



SAINTS ANNUAL UPDATE 2022/2023

A community regeneration social enterprise in the heart of Nuneaton town centre.





ABOUT US

**TOGETHER
FOR CHANGE
COVENTRY AND
WARWICKSHIRE** ⊕

The Saints project is a partnership between Diocese of Coventry charity 'Together for Change', and a group of Nuneaton churches and Christian organisations.

Together for Change was formed in 2013 as a charitable joint venture between the Diocese of Coventry and the Church Urban Fund to resource and equip churches to transform their communities and tackle issues of systemic poverty.

Together for Change works in partnership with local churches, councils, charities and organisations across Coventry and Warwickshire, seeking to bring about community transformation in areas sitting within the bottom 20% of deprivation.

Charity Number: 1160133
Company Number: 08763866

Diocesan Offices
1 Hill Top
Coventry
CV1 5AB

www.togetherforchange.org.uk

View our
Annual Report
here for more
information on
the work of
Together for
Change



A WORD FROM OUR CEO



JET JONES

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION AND CEO OF TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

During the last year it has been such a joy to see the Saints project thrive as we have continued to 'resource communities' during these unprecedented times.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the 'Reaching Communities Fund' for recognising the impact of the cost of living crisis was having on charities, and for giving 'Together For Change' a grant uplift that enabled us to respond to the steep energy hikes we suffered, and which enabled us to give our staff a pay increase, in line with the rising cost of living.

Looking after our core running costs and staffing costs has been a significant priority for us during these times of extreme financial difficulty. Charities nationwide have all struggled to meet rising costs, while the demand on services to support families in crisis has risen sharply. We responded to this need by asking local people what they felt their needs were, and there was a resounding need for 'food, warmth and personal connection' including interest groups for all ages. The report clearly shows how we listened to the national and local needs and the real life stories of how Saints has become a life-line for many in our community.

Looking forward, we are excited to develop phase 2 in 2024 and renovate the hall and basement youth space, using funds from the department of Levelling Up, The NHS Vanguard project and Warwickshire County Council Funds. This will provide much needed additional space for expansion and will provide an opportunity to generate further income to enable us to become sustainable.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Together For Change staff and trustees who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes with me to ensure funds are raised and good governance is in place. I would also like to thank the Saints Staff who have managed the day to day café and programmes at Saints, ensuring that we put people at the heart of everything we do, and who have worked with churches and communities to provide love and care. Finally, we are grateful for the support of the Coventry Diocese whose mission purpose to 'Transform Communities' has supported the project, and we remain thankful for this opportunity to serve our community 'at such a time as this.'



MEET THE TEAM



DAVE JONES
Operations and Facilities
Manager



HANNAH STEVENS
Communities and Marketing
Development Worker



KAELI MURPHY
Youth Project Lead



ATHENA COSTACHE
Café Lead



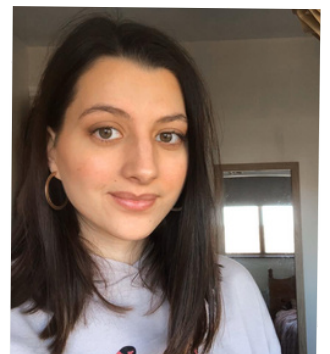
CAITLIN KEMP
Café Assistant



TOM PLACE
Café Assistant



WILL HAWKS
Youth Worker



RHIANNA MORRIS
Youth Worker

GET IN TOUCH

Saints Nuneaton,
Newdegate Street,
Nuneaton,
CV100JZ

www.saintsnuneaton.org
admin@saintsnuneaton.org



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE

FOREWARD

HANNAH STEVENS

Recently I came across a statistic from a study published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which said that an estimated 3.8m people in the UK experienced destitution at some point last year. This figure is nearly two-and-a-half times what it was in 2017. The report commented 'There has been a shameful increase in the level of destitution in the UK, with a growing number of people struggling to afford to meet their most basic physical needs to stay warm, dry, clean and fed'.

