



Bridge  
Church

# Bridge Church General Meeting

# A message from Sam Beazley

**“We are a church that loves and serves our community”**

As I reflect on the past year, I can truly thank God for all His blessings and for the way that He has carried us as a body of believers through an incredible season of growth and change. We, as a church, are called to see lives changed and impacted by bringing the Good News of the Gospel; Christ’s never ending and life changing love. Although sometimes our methods of doing this will change the heart and drive for us, as a body, to illuminate Gods goodness for all people will never.

This year has seen us trying to navigate the best way to engage and continue to build and encourage community among people.

It has been a year where, as a church, we have stepped in to strengthen our relationship and support of the Foodbank within the community. A year where we have prioritised connection and building groups and drop-ins to facilitate connection. A year where we experienced loss and the pain that accompanies that.

Out of this testing time we have seen new life. Babies being born, the revamp of our church space (although we know there is still a way to go here), the growth of our online streaming of services and childrens work, the growth of new teams and people stepping into new roles, the launch of the Seed café that enables community to be rebuilt and best of all we have seen people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

**“We are a church that loves and serves our community”**

As we started 2022 we had a strong feeling that the word God had placed on our church was Receive. It felt slightly awkward but the more we understood what God was seeing the more we started to see it taking place.

Receive the blessing of meeting as a community of believers again.

Receive the blessing of my Holy Spirit in a way that you as a church have not experienced before.

Receive the blessing of the outpouring of finances and resources.

Receive the blessing of people finding new life.

All of this we have started to see and we invite you to pray for more of this. This year we have continued to focus on the work we do with the children and young people. We have opened the seed café more regularly. We launched new groups that seek to meet the growing need around creating community and mental well-being.

We are a church that welcomes all people without question. A church that accepts everyone from all walks of life. A church that seeks to be unified and show the love of Christ without judgment.

As a church leadership team we are privileged to play our role in seeing lives impacted through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We continue to grow together as a team and seek God's heart for His church here in Launceston.

**Sam Beazley**

# Worship

This year we really believe that the Lord has blessed us with a new freedom of worship, new band members and a culture of expectancy as we press into what God has in store for us a church. We have seen a shift in sung worship as a church, allowing for more space for God to move. I believe this is a result of the worship nights we do, where we grow in reliance on God by waiting expectantly with no real structure.

Looking to this next year, as a Church we are really passionate in continuing to grow in intimacy and our love for the Lord within times of worship. We want to make sure that we aren't just Sunday Singers, but weekly worshippers, walking daily with Jesus. Whether this looks like serving on team, investing into the church or praying for the colleague at work, we want to be glorifying God in everything we do.

As a team, we will continue to meet each week with a balance of practising together in our gifting as well as growing together as a family. It is really important for us as a team to make sure we aren't here to just 'meet a need', but to be a part of a community. We want to walk alongside one another in every season and grow as disciples of Jesus.

**Toby Lee**

# Peaced Together

It's been wonderful to start Peaced Together this year! Peaced Together is a national group designed to provide space and opportunity to bring more hope and peace in our lives through conversation, creative arts, crafts and friendship. It's amazing how healing a bit of time, fellowship and creativity can be! Check out the national site [www.peacedtogether.co.uk](http://www.peacedtogether.co.uk)

In March our theme was Joy and we created beautifully coloured baskets to take home. In June we put our hand to tile mosaics and focused on seeing Beauty out of our Brokenness. In July we got the canvas and paints out and spoke about the importance of Kindness not just to others but to ourselves as well. We had a 2 part session in September where at the first session we decorated boxes with decoupage after a yummy treasure hunt thinking about Treasures in the Storms, and at the second session, we were encouraged to be Thankful for all things ... even the fleas ... and spent our time creating beautiful wooden thankful trees. All sessions are £3 and can be booked online on the church website.

It is our prayer that Peaced Together continues to provide healing and connection as people come together to explore different themes and creative arts developing friendships and support along the way. Look out for our upcoming sessions and don't forget to check out our new Facebook page ... Peaced Together - Launceston ... filled with pictures of all we've done and information of what we are yet to do!

**Mandee Beazley & Angie Bates**

# Property

Good news...at long last we have a new, fully functioning, Cornwall Council approved kitchen. Hallelujah I hear a number of you shout. The stainless-steel kitchen extraction system and cupboards along with new sinks provide the ideal ministry opportunity for the church to serve the community. Alongside the new kitchen work has been carried out to enlarge the café area. We are excited to see how Maddy will grow the opportunity to bring families and people across Launceston into the church to enjoy the space and connect with those who serve Christ, love people, and enjoy coffee and food. If you wish to be part of the kitchen team and have a passion in the catering area, we would love to connect with you. We can provide any required training to support you. Going forward we hope to work out which type of heating system will work for the large church space especially regarding the cost of energy.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who joined in with the "Summer Clean". At long last the space beside the church worship area we call the "Container" was finally cleared of anything of no use. This means we can now stack chairs easily and have a store for those items we need to use on a regular basis.

