

AT THE **HEART OF THE** COMMUNITY, WITH A **HEART FOR THE** COMMUNITY

Part of the Elim Pentecostal Church

Registered Charity: 251549 (England and Wales) and SC037754 (Scotland)

## OASIS CHRISTIAN CENTRE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT





## PASTOR'S REPORT

### Thank you.

I am so thankful when I think about the people that make our church the place that it is. Yielded, servant hearted people, open to the Holy Spirit, mixing together from different walks of life and nationalities.

I would like to take a moment and think about those that serve without whom we would not function as a community.

Thank you to all our Department Leaders, Life Group Leaders, and all who give their time each week, on Welcome, Worship, AV, Children and Youth, Hospitality, Finance and Administration, Toddler and Babies and our Coffee House.

My thanks to Andrew (Associate Pastor) Carl, Becca and Gbola on the Eldership Team, for their dedication and service.

To Lisa our Administrator and Stef, Treasurer, for their time, talents and dedication in serving our church.

I'm very thankful to Helen, my wife, for her support and encouragement to me and her service to church, leading a life group, Sparklers and Thursday Children's life group.

## WHO'S WHO

If you have any questions, are interested in finding out more or serving as part of a team, please contact our department leaders:

Toddler Time & Oasis Babies - Tracey Austin

Infusion Coffee House - Penny Day

Admin and Health & Safety - Lisa Downham

Sparklers (age 0-4) - Helen Mancini

Powerhouse Kids (reception - yr 6) - Antony Lee

Elevate Youth (yr 7 - 18 yrs) - Freddie & Georgie Kemish

Elevate Life Group - Leanne Piano & Sarah Astill

Life Groups - Andrew Day

Worship/Media Team - Tim Sanders

Finance - Stef Downham

Time To Talk - Adrian Mancini

Landermeads Outreach - Janet Day

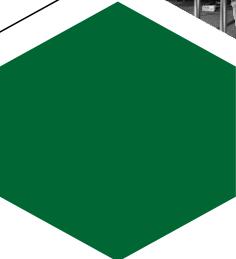
Stepping Stones - Cindy Woolley

Welcome Team - Becca McCarthy

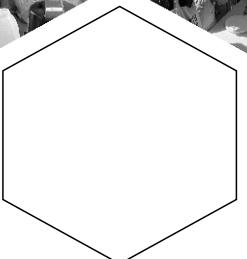
Welcome Point - Esther Timson

Hospitality - Sharren Roe

Safeguarding - Perry Wild



IN ADDITION TO THE REPORTS, THERE ARE AMAZING TEAMS OF PEOPLE IN OTHER MINISTRIES & OUTREACHES HERE AT OASIS THAT WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS TO, INCLUDING LANDERMEADS OUTREACH, VISITING & PRAYER, MAINTENANCE, WELCOME TEAM, HOSPITALITY TEAM...



## PASTOR'S REPORT

continued

### Looking Back

It has been a year of growth in a rich age and nationality demographic. It's such a joy to see 0-90s, singles, couples and families, children and young people, worshiping together in the flow of the Holy Spirit.

We have seen more and more people join us on Sundays, coming repeatedly, wanting to explore the Christian faith, so much so that we embarked on a wonderful Alpha course, concluding with an impactful Holy Spirit Morning.

As with the year before, we continued in faith to hold nearly bi-monthly baptismal services, baptising people on every occasion.

It has been very humbling to see the church coming together supporting each other through sickness and loss. As a growing family, *'we rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.'* Romans 12:15.

On behalf of Hannah and George Walsh and the rest of my family, I'd like to thank everyone for their love and support, following the passing of our beautiful Henry Jude.

We have really been encouraging people to be part of a life group for a number of years. I really appreciate the service and dedication of our group leaders. It has been really encouraging to see our existing groups growing in attendance and participation this past year. Just one example : I'm part of a group of 15 guys and everyone has led group discussion and prayers across the year. Some for the first time ever, confidence has grown, and ministry released. Our conversations have been real, honest, down to earth and faith filled. I have heard this repeated in other groups also.