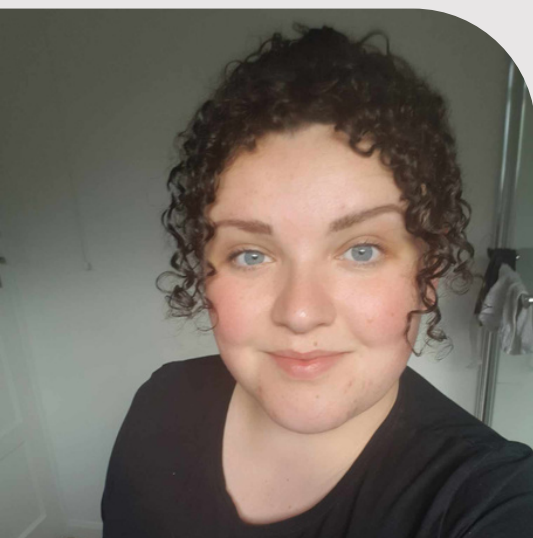
Here at Saints Nuneaton this past year we have seen a huge increase in people coming forward, who are no longer able to meet even their basic needs as human beings – water, food, warmth/shelter and clothing. The combination of the recent pandemic, political events around the world and an increasingly unpredictable climate has put unimaginable strain on people's finances, and just the other month I handed a food hamper to someone who said 'Normally I would be on the other side of this, doing the giving. But things have been impossible.'

A lot of our support from autumn 2022 - autumn 2023 has been centred on helping people meet their base needs. In this report we will highlight some of our key programmes and initiatives, including operating as a warm hub over the winter months, running a food hamper scheme, giving out blankets, shoes and coats.

But another equally worrying concern is the epidemic of loneliness that is sweeping the UK. Not aided by the era of lockdowns and reduced social contact, many now feel alone. In a study by 'Campaign to End Loneliness', in 2022 the number of people who had experienced loneliness had risen by 6% since 2020, indicating that the level of loneliness had not returned to pre-pandemic levels, despite society 'opening back up' again.

So whilst we have been working to support people with their basic needs, we have also been looking at developing programmes of support that bring people together, build new friendships and relationships within the community, and which make our building feel like a home for anyone who needs it. One of our regulars describes our building as her 'sanctuary', a place she can come whenever she feels anxious or alone, and always see a friendly face.

This year has perhaps been our most activity-filled year of operation, and I can't wait to share the highlights - and some amazing stories of transformation - across this report.





A LOCAL PICTURE

Nuneaton is a large market town situated in the north of Warwickshire. In the 2021 Census, Nuneaton's population stood at 88,813, making it the largest town in Warwickshire.

According to the most recent Index of Multiple Deprivation, Nuneaton has 5 LSOAs (Lower layer Super Output Areas) sitting in the worst 10% of deprivation in the country, one of which is the town centre itself, where Saints is located. A further 5 LSOAs sit in the worst 20%. This means that there is significant impact on health, wellbeing, childhood poverty, crime and housing.

ASKING LOCAL PEOPLE

This year we did a survey to help us inform our supportive programmes over the winter. We asked people in Nuneaton to answer a couple of questions on their main concerns in the face of the coming winter, and what we could do to help.

These are the top three results for each question.

What would you say are your biggest concerns for the winter months?



93.33%
SAID COST OF GAS
AND ELECTRICITY



67.67%
SAID COST OF FOOD



40%
SAID LONELINESS

Which types of activities/initiatives would be of benefit to you this winter?



66.67%
SAID FREE/LOW COST
MEALS AND DRINKS



60%
SAID FOOD HAMPERS



60%
SAID ACTIVITY BASED
SOCIAL GROUPS



WHAT WE DO



ENTERPISE AND EQUIP

We aim to tackle unemployment and lack of education by raising aspirations, providing opportunities for people to start their own business enterprise, and equipping people with skills for life.



SPORT AND SUPPORT

We aim to promote physical, emotional and mental wellbeing by offering sport activities and providing opportunity to access support.



CREATE AND CONNECT

We aim to encourage the arts and connecting as a community by supporting and promoting local creatives, providing space for creative activities and creating opportunities to connect with others through creativity.

**TOGETHER
FOR CHANGE
COVENTRY AND
WARWICKSHIRE** ⁺

EST *Saints* 2020

OUR VISION

Saints is a Social Enterprise. All income that we generate is fed back into our various projects. Our mission is to tackle unemployment and lack of education, enhance physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, and to inspire and connect people through the creative arts.

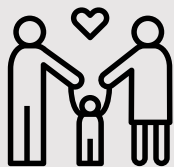
WHO ARE WE?