**Phil Parsons**

# Seed Cafe

At the end of September 2021, we opened the 'Seed Community Cafe' within the church building which offers cake and drinks within a large open space with a soft play area and lots of seating. Our vision for the cafe is to serve the community in the week by giving them a safe, consistent space that is multi functioning so that it can meet whatever needs they have throughout different seasons of their life, whether that is a space to bring their children, to meet friends, a space for them to do work or even to seek help / a chat with the team that runs the cafe. Throughout all of this, we also want to spread kingdom seeds and increase the exposure of the church to be a prominent and reliable figure within our community and surrounding areas with the hopes that they will feel welcomed into our church space to then progress into our Sunday services and church family.

Within the last 12 months we've seen incredible growth and breakthroughs through these means, seeing an average of 200 people coming into the cafe a week. Within the last 6 months we've also begun our weekly 'Grounded' bible study group for new christians which has been so rewarding to see unravel and has been seeing up to 12 people a week coming together to seek and delve more into the bible and what it means to walk with Jesus daily. We've also had individual men and women's groups begin fortnightly in the space, meeting to chat and do life together. Through originally coming to Seed cafe and the groups we've held in the space, we've seen around 15 people come into our church family and attend our church services consistently. In the next coming months we hope to begin offering hot food within the cafe and continue to increase our exposure and identity within the community.

**Maddy Lee**

# Mens Ministry

It feels like a long time ago that we were running our monthly men's breakfasts out of the community centre. These breakfasts were the building blocks for the men's ministry that led on to weekend retreats, quiz evenings and days out. During these times we saw strong friendships forged and amazing testimonies shared.

We were all sorry to see the breakfasts come to an abrupt stop due to the pandemic lockdowns and then sadly during that time we also saw the closure of the community centre. Last year we slowly saw the men's ministry able to relaunch slightly where the restrictions allowed and were able to come together to enjoy a few afternoons of golf and even a take away and quiz evening.

We are full of ideas for the future.

This year we have seen the team grow with a few new people coming on board to help with the planning and organising of events and now that the kitchen work has finished we are excited that **BREAKFAST EVENTS ARE RETURNING !!**

The Men's Ministry exists to provide a simple space for men to come together and build relationships that will lead to a strong support network of men able to encourage, guide and uplift one another in life and faith so we encourage you to jump in and get involved. We are always open to new ideas and ongoing help and support so please get in touch.

**Phil Parsons & Dan Worth**



# House Groups

It is a joy to have seen how house groups have grown over the past few months. We now have 9 groups and nearly 90 people currently meeting together. It is such a vital part of church life, where we journey life together with all its ups & downs alongside learning more about our precious Saviour through the reading and studying of God's word.

We had a collective house group social at the start of the year, a quiz and puddings, which was great fun! I know some want a rematch so we will make that happen at some point!

Lots of new studies were put up on Bridge website for leaders and their groups to choose from. We felt that rather than trying to get each group to study the same material, each group should have the ability to choose what they study and so tailor it to their own group. This seems to have worked well so far and we will continue to update the website from time to time with new studies.

Summer seemed to pass by in a flash, but I hope you managed to get in some socials together. They are such a great way to get to know each other and have some fun at the same time!

We kicked off again in September and added two new groups to accommodate the growth of new people wanting to join groups. It's such a pleasure (and a slight headache at times!) to have the joy of putting more people into our groups. They offer so much support in varying ways and it's a joy to learn more about each other alongside chatting over Gods word. I firmly believe that our groups should always be safe places where each person feels loved and nurtured, where we can be ourselves and ask those questions that have been troubling us, and for us to be both challenged and encouraged.

If you aren't yet in a group but really feel you would like to be, then please do contact me and I will be more than happy to find a house group that suits you.

**Tracey Venning**

# Fervent

We believe that prayer is a real game-changer in the battle for this young generation and Fervent is firmly rooted in the belief that we are called to fight on their behalf ...when we fight, we fight on our knees.

The idea for Fervent was born out of an earnest desire to gather together and pour out our hearts in prayer for the children in our own families, believing God's promise that there is great power when we join together in prayer. Our initial thoughts started small, perhaps just a few of us meeting monthly to pray, however we soon felt that God had bigger plans. We began to see that there was a need to pray strategically, to stand in the gap and go to battle for not only our own children but for the current generation of children and young people who are growing up in incredibly difficult times.

We began to see how important it is that such specific and strategic prayer for our children and young people should be at the heart of our church family, not just for a small group of praying parents.

