

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

As the first year we properly emerged from Covid restrictions, 2022 was a year of recovery and exploring of the 'new normal'. While our work had remained busy throughout the pandemic, the joining of those 'new' things started during the pandemic coupled with the returning of the 'old' things we and others had laid to rest over the last season, meant it was a very busy year! And it's been a great year with lots of fantastic things happening! However, it's also been a year with lots of challenges with the deaths of several young people we have worked with including a tragic car accident and the murder of one of the young people by two other young people. It has been really tough.

These challenges but also the privileges of what we do continue to remind me how important shine's work is. As part of our work, we continue to take part in lots of training whether that is theological reflection or learning about

ACEs (Adverse Childhood experiences) or PACEs (Protective And Compensatory Experience) or TIP (Trauma Informed Practice), I know that our work is essential and makes a real difference! While the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis alongside the many difficulties faced by our communities remain, I continue to be really excited by seeing local people - especially young people - change their community or school or the wider world for the better and know that the Good News of Jesus has, and continues to be, good news!

First a word of thanks to all those who have given time, money and energy to being part of shine. Whether that be church members, the Trustees, the staff, the incredible team of volunteers (including many children and young people), the partner organisations who we work together with, all the fantastic Diocesan staff, the individual donors, or the foundations, companies and trusts that have given so generously towards the work. We are truly grateful.



Schoolswork

In recent years Swindon Academy has joined with Nova Hreod School to create the Swindon Cluster of schools, 2 Secondary and 2 Primary schools - almost 3000 students and over 500 staff all under the same leadership! One consequence of this was the request for us to develop a Chaplaincy in Nova Academy alongside our work going on at Swindon Academy. It's been great during 2022 to work with St. Marys Church and Rodbourne Baptist Church in developing the Chaplaincy there and see the development of involvement with cultural and charity days, assemblies, detached work at break and lunchtimes and an after-school club called 'Imagine' which continues to grow. Sadly, at the last weeks of the Autumn term the Chaplaincy came into its own when one of the Year 10 students,

Harry, was killed in an accident outside the front of the school. Within 20 minutes of it happening we were on site and for the next week provided support to the students and staff that had witnessed it and the whole school community as they processed such a tragic event. Just before Christmas Rev Nick Lines led Harry's funeral service to a packed Church supported by all those involved in the Chaplaincy.

Throughout the year we have continued to work with students and staff to run Cultural and Charity Days. This year we have been involved in Comic Relief with staff messy games, Sponge throwing, Just Dance Competitions; Valentine's Day - with every student in Nova writing a positive message to others; Children in Need with Karaoke and Cake Sales; Primary Race for Life raising lots of money for Cancer Research; Halloween with Giant Spiders reflecting



on our fears; International Women's Day & Mother Tongue Day to name a few! Students also came together to commemorate the death of the Queen with some really kind words and comments shared. One of the big weeks of the year was Mental Health Awareness week in May. Students were involved in sharing their own 'top-tips' of what helps their Mental Health - which were brilliant! We've also continued to help with Swindon Academy Young Carers club providing a fun after school drop in with lots of fun and food. The young carers helped cook over 400 mini pancakes on Shrove Tuesday for other students!

We continue to provide lots of pastoral support and mentoring to students and staff. Sadly, there have been a succession of ex-student and parent deaths over the last 6 months. We aren't grief counsellors but at the early stages of the journey of mourning it is the need to have someone to listen or offer comfort or just kick a ball around for an hour in the rain that is highly valued by those young people who have experienced often very tragic circumstances.

The summer saw the return of ABC week - where we help head up a week of activities for Year 7 learning about their community. Alongside the big litter pick on the Monday this year we had a team of students working with Hreed Burna Urban Forest helping clear areas, rebuild fencing around a badger set and move tons of wood chip. We also had students create a Holiday at Home at St. Peters Church and then another group creating flags and a welcome sign for the Fun Day on the Saturday. A fantastic few days but tiring in the 30+ degree heat!

