkle', local older residents will be invited to spend the day and dip into intergenerational sessions with nursery children (from Little Fingers) and school-age children from Brandlehow primary school. The vision for this project is to create a space where relationships can 'spark' and bring light and joy to the young, the old and the communities around them.



## PRAYER POINTS

- **Pray that we will find new ways** to reach out to others in the local community
- **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 awarding us a Bishop's Mission Order at the end of 2018.

**Praise God!**

## 2021/22 HIGHLIGHTS

- **This year we decided to start preaching outdoors** - This has created an opportunity for passersby to engage in our moments of preaching, worship and prayer. The response to this has been really positive. Since we've been running outdoor services we have seen our church grow by more than 50% - this includes committed Christians and seekers alike. Praise God!
- **Two Baptism services** - These were significant moments in the life of our church - we are so thankful that people are taking steps to follow Jesus wholeheartedly!
- **Nativity Live** - We kicked off the festive season telling the Nativity story featuring farm animals! What an amazing way to get immersed into the story of Jesus' birth. The smells really added to the atmosphere...
- **Christmas bundles** - Over 60 families in the area received an amazing Christmas bundle . At Ackroydon we believe that bringing Good News means meeting both spiritual and physical needs. It was lovely seeing smiles on people's faces as they were blessed with food and gifts.
- **Candlelit prayer vigil** - In response to the recent uptake in violent crime in the area. Gathering to pray with our community for God's light to overcome darkness was a moving experience.

## OPEN HOUSE

- **Social club for older residents** meeting weekly on Mondays with brilliant events run by Emma Chisholm and her team. It's been running for 8½ years now and is still viewed as a highlight for many of our regulars
- **Pray** for isolated older people and friendships to deepen.
- **Pray** for more older people to join.

## AFTER SCHOOL POP UP CAFE

- **Every Thursday** James and a group of local families run a after school club with games, crafts and friendship. Around 20 children attend regularly
- **Messy Church** Service now running once a month with the help of our Kids team. This is a great opportunity for a deepening faith of those who come!

“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.”

**Matt 5:14, 16**

## NEW VENTURES THIS YEAR

- **Family Events** - We have teamed up with various families who have a fresh vision for the community. These families help run regular lunches at our church services and come up with craft ideas for our pop up cafe. We have also held additional special events such as a Community Fun Day, Movie Nights and a barbeque on the church field.
  - These local families have set up their own groups such as the **Southfields Community Group** which acts as a support network for any local person as well as a space for people to start their own community events. Their passion for the area is inspiring.
  - We're currently running an Alpha course with some of these families to help them explore faith - and they are loving it!
  - **Pray** for growth in this area – we want to see even more of a community presence in the area
  - **Pray** that our friends will come to know Jesus and enter into a personal relationship with Him.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

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

That all sounds like God's Kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.



# SOCIAL ACTION

## 2021/22 HIGHLIGHTS

### Community Lunch

- Re-opened for sit down meals in January 2022 for around 20 people weekly.
- 38 guests attended an Easter service and lunch with a talk and worship.
- Wandsworth Council awarded us a 5 out of 5 food hygiene rating.

### Wandsworth Foodbank

- **9908** emergency food supplies were given out during 2021-22. **2127** local households were supported, 1 in 3 emergency food supplies were for children
- We opened our doors again in September after lockdown

### Glass door Winter Night shelter

- Through winter 2020/21, while shelters were closed due to Covid, our volunteers cooked a hot, two-course meal every Saturday for the homeless.

### Cooking Classes

- Launched free cooking classes at Brathway Hall to teach how to cook simple, nutritious and affordable meals at home via a live or video demonstration.
- Participants get a portion of the completed meal to taste, then take a recipe bag home to cook the meal for themselves.

### Refuge Gift Baskets

- Continued decades of support through gift baskets for 30 ladies staying at the local women's refuge and books and chocolate for the children.

### Heidi Klein Sample Sales

- An amazing **£25,260** profit was raised for future social action projects.



# COMING UP IN 2022

## Upcoming Courses

- CAP Lifeskills Course
- Crosslight Money Course
- Form filling Course
- Ukrainian refugee support centre at Brathway Hall

## 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 turned upside down by the cost of living increase.

# KITCHEN GARDEN

Jon Frostick leads the kitchen garden team nurturing 20 raised beds on the church field growing an assortment of organic vegetables and over 25 fruit trees, bushes and a large herb garden. All the produce grown is given, free of charge, to local residents in need, mainly via St Mike's Food Bank and weekly Community Lunch.