Saints Nuneaton is a community regeneration project based in the heart of Nuneaton town centre, which works in collaboration with local churches and is led by the charity Together for Change.

WHO WE SUPPORT



**Small
Businesses**



**Families with
children**



**Young
People**



Older Adults



Adults

WHO WE WORK WITH



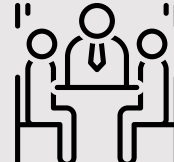
Churches



Schools



Charities



Councils



Businesses

This year we have worked with and hosted the most organisations yet! We love connecting with other organisations and seeing how we can work together. See below a list of organisations and funders we have involved in our project this year.

- PET-Xi
- Thinkhigher
- Headway
- Change Grow Live
- Warwickshire Adult and Community Learning
- Local artists including Peter Carrie Abstract artist
- Cassey's Beauty and Training
- King Edward 6th Sixth form
- Hark Crafts
- Nuneaton Signs
- Volunteering Matters
- Socially Shared Business Support Network
- Wayside Willow
- Headcase Barbers Nuneaton
- CWCDA – Ukraine and Hong Kong groups
- Qube Learning
- Findabiz
- Christians Against Poverty
- Kintsugi Hope
- Grapevine EBE
- The Princes Trust
- High Sherriff of Warwickshire
- Warwickshire Health Exchange
- Think Active
- Everyone Active
- YWAM the Kings Lodge
- Air Ambulance
- Warwickshire Skills Hub
- St Martins Coffee Roastery
- Gaytons Bakery
- NHS Breast Cancer and Sepsis Screening Awareness
- NHS Vanguard Project
- The BSL Cafe
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- Play IT
- RoSA
- Ask Katie
- The Big Lottery Reaching Communities
- Heart of England Community Foundation
- Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme
- Warwickshire CAVA
- Nuneaton Job Centre

Our Partner Churches

- Heath End Church
- Manor Court Baptist Church
- Nuneaton URC Church
- St Nicolas Parish Church
- Holy Trinity Attleborough
- All Saints Chilvers Coton
- St Pauls Stockingford
- YWAM The Kings Lodge



"I use Saints for CAP because it is a safe space for clients and they feel more comfortable than going into a church. The space is open and less intimidating for clients. Also the prices are reasonable so clients can afford items."

**KATIE GRIMSLEY,
CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY
DEBT CENTRE MANAGER**

A TRAINING CAFE

We believe getting stuck in builds confidence as well as skills.

We want to support the people of Nuneaton in levelling up their work skills, generating work experience which can boost a CV/job application, and offering hands-on training and support opportunities in our friendly cafe.

BARISTA TRAINING

This year we began running our own Barista Training courses, with the aim of giving people something to put on their CV when applying for jobs in cafes and coffee shops.

The courses run across 4 sessions, and include the option of getting an online CPD qualification in Barista Skills, as well as loads of hands on practical training. So far we have run 3 of these courses, training up 12 new Baristas aged 16+.

WORK PLACEMENTS

We seek to take on work experience placements from all walks of life, but we do have a particular passion for supporting young people and young adults who are currently not in employment or full time education!

This year we have supported placements through Oakwood SEN School, the Princes Trust, the Nuneaton job centre, local schools and more!

We have supported 10 people with placements this year, the majority of which are under 25, and more than half of who have additional needs. We aim to create a safe environment for people to learn and thrive in, with the hope of working towards applying for jobs in the hospitality sector.

Our work placements are about more than just practical skills - we want to build people's confidence, develop social skills and raise people's aspirations!



THIS YEAR

WE'VE TRAINED
12 BARISTAS

WE'VE
SUPPORTED 10
PEOPLE WITH
WORK
EXPERIENCE

ALEX

On a long term Work Experience placement with us after volunteering with us during a Princes Trust course

"Working at Saints is a great experience. It's a very calm safe environment for both staff and customers alike."

ROBERT

On a long term placement with us after coming to an employability course for adults with special educational needs.

"My favourite thing about working in Saints is meeting new people. I like speaking to people. I like doing the pot wash. I feel like I'm more confident with speaking to people."



THE STUDENT LOUNGE



On Tuesdays and Thursdays, young people ages 11-18 can come to Student Lounge for study space (with tutors available), a range of workshops, free food and drinks and hangout space.