During the year Helen Mancini commenced a midweek Life Group for Children and Leanne Piano and Sarah Astill for the Youth.

Over the last year a large amount of remedial repair, and decoration was undertaken in the main Church building. This included repair to the tower and new electrical installation due to flood damage. Repair to the foyer roof and flashing, repair to some flashing either side of the main church and plastering inside above the windows. This was followed by a complete repainting of the walls and ceiling over the summer.

AND FINALLY after all these years, we saw the demolition of The Shed (Tin Tabernacle) in preparation for the New Community Building and Hall in its place.

The plan, is to connect the new building to the brick Community Rooms and the Church, and then landscape the grounds and surrounds.

# PASTOR'S REPORT

continued

## Looking Forward

At a recent early morning Boiler Room Prayer, we felt impressed to read and pray over some verses from the Prophet Isaiah...

*'Sing, barren woman, who has never had a baby. Fill the air with song, you who've never experienced childbirth! You're ending up with far more children than all those childbearing women.' God says so! Clear lots of ground for your tents! Make your tents large. Spread out! Think big! Use plenty of rope, drive the tent pegs deep. You're going to need lots of elbow room for your growing family. You're going to take over whole nations; you're going to resettle abandoned cities. Don't be afraid - you're not going to be embarrassed. Don't hold back - you're not going to come up short. You'll forget all about the humiliations of your youth, and the indignities of being a widow will fade from memory.'*

Isaiah 54:1-4 The Message

I remember sharing this passage some ten years ago, when we had our first planning submission and now it is close to fruition. I have said at the beginning of the year, it's a time of GROWTH, not just in buildings and people but in heart, faith and vision. This resonates for me with the phrase in the message, "think big".

The new facility will enable us to maximise the use of our site and improve the function and flow of ministry and service to the community. It will allow for fresh outreach and creativity, and aid us as we grow! We will share more details on our Vision Day/AFM.

This year our Elders come forward for a vote of affirmation (elders stand for a three year period), members will receive a voting slip. We are looking at inviting some people in the near future to join the elders meetings and if it seems right, introducing them for affirmation at next year's Vision/AFM.

In March, Toddler Time will be celebrating 35 years of serving the community. It's a wonderful Toddler and Baby group that continues to adapt over time. It meets Monday to Friday. There's probably not much like it in the local voluntary sector, that serves every day of the week, providing a safe excellent place for parents and care givers to come and meet others and where children can learn, develop and play.

Look out for our special celebration week, please pray and think about the possibility of you volunteering some of your time to serve in Toddlers. We are looking for people to chat and offer a listening ear during the sessions. As well as parents, we are seeing more and more grandparents accompanying the children.

We see a future where we would like to offer more baby sessions. At the moment they meet on Tuesday and Thursday, in conjunction with Toddlers. The feedback to the baby sensory play and parental support has been very positive. Why not come and be involved in a very rewarding ministry?

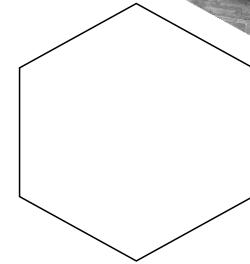
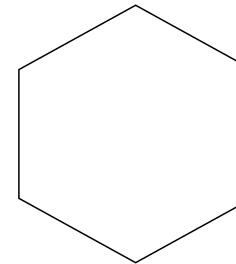
The end of March this year marks 18 years for Helen and I, Pastoring at Oasis. It has been and continues to be an honour and a privilege to do so. For the next few years ahead, I feel the Holy Spirit saying it's not time to slow down, but a season to accelerate.

We will continue to serve you and lead our church, seeking to bring honour to Him, in every way we can.

Let's all move forward in faith together.