Youthwork

Youthie

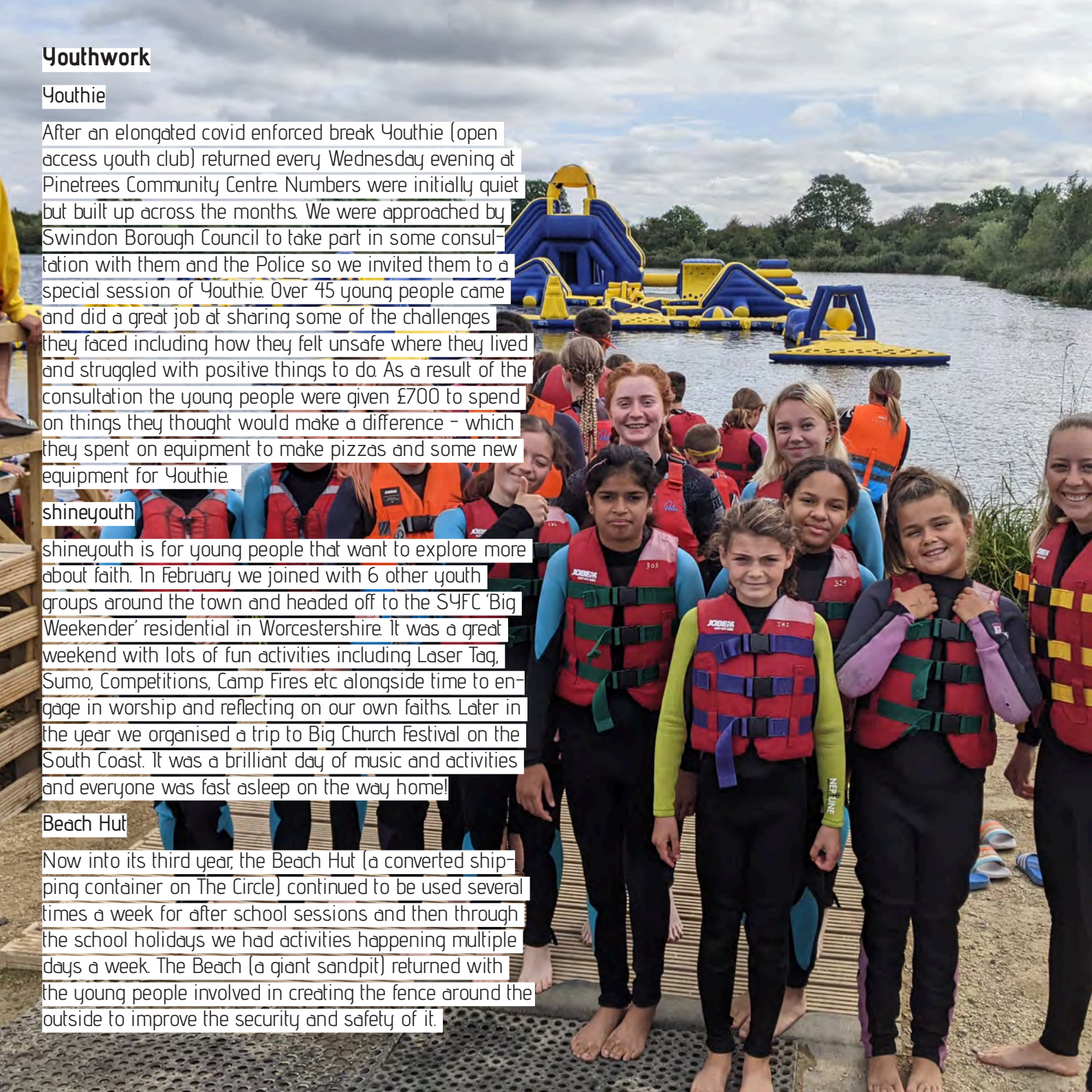
After an elongated covid enforced break Youthie (open access youth club) returned every Wednesday evening at Pinetrees Community Centre. Numbers were initially quiet but built up across the months. We were approached by Swindon Borough Council to take part in some consultation with them and the Police so we invited them to a special session of Youthie. Over 45 young people came and did a great job at sharing some of the challenges they faced including how they felt unsafe where they lived and struggled with positive things to do. As a result of the consultation the young people were given £700 to spend on things they thought would make a difference - which they spent on equipment to make pizzas and some new equipment for Youthie.