THE CAFE LOUNGE OPEN FROM 3PM-5PM



Young people attending get a free meal and hot or cold drink. Food ranges from chilli and rice to nachos, pizza and pasta to hotdog day! We offer tasty hot chocolate, too. Many young people come through our doors hungry, and really value that we feed them.

THE STUDY LOUNGE OPEN FROM 3PM-5PM



We have laptops available for young people to make use of, as well as a printer, study supplies and Wi-Fi. We have a tutor available to offer support with homework and revision.

THE BREAKOUT LOUNGE OPEN FROM 4PM-5PM



The Breakout lounge is an opportunity to learn something new, or blow off some steam. We offer a range of activities, from life skills workshops, open chat sessions on key issues facing young people, creative activities and sports.

HEAR FROM ONE OF OUR STUDENT LOUNGE VOLUNTEERS, PENNY:

"One of my highlights this year has been seeing vulnerable young people being fed, and also being able to access IT and learning support, to enable them to complete their homework. Having lived in Nuneaton for many years, I have seen that there is a lot of poverty. IT can be a useful way for schools to connect, but that often excludes disadvantaged young people as they don't have IT facilities at home. By providing those facilities here, as well as offering tutoring support, we can help those young people to succeed in their learning journey. Student Lounge is a valuable resource for the town, as it offers a safe, welcoming space for young people."



WHAT'S NEXT?

As more areas of our building are set to be renovated, we are looking to the future to expanding our provision. With the addition of a music recording and practice space, a further learning room and a large hall with a stage, we hope to be able to offer more sports, dance, drama and music opportunities for young people, with a bigger focus on physical and mental wellbeing and getting creative!

We also hope to build on our connections with schools next year, and perhaps look to run some wellbeing groups/offer mentoring opportunities within the schools in our area.



WHAT DO THE YOUTH THINK?

From a young person who has been attending Student Lounge for a year.

"It's a really friendly environment, where I have met lots of friends and took part in a range of fun games. The staff are really friendly. It's something to look forward to!"

From a young person who regularly attends Student Lounge.

"Student Bake Off is my favourite activity. Jewellery making, fabric painting and coaster making were also good. The staff are caring, and they care about their wellbeing. They ask which activities we'd like to do, and make it fun."

**WE'VE HAD 1792 ATTENDANCES
THIS YEAR AT STUDENT LOUNGE**

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED

Saints was recognised this year with a National Youth Anti-Violence Educational Award. The recognition was for our 'Positive impact upon Nuneaton and Warwickshire', and our support towards the the UK Tour of the National Monument Against Violence and Aggression 'The Knife Angel'. A great achievement for Student Lounge!





FEEDING THE COMMUNITY

No one should have to go hungry.

This year we have run a variety of support options for people struggling to get enough to eat, as well as some projects and initiatives connecting people with other essentials such as free blankets, shoes and warm clothing.

SUBSIDISED MEALS

.This year we have tried out something new - meals where most of the cost is subsidised by a grant, with the customer only having to pay £1-£1.50 for a hot meal.

Our aim with this was to offer support for those who are struggling, but by lowering the price rather than making it completely free, hopefully helping to maintain independence for those receiving.

So far we have tried this out specifically supporting pensioners, with a pensioners breakfast earlier in the year, and pensioners lunch club this summer.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH CLUBS

From January to the Easter Holidays we ran a free breakfast club on Friday mornings before school for under 18's. The aim was to create a safe, warm environment where disadvantaged young people could come and get something to eat in the morning. We then ran breakfast club every day of the summer holidays to tie in with our kids holiday club. Overall this year we have given out 480 breakfasts.

During the summer we also offered free lunches for children and parents from low income families, again to coincide with our free holiday activities. This meant some families could spend a whole day at Saints for free if they needed to, and get two meals for their children.

THIS YEAR

WE'VE GIVEN OUT **4340** FREE MEALS AND FOOD HAMPERS

WE'VE SERVED **343** 'SUBSIDISED' MEALS (WHERE MOST OF THE COST IS COVERED BY A GRANT)

FOOD HAMPERS

From February to June this year we gave out 735 food hampers, feeding on average around 100 people a week, with 40 hampers available per week. The demand for support was so high, that when the booking system was made live one week, all 40 hampers were reserved within 5 minutes. There were countless stories of families unable to cope, particularly in the week or two before payday. Over half of the households fed on any given week were large (over 4 people living in the house), many with 4 or more children.