Every blessing

*Adrian Mancini*



## STEPPING STONES

Stepping Stones began way back in 2008, initially to provide an uplifting, happy, safe environment for people who care for anyone with any kind of disability and for those who have lost loved ones and now feel able to step out to enjoy fellowship with others once more.

We aim to meet together, if possible, once a month and thankfully those wonderful members with transport take us to our various destinations.

However, my heartfelt apologies to the group as sadly last year, due to circumstances beyond my control, I have been unable to plan days out. We did meet up occasionally for an evening meal which I believe everyone enjoyed. February 2026 meeting to be advised.

We would warmly welcome any new members who feel they would like to step out and join Stepping Stones. Please collect and fill in one of our membership forms available at the Welcome Point in church.

Thanking God for enabling this ministry to continue and for His love and strength. Thank you to all the members for their continued support and kind understanding during 2025.

*Cindy Woolley*

# LIFE GROUPS

*'Small groups aren't just a good idea, they're a God-idea!'*

Jesus gathered together His own small group of diverse, even challenging men that grew together and went on to become world changers. The early church was established as they met together in homes as well as the temple. Small groups make room to expand discipleship, extend compassion and exchange stories. I truly believe that **God does big things in small groups!**

We see our Life Groups as something more than a midweek meeting but a heart-beat for the church, with a focus on being **relational, devotional** and **missional**...to be authentic with each other and to pray into needs, ask questions, pastorally support one another, a place to raise up and release in and to reach out from.

Each term we share a new reading plan that will inspire and challenge through unpacking themes, characters or books in the Bible and we discuss how can apply lessons to our lives. Last year began by launching our '*Blessed*' reading plan, focussing on The Beatitudes. We have since covered '*Sacrifice & Salvation*' (Easter), '*After God's Own Heart*' (the life of King David), '*Reach Your World*' (evangelism), '*Advent*' (preparing our hearts at Christmas), and we have just begun our new reading plan – '*Every Step*', discovering life lessons from Joshua!

Our Life Groups multiply the opportunities for us as a church to impact our locality with compassion and the gospel message. They have, over the course of the year, reached out to our community in lots of creative ways including giving out 100s of crème eggs, delivering invites and tracts, gifts to a local homeless accommodation and women's refuge, Christmas presents to Care Homes and Supported Housing, hampers and care packages, provision of hats and gloves...to name a few. They have also run invitational social events from wreath making to Scalextric Night, quizzes and crafts and meals.

We currently have ten life groups that meet on various days at various times and locations. They include mixed, Men's, Women's, daytime and evenings and kid's and youth life groups. We also have another two groups being planned in the very near future to help accommodate growth.

A huge thank you to our amazing Life Group Leaders – I value your time, support and heart to serve. *Let's continue to believe that God will do big things in small groups!* And I'm also thankful to the Life Group I'm part of – I know God is doing something amongst us as we share not only coffee and donuts but also our tears and laughter! If you aren't part of a Life Group, can I encourage you to consider joining one! Please feel free to speak to Adrian or myself about getting involved.

*Andrew Day*



# INFUSION COFFEE HOUSE

We are about *more than coffee!*

We continue to be recognised and registered as a 'Safe Space' and a 'Warm Space', and offer food and drinks through our 'Pay It Forward' and 'Suspended Coffee' schemes, which are used daily. We have progressed to being zero food waste - if there is any leftover food we give it away at the end of a Friday to anyone in need.

We're still offering short-term work placements to young people from our local secondary schools and Erewash volunteer groups to help with vocational training. We currently have two young people with us who are brilliant and enthusiastic to learn!

The hospitality sector continues to be a challenging area with tighter food regulations and rising costs, all of which we constantly review. We had a surprise inspection from the Environmental Health Visitor this year and are pleased to say we received the highest possible rating with no room for improvement!

As well as continuing to be a space that hosts various in-house ministries and events throughout the year plus Time To Talk on a weekly basis, the space is regularly used for a number of external organisations, such as the Stroke Association and Erewash Voluntary Groups.