We had our first Fervent evening in November and during that time we released our children in to God's hands, the first step in what we believe will be a long term commitment to praying for our children and young people as a church family . It was an amazing time of worship and open collective prayer as well as many quiet and personal moments with the Lord.

Our second Fervent evening took place in February and took the form of a wonderful banquet where we sat together and ate, talked, worshipped and prayed. We also heard from some young people, youth workers and teachers about what day-to-day life is like for the current generation of children and young people, which helped us to focus our prayers on specific areas.

The idea for this very special evening was created from our longing for our children to hunger for the things of God and to know and understand that there is a special place laid for them at the Lord's table, a place that only they can fill.

Our third Fervent evening focused upon looking at who God says we are and speaking this truth over ourselves and our children. We explored God's word and created pieces of artwork as reminders to stand on God's truth, rather than the many messages that the world gives to us about who we are.

Alongside these larger quarterly events, we felt that the Holy Spirit was leading us towards a 'ribbon of prayer' to run alongside and underpin the larger gatherings. Fervent now meets monthly for a simple hour of focussed and strategic prayer for our children and young people. To date, these have been extremely powerful, with the Holy Spirit directing us to focus in on particular target areas for prayer such as young people's mental health, changing the culture in our local schools and asking for the gift of joy for our children and young people.

Going forwards, we are excited to see where the Holy Spirit will lead Fervent and we continue to ask Him to show us the Father's heart with regards to His plans for this.

**Gill Taylor and Mandebe Beazley**

# Youth

It is great to be able to update you this year on what God has been doing in and through the youth work at Bridge Church.

## Sunday Morning Youth

It has been great to see young people back and active in the church family. We have continued to follow the sermon series through our teaching in the Sunday morning sessions, with a key focus on studying God's word together... helped by the assistance of a nice milkshake and fun activities! A hope for this group is that we will see a real growth in the ownership of these sessions from the young people. As the young people become more comfortable together, we will introduce our 'Youth Serving Sundays' to encourage them in different areas of gifting and to integrate them more into the work God is doing in the wider body.

I want to thank Chris Uglow and the guys at Oriel Ministries for the use of the space upstairs which has enabled us to grow, and have a larger space for future growth.

## Shift XL

This group is our weekly bible studies that happen in the Bridge Church youth rooms and our house. The aim of these groups is a focus on discipleship, with an emphasis on gathering young people to grow in relationship with one another, serve one another, and learn new skills as a part of the bigger discipleship journey. There is an emphasis on God's word so each session includes a bible study and it is always incredible to see young people share what God is saying to them or doing in their lives. We have unchurched young people regularly asking questions, seeking guidance and wanting to go deeper spiritually. Over the last year our juniors group has grown from 6-7 each week up to 14-15 now.

Moving forward, we would like to see the group continue to grow numerically. We know numbers are not always everything, but I feel this is a great time to grow in number through young people finding it a space to invite friends. We will be looking to focus on an invitation mentality and breaking down the barriers that may stop the young people inviting friends to be a part of this ministry opportunity.

## Wednesday Hangouts

Our Wednesday afterschool hangouts in Seed Café started just before the summer holidays. This is a great opportunity for young people to come, be themselves, and use the space to relax and have open conversations with no agenda to the sessions. We are seeking to use this space as an opportunity to get to know new young people, and then invite them into other sessions. A hot chocolate normally goes down a treat and along with free wi-fi the young people often enjoy this time to be in a safe, dry, warm space.

## Spree

This year we had the opportunity to take 22 children and young people to Spree camp near Crediton. This was an incredible opportunity to grow friendships, and learn more about God together. For many of this group it was their first camp and it was encouraging to see everyone supporting one another and the unity in the group. We had an amazing time, and plan to use this camp in future to continue this growth.

As a church we seek for finances to never be a barrier for young people to participate in camps, so if you are interested in supporting young people being able to go next year then please do be in touch.

## Next Steps

Moving forward, we would like to reintroduce our church youth club 'Shift' which used to gather on Friday nights. Due to many changes, namely the car park now being shared, the money we have spent in church, and other things, we need to reassess how these sessions may run. Please do be lifting this in prayer as we seek to re-open sessions with a pure focus on reaching a community of young people who need love and support now more than ever.

## Team

I feel incredibly blessed to have some amazing volunteers on our youth team. Having such amazing volunteers is a really significant step towards providing consistency for the young people, which is certainly something young people need. With this in mind, a goal moving forward will be to try and encourage and support our volunteers through resourcing them in areas of expertise, and looking at simple ways to support through training. As we return to larger gatherings over the next year, there will be more opportunities for the church to support the youth work within Bridge Church.

**Jordan Duke**

# Chosen

As the Bridge Church Womens Ministry , Chosen's mission statement remains the same..