Then in the summer holidays, we offered fresh fruit and veg bags to families in need. We included in the bags some easy recipes for meals and snacks to make. We gave out 125 of these bags over 5 weeks in the summer. feeding on average 95 people a week.

JULIA*

A single mother who has received food parcels, and shoes for her children, and has brought them to our holiday clubs

Julia says *"Saints is amazing. The staff have been so kind and supportive, and they have been a lifeline to us. Without the food hampers, shoes and all the activities, I don't think we would have been able to stay living here"*



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO SUPPORT

After identifying a need for a resource that connects people in Nuneaton and Bedworth with free/low cost food opportunities and warm spaces in their area, we have helped develop a new project.



We have worked with Warwickshire County Council, Nuneaton Foodbank and Warwickshire CAVA to put together an online directory and webpage, aimed at getting the information to those who need it, in as simple a way as possible. There are many great opportunities that pop up throughout the winter months, and we wanted to create a platform advertising these that could be kept up to date at all times, that was user friendly and informative. The aim is to feature all the opportunities put on by councils, businesses, community groups, charities and religious groups. The site is about to be shared with the public, and we will be continually updating it as we discover more offers of support.

You can find the online platform here:

<https://nuneatongrubandhub.wixsite.com/nbgrubandhubs>

SUPPORT WITH ESSENTIALS

Coats, shoes, blankets and more!

Many people have not only struggled with affording food, but also basic essentials. We have been working, alongside other organisations, to try and fill some of those needs.

THE BLANKET PROJECT

.Winter 2022/23 we worked together with the Nuneaton Warm Blanket Appeal to offer free blankets to anyone struggling to afford to heat their homes. We managed to distribute over 70! This winter we will be offering the same again, and we have been involving members of the community in knitting/crocheting squares that we can sew up into more blankets. We have seen a great 'coming together' of people across the community to support this initiative, and we even had two people doing a 24-hour Stitch-a-thon to raise money for .our warm space projects, and make more blankets to give away!



THIS YEAR
WE'VE
SUPPORTED 18
CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE
WITH A BRAND
NEW COAT OR
PAIR OF SCHOOL
SHOES



THE SCHOOL SHOES PROJECT

SCHOOL SHOES AND WARM COATS

This year we have also piloted supporting school aged children with warm coats or new school shoes. Recognising that this is an expense that many parents/carers struggle to afford, we asked agencies and community project that we know to refer to us those who would benefit from a bit of extra support. We were able to purchase high quality shoes and coats for 18 children under the age of 18.

One grandparent said:

"This is great. She (her grandchild) has been going to school in shoes that are far too small for her, but we haven't been able to afford new ones. Thank you."



SPACE TO TALK

Over the last year we have identified a need for a designated space for people just wanting to talk. We have met many people who are lonely, often suffering from isolation as a result of health challenges and deprivation. So we set up the 'Open Sofa'.

The Open Sofa runs from 10am-12.30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. One of our friendly volunteers will be on the sofa during those hours. Anyone is welcome to come, whether it's for a chat or just some company whilst they are here in the café.

Our 'Sofa Chats' are often a great way to identify where we may be able to support someone, or point them to somewhere they can access further support from for different issues. We are working on developing a digital signposting resource that our volunteers can use to better help people, but we also make it our business to be aware of other support services and agencies in the area, and what is on offer.

We also use these conversations to measure the needs in the community - quite literally from their mouth to our ears! The most pressing concerns in an area can change at any given time, and we want to be able to adapt our programme to meet those needs as they arise.

Hear from our volunteer Sonja:

"It is such a privilege to be on the Open Sofa, that people are so willing to share their fears and joys with me and being able to pray with them. Being a channel for Gods love is very humbling. When I think I am trying to give I realise I am also receiving! Sometimes I may only speak to one person in the time that I am there, but it always turns out to be the right thing."

"Saints is my sanctuary. I know any time I come in I will see a friendly face." - an Open Sofa regular

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS!

We have recruited some amazing volunteers from the community who are excellent listeners!





A WARM SPACE

Creating somewhere safe and warm in the face of rising energy costs.