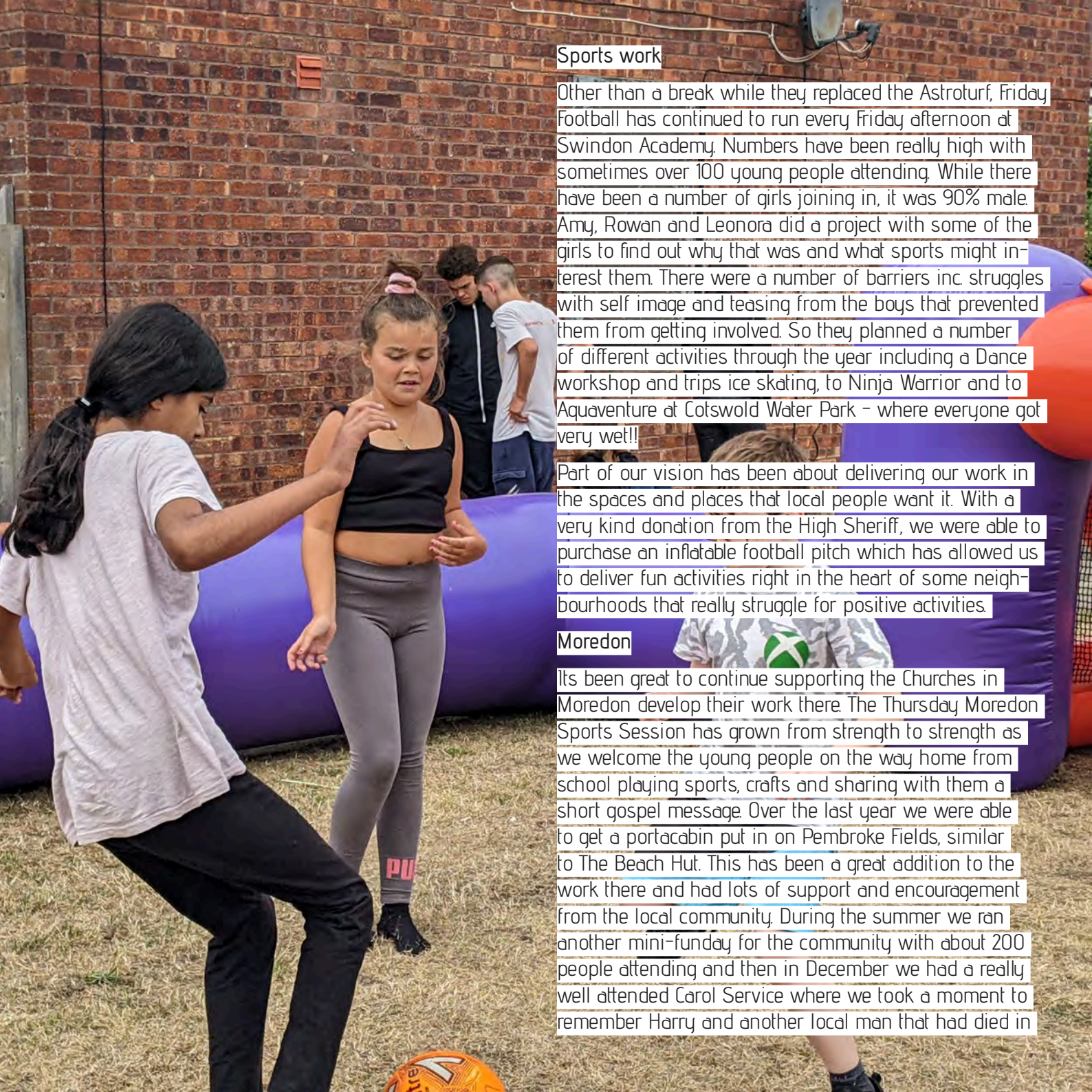
shineyouth

shineyouth is for young people that want to explore more about faith. In February we joined with 6 other youth groups around the town and headed off to the SYFC 'Big Weekender' residential in Worcestershire. It was a great weekend with lots of fun activities including Laser Tag, Sumo, Competitions, Camp Fires etc alongside time to engage in worship and reflecting on our own faiths. Later in the year we organised a trip to Big Church Festival on the South Coast. It was a brilliant day of music and activities and everyone was fast asleep on the way home!

Beach Hut

Now into its third year, the Beach Hut (a converted shipping container on The Circle) continued to be used several times a week for after school sessions and then through the school holidays we had activities happening multiple days a week. The Beach (a giant sandpit) returned with the young people involved in creating the fence around the outside to improve the security and safety of it.





Sports work

Other than a break while they replaced the Astroturf, Friday Football has continued to run every Friday afternoon at Swindon Academy. Numbers have been really high with sometimes over 100 young people attending. While there have been a number of girls joining in, it was 90% male. Amy, Rowan and Leonora did a project with some of the girls to find out why that was and what sports might interest them. There were a number of barriers inc struggles with self image and teasing from the boys that prevented them from getting involved. So they planned a number of different activities through the year including a Dance workshop and trips ice skating, to Ninja Warrior and to Aquaventure at Cotswold Water Park - where everyone got very wet!!

Part of our vision has been about delivering our work in the spaces and places that local people want it. With a very kind donation from the High Sheriff, we were able to purchase an inflatable football pitch which has allowed us to deliver fun activities right in the heart of some neighbourhoods that really struggle for positive activities.