' building an army of women who share life experiences, encourage, support and guide one another ; learning from others as we blossom and thrive ; living life as Christian women'

And what a joy it has been to gather that army in person at our quarterly events so far this year!...

March saw us host the Chosen Women's breakfast, The delicious smell of bacon served in rolls, pastries, fruit and yoghurt, tea and coffee enjoyed by all, a very special time together of morning chat and laughter. We had the joy of hearing one of our young mum's, Dom share her story of doing life with God, as a mum of two and how vital faith is in that journey of family life.

July...our Summer event of an Afternoon tea at the home of Luke and Naomi...Out with the bunting, tiered cake stands and tablecloths, prayers for sunshine - Majestic tent in place, the tables adorned with delicious sweet and savoury treats - Pimms and tea flowing , accompanied with the dreamy keyboard playing of Matt Parsons. Then lawn games...quite competitive!! A delightful afternoon enjoyed by all.

September ...getting a bit wintery!

## Together Teaching Treats

The evenings theme of JOY.. what fun and joy we had with the ice breaker! Then more with the " fill your cup" sweet bar to munch on and enjoy whilst listening to a teaching on JOY! ...not like happiness, not dependant on circumstances...JOY dependant on Him! The JOY of the Lord is our strength! Each lady taking home an encouraging bookmark and list of top tips for JOY!

We look forward to our social evening of bowling and bar snack ...November 12th, details to follow!

And of course our ever popular Christmas event ..

Date for your diaries Saturday 3rd December.

We as a team at Chosen give God thanks and Praise for all He has done through this ministry and trust Him for all that is to come.

**Jill Duke**



# Kids

We have had such a great year in Bridge Kids, there are so many things we can share with you but here are just a few highlights.

Shining stars toddler group is now open three mornings a week and we are seeing new families coming along each week. Many of these families are new to church and we are so happy to now welcome a few of them into our church family.

In June we had a fantastic time taking some of the Bridge Kids children to Spree; a Christian youth camp run by SWYM. It was great to see many of them developing their faith in Jesus, especially as some had recently decided to dedicate their lives through baptism.

In the last few weeks Leah has joined the team and will be helping to develop our Sunday teaching program as well as the logistics and administration of managing the team of volunteers.

It was great to relaunch our holiday clubs earlier this year, with family fun days over Easter and a four-day Epic Adventure in the summer, which saw over one hundred children through the doors. We would like to give a special thanks to all those who volunteered to help at these events.

Over the coming months we are excited to be re-launching Connect After School club for primary school-aged children, and will be hosting an October fun day and Light Party as an alternative to Halloween.

**Mark Blencowe & Leah Blacher**

# Prayer

We believe prayer changes reality. Prayer gives us an opportunity to interact with the Spirit of God and participate in His work here on earth. As a prayer team we want to help facilitate change in people's lives in the church and in our community.

We meet once a fortnight in the church. We pray as the worship band practice and then we join together for more worship and prayer and talk about how we can encourage others to encounter more of the living Lord Jesus.

Weekly prayer on zoom: Our weekly prayer meeting meets every Wednesday morning at 6.45 till 7.15am on zoom. (No getting out the door in the dark. Just come in your pyjamas with a cup of coffee in front of a screen!) A massive THANK YOU to Glyn who hosts this every week, even when he's on holiday! Find the zoom link on the weekly newsletter.

Prayer email: This has become an integral part of our church family life, giving people a platform on which to ask others to pray. We've seen some incredible answers to prayer – a testament to the power of prayer when many commit to pray together. Let's keep posting those requests and don't forget to tell us when prayers are answered.

Sunday morning services: We encourage people to find a friend to pray with on Sunday mornings, but we're aware that there are often new people and visitors with us. So, our 'Sunday morning prayer team' hover around the front left of the stage after a service to ensure there's always someone available for prayer. Come and find us, we'd love to pray for you.

Gathering in person for prayer: Prayer forms a part of every meeting throughout Bridge Church life, whether in house groups or in other ministries that gather together. Gathering for 'Intimacy with the King' has been a time of amazing blessing at Christmas and Easter, and so in May and September this year we put on 'Be Still and Know' prayer evenings to offer further opportunities to rest in God's presence, worship, wait and listen to what the Spirit wants to say to His church and community.

As we move forward, our vision is that prayer should underpin everything we do as our relationship with God deepens and our love for others grows. Prayer changes reality! What a privilege it is to partner with the power and comfort of God's Spirit and see His Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. If you'd like to be involved in the prayer team, or have an idea to encourage and support people in prayer, please get in contact with [admin@bridgechurchuk.org](mailto:admin@bridgechurchuk.org). We would love to hear from you.

**Jo Parsons**