Last winter for the first time we became a 'Warm Hub', a space where people can come for free that is safe and warm, and where they can get something free to eat or drink. We ran a programme of winter support activities to complement this.

PAY IT FORWARD

In October last year we launched our Pay it Forward scheme, This works by people purchasing a meal or drink on behalf of someone else. This purchase is turned into a meal token, which is put up on a board in our café, and can be claimed by someone in need so that they can eat for free.

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the public. .So far we have had over £3000 donated to the scheme, and have been able to give out 275 meals so far, with plenty more in the reserves to support people over the winter months.

The vouchers are available any time we are open, which means anyone can come and access our warm space at any time during our opening hours.



WINTER ACTIVITIES

From January to March we ran:

- Internet café - offering basic IT skills lessons and computer help, as well as free access to laptops and Wi-Fi.
- Pensioners Breakfast - Cooked breakfast and a hot drink for £1.50
- Student Lounge - free food, warmth and study support for 11s-18s
- Coffee and Create - social group for crafters with a free hot drink
- Parents Coffee Club - Free hot drink and pastry for parents, free toddler activity and use of our kids play area
- Under 18s Breakfast club - Free breakfast before school on a Friday
- Lego club - Lots of Lego and board games in the café for the kids to play with

"Saints is the nicest coffee place in town, by far! (in my opinion at least). They came up with this amazing idea for mum's to gather together every Thursday morning. I have joined this group while back, when my boy was little, I was spending way too much time at home, on my own. This group was the saviour for me! I was able to go out and talk to mums, my boy could play with other children, I could actually drink a HOT coffee! I've met so many amazing people there, made friends for life. I'll be forever grateful! Amazing place with amazing people! Thank you."

Feedback from a local parent



GETTING CREATIVE

MAKING ART ACCESSIBLE

During the spring and summer this year we ran a programme of free art and craft workshops. These were aimed at bringing people together, and giving people opportunities to explore materials and mediums they wouldn't normally be able to afford to use.

We ran classes in watercolours, macramé, origami, crochet, paper flowers, clay jewellery and embroidery.



CREATIVE CHRISTMAS

Last December we also ran a selection of 'make your own Christmas' workshops, where we only charged for the materials, and sourced materials at low cost. We were able to offer workshops to create gifts to give to friends and family, and even two Christmas wreath making workshops using foraged foliage, teaching people to create eco friendly, sustainable wreaths each year!

One of the attendees at the wreath making course said:

"I attended the wreath making course early December 2022. It was only £10 per person which was incredibly good value. You could tell a lot of effort had been put into sourcing a wide variety of foliage and decorations. The course gave me the opportunity to meet new people and learn a new skill."

**WE'VE HAD 92 PEOPLE
ATTEND CREATIVE
WORKSHOPS THIS YEAR.**



SHOP LOCAL

Championing local businesses



When we first opened, we had market stalls for small businesses. However the economic situation meant these began to no longer be as helpful for businesses, with many moving to sell online only. Now we look to support businesses in different ways.

BEAUTICIAN IN RESIDENCE

Cassey has been working with us right from when we first opened our doors in January 2020. Last year we told the story of how we were able to work with Cassey to help her launch her beauty business. This year she has become 'Cassey's Beauty and Training' following completion of a course in teaching beauty, so that she can begin training up new beauticians in Nuneaton, and can take on apprentices.

LOCALLY SOURCING

Through everything we do ourselves, we try to source things locally, reinvesting into the local economy.

This has come into play in our café particularly this year. We are now working with St Martins Coffee Roastery, who are providing us with their incredible coffee, roasted at their site in our neighbouring county Leicestershire.

St Martin's are also helping us train our staff in barista skills at a highly professional level, which in turn helps us train up and equip volunteers and work experience placements.

We have also connected up with local bakery Gayton's, based just outside of Nuneaton, to supply us with bread, pastries and cakes. Not only has this increased the quality of our offerings, but it has also allowed us to support a business with a long history in the area, that offers employment to local people.

THROUGH CHRISTMAS MARKETS:

WE'VE SUPPORTED 16 LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Our annual Christmas markets are another way which we can encourage people in Nuneaton to 'Shop Local'. Last December was no different, with 16 small businesses supported with stalls at a very low cost.