Our Coffee House is an asset to us and helps build a sense of community to those who visit... some may just want some time out and a quiet drink or to connect to the wifi to work, but there are many that come for friendship, conversation, support, encouragement and even prayer. We also have a great support network with some of the nearby businesses.

This year, from money awarded through a grant, we had some new signage that reads '*serving quality coffee since 2004*' – it's amazing to think that it's almost 22 years since we started with so many that have helped serve over those years and countless people impacted in our community. Some of those original customers still come in and new connections are being built too!

I thank God for His faithfulness to us and am thankful for those who have been and are a part of the Infusion team.

*Penny Day*



# FINANCE

Once again, a heartfelt thank you for your consistent and generous giving throughout the past year, including significant giving to the Building Fund. However, the past year and the next year present us with significant challenges.

As you will have seen, 'The Shed' has been removed in preparation for the new building and substantial repairs have been carried out to the roof and to the electrical equipment damaged when the spire roof leaked! You will all have seen an increase in your utility bills and the church has not been immune. Changes in the national minimum wage and the general cost of living have made a necessary and appropriate increase in the salaries paid by the church.

Unfortunately, while spending for the year ending 30th September 2025 (including wages, demolition and repairs) increased some 25% to £223,846.12, income for the same period only rose by approximately 2% to £203,266.50.

As of 1st January this year, the church current account stood at £36,352.68 which is a little below what is appropriate for our turnover. Fortunately, for some of the major structural expenses, we have been able to draw on the historically generous giving to the Building Fund which stood at £176,378.95 at the start of the year.

The loss of the Long Eaton branch of NatWest last March was not as much of a problem as expected. The use of our Post Office has required certain changes, but the staff have been immensely helpful and friendly. Joyce Sims, Jonathan Swift and Julia Ayling from Derby City Church have also provided essential support.

If you pay regular UK income tax, please speak to me about the Gift Aid Scheme. This allows the church to benefit from that tax at no extra cost to you. So, whether you give regularly, occasionally or want to make a one-off gift, we can very simply increase the value of your gift by 25%. Please see me.

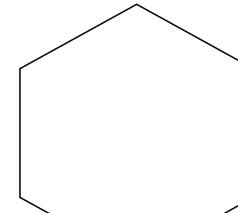
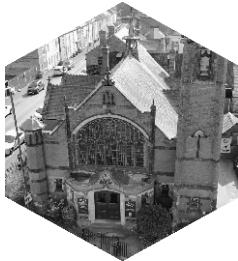
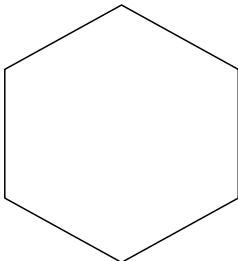
*'Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.' 2 Corinthians 3v5*



Give with  
**Givt**

*Stef Downham*

*\*a full breakdown of finances is available for **members** - if you haven't received a copy please collect or email the office.*



# TIME TO TALK

Listening to someone is so very powerful, it can affirm and validate them, and says, "I see you". It can bring a real sense of relief and healing.

It's a challenging thing to walk through the door for the first time, but we are always encouraged as we pray, Holy Spirit draw those that need to be here.

We have had a number of people this year come in for the first time and experience something positive, whereby they have then come on a regular basis to meet others.

Time to Talk is a listening service, meeting every Tuesday, 10.30am to 12noon at the Infusion Coffee House and Community Space, offering a safe place and friendly affirming atmosphere. We offer free refreshments, with an opportunity to meet others or talk personally.

People are sometimes referred to us by their GP, some have been recommended via social media or word of mouth, some by their support worker. Some have come from our church, many from the community.

I'm so very thankful to a group of wonderful volunteers, without whom we could not function. We have offered listening training and support for one another across the year.

If you have a heart for people, and are a listener, please come and speak with me. We are looking for another man and woman to join the team.