The project has two other main objectives: to support the physical and mental health and well-being of all volunteers and to play a part in promoting St Mike's green and sustainable ethos. As one volunteer succinctly put it, "This is so much more than growing vegetables".

In the next year we hope that our Kitchen Garden will also reap the educational benefit of linking with local schools and St Mike's Youth Team to support learning about the environment, the importance of sustainability and healthy eating, particularly to those children who do not have access to a garden. In conclusion, having constructed raised beds, fenced off the site, bought tools, seeds and fruit trees and put in many hours of hard graft, we are confident to say that St Mike's Kitchen Garden will now be largely self-sustaining and should provide high quality produce as well as enjoyment and fulfilment for many local residents for years to come.



# MINISTRY MOMENTS

As already mentioned, the various “lockdowns” presented not only challenge, but opportunity. We loved discovering an added extension to our congregation as various grannies and granddads, friends, and family from around the world, were able to join with us in worship as we streamed the services. The equipment that we invested in has enabled us to continue to offer online services even now when being back in the building worshipping together.

For the last 2 years we have not been able to host our Christmas and Easter services in the building. Traditionally these have been great community gathering events, where we encourage Southfields into the building. As we learned a new way of “being church”, we switched that around, with the church instead, going to Southfields. That feels much more appropriate.

Rather than meeting in the pub for our “beer and carols” event, we hired flat bed trucks and went to various gathering points to sing and celebrate.

Carols by candlelight was hosted on the church field. (I give thanks to the congregation of 100 years ago who purchased that field and the group that built the pavilion. What a gift they have been).

The Christmas nativity took the form of a walk around the community to various “scenes”. Christmas day, again, we gathered on the field and celebrate with one another. Interestingly, by doing our key services this way, it felt like we had more guests than ever. Watch this space!

The staff team also experienced change. Heidi joined us just as we went into lockdown, and more recently Victoria has joined the food bank, community lunch team. And Lou finished her training and got ordained. What a gift they have each been.

One of the joys of coming out of lockdown has been the number of baptisms. Lou led over 50 families in our baptism enquiry evenings. 25 of those explored more deeply through the baptism Alpha course and 30+ children have been baptised, which we absolutely love.

Love this church and its creativity. God bless, Steve *Stephen*



# ST MIKE'S CAFE

## 2021/22 HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Refill at St Mike's** - We launched our new refill station in November to help the community reduce plastic waste and it is getting busier and busier.
- **Cafe in the Church** - Providing a quiet and relaxed space for people to meet in the church and work from the cafe.
- **Partnering with Regenerate**- To give opportunities to young people from Regenerate to gain work experience with us.
- A stable and wonderful **team**.
- **The Pavilion Café** on Fridays on the church field, plus the 'bouncy afternoon' run with the school.
- The **Christmas Fair** in December – it was wonderful to be back fully running and welcoming so many people into the church.
- **Hosting** a LOT of guests from our local communities for Thursday Tots, Community Lunch, Foodbank, Heartbeeps, Monkey Music, Kumon, Ballet and Dance, Friday Movies, New Mum's Drop In and more!
- Increasingly seeing café guests involved more in Sunday service!

## COMING UP IN 2022

- Developing a series of network groups supporting each other in life stages
- Summer menu.
- Increased timetable of café based activities and events.



## PRAYER POINTS

- That the café continues to be the front door to the church, welcoming all who enter.
- For a fresh influx of volunteers and staff members, and especially from the church family to help run the Cafe on Sunday mornings.
- That our customers might become part of our congregation and that increasingly the café can facilitate a fresh expression of church.

# 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 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 go to our mission partners. It was a brilliant evening to hear from our mission partners and be together at last for a fun, stunning, and generous event. 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.



# CHURCH OFFICE

**Kate Elliott**

**Head of Operations: Logistics, Events & HR**

Kate's role covers several areas including managing the budget, logistics, events and HR.

**Heather Strydom**

**Office Manager: Admin & Bookings**

Heather manages the various aspects of daily church administration and bookings.

**Christine Lipton**

**Finance Officer**

**Susan Sangamneheri**

**Accounts Administrator**

Christine and Suse are our accounts team and book keepers. They work with Kate to keep track of all income and expenditure.

## 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