FAIR TRADING

Terry has been with us from the start, and has had another great year of running his small business 'pop up shop' inside our building selling Fairtrade goods.



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year we run a variety of activities for families with children, from holiday clubs to parent support groups and more! Family days out and holiday activities can often cost the earth, and that can mean families who are struggling with their finances often miss out. We want to try and make free fun experiences that the whole family can enjoy.

Every school holiday this past year we ran holiday clubs, with free activities for children.

At Christmas last year, we hosted 129 children and their parents/carers for our 'Wonderful Winter' family fun days, using Holiday Activities and Food funding (HAF). We partnered with a local Escape Room company to offer a Santa themed escape room aimed at children. We also had lots of other free Christmas activities, food and even a visit from Santa!

During the half terms, Easter and summer breaks we continued on this theme, offering free children's activities and family fun days.



PARENTS COFFEE CLUB

We have also run Parent's Coffee Club every Thursday morning across the year, providing free hot drinks and breakfast for struggling parents with babies and toddlers.

PARENT WHO
ATTENDS
PARENTS
COFFEE CLUB:

"I have been taking my three children to Saints ever since they opened after Covid and I am so thankful for the cafe especially the parent's group. The group sessions are run by incredibly supportive staff who have been there for me and my children in so many ways. They offer good advice, support, and it's so wonderful knowing that every Thursday morning there is a warm happy place I can go to where the children are happy and I can have a coffee and pastry break. My whole family loves Saints and it is a very special place in the heart of Nuneaton!"

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

A year of expanding!

We are approaching a period of expansion, as we are set to begin renovations on both our upstairs hall facility and some rooms in our basement!

When completed, we will add to our facilities:

- A fully refurbished 250-300 capacity Victorian dance hall, with a stage and sprung dance floor
- A unique training/conferencing room which looks out over the hall
- A catering kitchen
- A lift and refurbished stairwell to improve access to the facility
- A music recording and podcasting space
- A further training room/youth space
- Toilet facilities on both floors and even a shower!

This expansion in facilities will of course allow us room to expand our programmes, as well as gain further income from hiring these facilities. Our hope is that this further income will play a big part in helping us become a sustainable social enterprise.

We are continuing to look to develop key partnerships over the next few years, to both provide new programmes and extend the ones we already offer.

One area of particular development coming up soon is in our work with young people. We hope to extend beyond just our Student Lounge sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and launch drop ins and mentoring programmes for NEETs and care leavers, as well as going into the local schools to deliver mentoring and wellbeing support. We will also be able to make use of the new facilities we are developing to enrich and add value to this work. We have applied for Million Hours youth work funding to aid us in this expansion, and we are engaging with the local council on the Levelling Up programme in regards to youth work,

A HUGE THANK YOU

We want to extend a big thank you to all of our funders, partners, churches, staff, volunteers and customers. Without you, Saints simply wouldn't exist. We appreciate all the support we have been given, from financial contributions to hours and hours of peoples time. We are so very grateful, and value you all!

STAFFING CHANGES

As we have been looking to the future and assessing what our needs will be in terms of staffing, we have rearranged some roles, and created three roles that will fulfil between them the ever expanding scope of work originally divided between the 'Communities and Marketing Development Worker' and the 'Operations and Facilities Manager'.

Our Reaching Communities Funding is now enabling us to employ our 'Saints Centre Manager', our 'Communities and Facilities Lead' and our 'Café, Communications and Marketing Assistant'.



Hannah Stevens is becoming our new 'Saints Centre Manager'



Cherish Gwynn has come on board as our Communities and Facilities Lead



Rhianna Morris is taking on the additional role of being our Café, Communications and Marketing Assistant



SAYING GOODBYE

The wonderful Dave Jones, our Operations and Facilities Manager, is moving into a new season in his life, as he begins his journey towards being an ordained minister in the Church of England. We want to thank Dave for his hard work and effort, his humility and kindness, and for how faithfully he served the Saints project and all of its customers, staff and volunteers.

CHANGES IN THE CAFE

Athena Costache has moved on from her time here at Saints, and the first thing on her agenda is a trip back to Romania to see her family. We are so grateful for all the time Athena has given us, and we wish here all the best in her new endeavours.



We'd like to offer a warm welcome to Tim Jupe, our new Café Manager! We are excited to see the direction in which Tim takes our café and training kitchen.