*Adrian Mancini*

# TODDLER TIME



The ongoing vision of Oasis Toddler Time is:

- **To create a safe, happy and healthy environment for children, their parents and carers to flourish**
- **To provide a high standard of Early Years Toddler provision in the local community**
- **To become a centre of excellence where the love of God is shown in a practical way**

The number of families attending Toddler Time each week is usually over a hundred. We are still providing a session every weekday and a separate session for babies, on a Tuesday and Thursday morning. The baby sessions have been very popular over the year and especially since the summer.

At the beginning of the year, we had to close because there wasn't any electric or heating in the church building. When we did open, we just provided one session and we have kept to just doing one longer session each morning.

Dave, Sally and I spent a lot of time over the spring and summer sorting through toys and clearing The Shed.

We didn't do any summer sessions because the building was being renovated.

In December, we held the usual Christingle Service and the children dressed up and performed the nativity story. Several families now come to this service every year. We also showed an animation and focused on the Christmas story at every session during December.

Just over 200 children attended the Christmas parties over the week. Again, at the end of each party, we read a nativity story and gave every child a copy of the book.

The books were provided by The Book Bus. In January, a mum told me that her child had made them read the book at bedtime every night since!

Quite a few people who attend Toddler Time also came to other services at our church over the Christmas period and enjoyed them.

I really believe that there is a harvest at Toddler Time. There is a beautiful atmosphere over the place and we seem to be having good conversations with people during each week. A lot of friendships have been formed and people are really thankful for the service that the church provides and the personal touches that we try to do.

At the end of each session, I always like to thank and encourage each of the volunteers who help me because they do make a difference. Just being that welcoming smile is enough.

*Tracey Austin*



# MUSICIANS/MEDIA

*"Rain came, wind blew - this house was built on You"*

The past year has been defined by powerful moments of shared worship. It is a privilege to be part of this church family, and inspiring to see hearts come alive as we lift our praises to God, not just in the easy moments, but in every season of life. I am incredibly grateful to our volunteer team for how they have stewarded these moments. They have faithfully used their gifts to lead us, helping us worship through both rejoicing and grieving. A particular highlight has been hearing the church find its voice in new songs; lyrics like these have given us a fresh collective language:

*"Bless God when my hands are empty, Bless God with a praise that costs me..."*

*"Sometimes you've gotta dance through the darkness, sing through the fire, praise when it don't make sense..."*

*"Your name is power, Your name is life, break every stronghold, shine through the shadows..."*

I also want to mention our Technical Team (Sound and Media). Their ministry is often unseen but essential. They work tirelessly to remove distractions, allowing the congregation to focus entirely on Jesus, and we are grateful for their servant hearts.

Life outside of Sunday services has looked a little different this year. While regular in-person gatherings haven't always been possible due to geography and busy family commitments, we have stayed connected, encouraged, and organised through our team WhatsApp.

I'd like to place on record our deep gratitude to Syl and Mariusz, who moved out of the area this past year. They brought so much heart and skill not only to this team but to the wider church family, and we are incredibly thankful for the season they shared with us.

As we look around the room, it is a joy to see our congregation growing and changing. As our family expands, it is our deep desire that our teams represent the beautiful diversity of our community. If you have a heart for worship and feel called to serve, we invite you to step forward. Please contact the church office to find out more about how you can get involved.

Finally, I must highlight our Youth Band, who did a phenomenal job leading one of our Christmas meetings. I'm so excited about the fresh enthusiasm and expression of worship they bring, and all they teach us as older members. We are committed to seeing them trained, supported, and released both practically and pastorally in the coming year. We do not view them merely as the team of tomorrow, but as leaders of the now, and we cannot wait to see how they will lead us forward.

To support this growth, we will also be investing in new instruments and equipment maintenance in the year ahead and planning in regular practice nights.

As we step into this new year, my prayer is that we continue to be a people of authentic praise. Whether through a new melody, a fresh voice on the team, or a quiet moment of reflection, may everything we do point clearly to Jesus and build His house.