Moredon

Its been great to continue supporting the Churches in Moredon develop their work there. The Thursday Moredon Sports Session has grown from strength to strength as we welcome the young people on the way home from school playing sports, crafts and sharing with them a short gospel message. Over the last year we were able to get a portacabin put in on Pembroke Fields, similar to The Beach Hut. This has been a great addition to the work there and had lots of support and encouragement from the local community. During the summer we ran another mini-funday for the community with about 200 people attending and then in December we had a really well attended Carol Service where we took a moment to remember Harry and another local man that had died in

Shine Church

After the winter Covid precautions, we continued to meet fortnightly outside the Beach Hut every fortnight come rain or shine! It's been great to have different people have a go and lead the gatherings and the young people have been amazing at providing hot drinks and bacon and egg rolls for those that have come along.

Messy Saturday has continued throughout the year, and we've had some great sessions exploring Slow (Patience); Daniel and Lion's Den (with a massive den under the tables!); and what it means to 'Serve'. July saw the return of Messy Olympics with lots of water being thrown everywhere! A big thank you to our amazing catering team (Anne, Nathan and Andie) who have continued provide a delicious free meal each month for an unknown number of guests (up to 90 people!) each month - and have enough to go around!

We ran a mini 'Party in the Park' down at the Courts with an Easter egg hunt and egg throwing and lots of opportunity just to sit and enjoy being together. Then during the summer, we were again able to run a coach trip to Weston Super Mare. For many this was their only trip away from Swindon for the whole of the year, so we had great fun on the beach, on the pier or riding the donkeys!

We continue to provide support for those friends and neighbours who are struggling. The 'Cost of living' crisis has been extensive and many of those we work with have been really struggling. We've been able to refer people to foodbank but have struggled with the overwhelming need to do little else sometimes than offering practical help (help move furniture or fixing a washing machine) or provide a listening ear over a cup of tea. We were very grateful to our local Tesco Express who provided some Christmas Food Parcels and selection boxes for local families.

It was also great to be involved with the Jubilee event organised by the Parish Council in June. The young people ran some fundraising activities and cooked a lot of Pizzas for people attending. In July it was great to have the return of Pinehurst Fun Day after a two-year break! It was the hottest ever in its history but was great fun as over 2000 residents came together to celebrate all the great stuff that happens in our community. The young people ran some stalls including free glitter painting and the crockery smash while the rest of the team helped run the event. A great, but hot, afternoon!



Team

After 6 years of working for shine it was sad to say goodbye to Becky, our lovely Support and Development worker as she went to work for Safe Families - however she hasn't gone far as is now one of our trustees! It was also sad to say goodbye to the lovely Leonora Werner who had been with us from September 2021 as she returned to Germany to go to teacher training college. Sadly one the net affects of Brexit has been fewer young people are willing to pay the extra costs (c. £2000) to come to volunteer in the UK so we haven't had a long term person with us for 2022-23 however it was great to welcome Jonas Lieber who came as a University Placement for 6 weeks just before Christmas. A big thank you goes to Jessie and Benni and family for hosting them both.

We are really grateful to the amazing staff team of

Amy (Youth & Community Lead), Rowan Kikke, Rosie Grant-Willson and it was especially great to welcome Tyler Tobin to the team who has 'grown-up' in the work and now we've been able to employ as a great Youth worker! We can't thank our volunteers enough but a big shoutout goes to the amazing Nathan, Whitney, Jodie, Andie, Anne, John, Becky, Tom, Joe, Jenny, Crispian, Kass, Kayleigh, and all the young people that have been involved in volunteering this year (too many to name). Thanks goes to our friends at Swindon Youth for Christ (Dave, Josh, Noemi, Jamie, Leo and Tori), Central North Swindon Parish Council (Jo and Aaron) and RCBC (Jamie, Anna and Team). We are also grateful to all the team from Bristol Diocese who have provided support and encouragement in many ways. A big thank you to all our Trustees during 2022 - Simon & Andie Halls, Becky Lafford, Heather & Dave Blandford, Chris Pope (Treasurer) & Phil Ashby.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding of all those we have the privilege of working with is core to all we do. Throughout 2022 the trustees have overseen the work highlighted in this report to ensure high standards of practice inc. safely recruiting new staff and volunteers, and a continuous programme of professional development and training. Our Safeguarding policy was reviewed in our November meeting and Safeguarding features as a standing item on all trustee meetings and we carried out an annual Safeguarding audit using the Diocese's Safeguarding Dashboard and are acting on the resulting action plans.

Due to the nature of our work with those at risk and on the margins, we continued to ensure proper recording of concerns and referring significant issues to statutory agencies inc. Police & Swindon Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

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Thanks

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and to all those individuals who have given so generously to the work!