*Tim Sanders*

2,475 Minutes | 324 Songs | 23 Serving Members | 1 Purpose: To Praise God



**Powerhouse** has had a wonderful year, and we are so thankful for an amazing team and our great kids. It has been such a blessing to see the number of children continuing to grow, and even more special to watch them learning, building friendships, and growing in their faith week by week.

A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated Powerhouse team for their commitment, time and love poured into the children. We would also like to give a special mention to the three Youth members who stepped in to help throughout the year. Their support has been a huge help and greatly appreciated.

As always, we're a small team so hopeful to see new volunteers join us this year. We're continuing to look forward to seeing what God has in store for us throughout 2026.

*Antony Lee*

## CHILDREN



**Sparklers** is our Sunday group for babies and toddlers aged 0-4, running during the main church service. It provides a welcoming, God-centred environment where our youngest members of the church, with the support of their parents, are nurtured, valued, and included in the life of our congregation.

The purpose of Sparklers is to offer a safe, supportive space where children can begin to explore God's love through age-appropriate activities, play and interaction. Over the past year, we have been encouraged to see growth within the group, with new babies born into the church family and new families joining Sparklers. This growth has been a real blessing and reflects the importance of providing a nurturing and inclusive space for young families within our church. Safeguarding is taken seriously within the group. All team members are fully aware of safeguarding procedures and are DBS compliant, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of every child and family who attends.

Throughout the year, the team has planned and delivered activities designed to suit the developmental needs of babies and toddlers while gently introducing them to our Christian faith. A key investment this year has been the introduction of new What's in the BAG? book bags, which focus on the theme God Made Our Senses. Each bag contains a Christian storybook, activities and a game, allowing children and parents to engage together and continue faith-based learning beyond the Sunday service.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the entire Sparklers team of parents who generously give their time, care, and energy each week. Your commitment ensures that Sparklers remains a loving and consistent presence for our families.

A very special mention and sincere thanks must go to Hannah Sweeney, who stepped up and stepped in to support and lead the group during a difficult time for our family as we grieved the loss of our darling Henry.

Sparklers continues to be a vital part of our church's ministry, laying strong foundations of faith, community, and care for our youngest members and their families.

*Helen Mancini*



## YOUTH

This past year in Youth Ministry has been another year full of excitement and highlights! One key development has been the start of a midweek life group led by Leanne and Sarah. This has been an invaluable opportunity for our young people to meet together outside of church and share in Bible study and fellowship. We have continued to meet weekly on a Sunday morning and worked through series on 'How to study the Bible', 'Animals in the Bible' and Youth Alpha. We took 14 young people to our regional Limitless ONE Event and around 30 young people to our weekend away in Derbyshire where there were lots of encounters with God, passionate worship and hot chocolates!

Our young people have shown a real dedication to deepening their relationship with God through worship and we have run two worship nights in Bourne House led by Elizabeth, Livvie and Noah (the first time I have ever seen a Conga line during worship!), as well as the young people leading worship during the Christmas service in December. Thank you to Tim and the other members of the worship team for facilitating these evenings and creating a welcoming and encouraging environment for these young people to grow.

We are preparing to commence a new series on Relationships to tackle some of the challenging questions that young Christians face when looking to start new relationships and how Jesus teaches us to approach this important part of life.

Our hope and prayer for this year is to continue to see these young people on fire for God, full of energy and passion and dedicated to committing their lives to Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. We look forward to another Weekend Away, more socials and worship nights and more discussions and exploration during Sunday mornings and midweek life groups.

Thank you to all the parents of our young people for encouraging and enabling them, thank you to the congregation at Oasis for supporting them practically through financial means and serving as well as upholding them spiritually in prayer, and finally, a HUGE thank you to our young people! Keep being inquisitive, bold, faithful, prayerful and honest and most of all draw near to God in everything you do.

*Freddie & Georgie Kemish*