

# 2018 UPDATE

NEW COMMUNITY NETWORK



## Contents

<b>04</b>	Introduction	<b>14</b>	International Projects
<b>05</b>	Church Life	<b>16</b>	Partnerships
<b>06</b>	One Church, Three Services	<b>17</b>	Hope Community School
<b>08</b>	Next Generation	<b>18</b>	Training and Resources
<b>09</b>	House of Prayer	<b>19</b>	Finances
<b>10</b>	Outreach	<b>20</b>	New Community Ventures
<b>11</b>	Local Projects	<b>22</b>	Our 2025 Vision
<b>12</b>	Gallery		

# New Community Update 2018

New Community Church is a resource church called to serve the city, the nation and the nations.

## Join our community

+44 (0) 2380 237700

info@newcommunity.org.uk

newcommunity.org.uk

Central Hall, St Mary Street,  
Southampton, SO14 1NF

St. Andrew's Church, 204 South  
East Road, Sholing, SO19 8LW

## Introduction

We have completed the first 12 months of our 2025 Legacy Vision. We have much to be grateful to God for and have been encouraged by the progress that has been made in many areas. We've had the privilege to baptise 19 people across the church; Ben and Flora Hinks have been appointed as our Next Generation leaders; we've launched our House of Prayer initiative; given away 10% of our unrestricted income to causes beyond ourselves; started four new School of Ministries centres, and have a growing connection with families from Hope Community School. We hope that you will be inspired by the stories and developments from across our church included in the update.

For 2019, we have set the theme of 'strengthening foundations for

growth' based on the Scripture in Isaiah 54:2:

"Enlarge the place of your tent,  
stretch your tent curtains wide,  
do not hold back;  
lengthen your cords,  
strengthen your stakes"

In particular, we want to have a focus on discipleship, take time to define our values (in a time of great turbulence),

and give attention to the infrastructure that will facilitate our future growth.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Billy Kennedy**

## Church Life

---

**Last year our church communities continued to thrive, seeing people of all ages and backgrounds come together to encounter Jesus for the first time, get to know him better and feel as though they belonged to family. We ran Sunday services alongside a range of midweek activities to further develop community life.**

Average Sunday attendance across our three services for this year was around 373 people (including children) meeting to worship God together. 19 people made their faith public by being baptised at one of our three services and many new faces came through our doors and connected with us at the welcome desk.

Our Sunday teaching explored a range of themes including generosity, evangelism, prayer and discipleship, each of which saw great testimonies of faith as recorded on our 'God did this' story cards.

15 connect groups met together regularly over the course of the year to enjoy Bible study, discussion, meals, prayer and support for one another. Our House of Prayer initiative was launched, covering all areas of prayer, worship and the prophetic. This area is something we hope to further develop in 2019.

In September 2018, we started work on our Next Generation Pathway, which is for children, youth and students from ages 0-21. Up to 120 children attended one of our two Sunday morning services each week and we interacted with around 45 youth either on Sundays or at our midweek groups.

Social events for men and women in the church were a huge success and proved popular. Sisters, for women at New Community Church, held events such as their summer puddings evening, Sisters' storytelling, and a New Forest

walk. Men in the church enjoyed a BBQ masterclass, classic car workshop, photography lessons and more, with Shed55. The Hub, for those aged 50+, met together monthly to enjoy lunch and a short talk or discussion.

Our Christmas and Easter celebrations were widely attended, seeing new faces join us to celebrate the two main dates in the church calendar. In December, we trialled our first-ever pop-up nativity play, which proved to be very popular, alongside our Christmas Celebration and Christingle services.



# One Church, Three Services

## 10am Service at Central Hall

**It has been so encouraging this year to see so many visitors at the 10am service, as we have continued to meet with God each week and grow as a community together.**

We have baptised 12 people, seen our children's work continue to thrive, and brought fresh focus and energy

to our youth work. This year, we have restructured our welcome team to improve our welcome, and introduced a new monthly Belonging course to help newcomers get connected into our community. We have seen wonderful stories of God's provision as people have generously stepped out in faith with their financial giving.

In 2019, our newly appointed Community Life team will be developing new ways to help visitors connect in and become part of our community. We will be looking at how we develop a discipling culture, helping all of us to grow as followers of Jesus. And we will continue to create an environment where people meet with Jesus and encounter the Holy Spirit.



## 10.30am Service at St. Andrew's, Sholing

---

---

**Our New Community base at St. Andrew's Church in Sholing has seen several significant developments in the last year and has become a beacon for the community.**

We ran our first Alpha course, baptised 5 people, opened the café on weekdays, launched our monthly Encounter worship-café nights and saw significant

attendance at our community outreach events. Stay and Play toddler group attracted up to 30 families weekly; the monthly family movie nights engaged over 60 people; 400 hot dogs were served at the annual Halloween pit stop outreach; and the Christingle service was widely attended by community groups.

In 2019, we will further develop our community engagement activities whilst focusing on more intentional discipleship, prayer and worship. A number of people have recently come to faith within our community and so we hope to 'strengthen foundations for growth' both personally and as a church community.

## 6pm Service at Central Hall

---

---

**In 2018, we sought to create a tighter sense of community at our 6pm service and so changed the shape and structure to better serve the needs of our community.**

Having run for a whole academic year in the Main Hall, we recognised a need to adapt. With our average weekly

attendance settling at around 25-50 people, the big open space of a 900-seat room meant that we were lacking a sense of community or belonging.

In September, we changed the format, transitioning our weekly meetings in Room 4, to create a more inclusive and discipleship-growing atmosphere. We also included elements of group

discussion, encouraging conversation over refreshments. The monthly Six+ event was created to be a larger evangelistic service in the Main Hall (reaching 60+ people), with energetic worship and an external speaker. During this transition period, Rachel and Peter Heslop took on the role of service leaders.

## Next Generation

New Community Church are passionate about seeing the next generation encounter Jesus for themselves.

In 2018, we began to form plans to shape our Next Generation Pathway for children, youth and students in the church (ages 0-21). In September, Ben and Flora Hinks were appointed as Next Generation Leaders, overseeing the younger generations of New Community Church.



### Children

Children's groups continued to thrive, with steady numbers and enthusiasm throughout the year at both Central and Sholing. Our monthly God's House, for school years R-5 was a great success, with the children exploring the series 'Treasure Hunters – Discovering Who I Am' together in a fun environment, with worship, crafts, prayers and activities.

### Youth

Sunday groups at both Central and Sholing saw youth come together for Bible teaching and discussion. Mid-week groups, Refuel and Older Youth Connect Group, continued to thrive with many youth bringing along friends. In the summer, nine of our youth (one of whom was not a Christian), went to the Christian festival Soul Survivor. They went to all of the meetings and enjoyed the activities, hoping to come again next year.

### Students

This year we saw many of our third-year students graduate and return home after university. In the autumn term we had a new influx of students from Southampton Solent University; they were able to enjoy our October student lunches and have formed a tight-knit community, regularly attending both our 10am and 6pm services.

### Team

All of our Next Generation activities would not be possible without the help of our great children and youth teams. Over the course of this year 70+ people were involved in serving at one of our Next Generation groups.



## House of Prayer

In May 2018, New Community Church launched the new House of Prayer initiative, designed to incorporate all areas of worship, prayer and the prophetic.



### Extended Worship and Prayer

Our monthly prayer meetings at Central Hall (on the second Wednesday of each month) were given a fresh format, incorporating a time of worship and encounter, with each month having a specific prayer focus. Over the course of the year, we prayed for those in business, education, for those who are sick, for our leaders, for our country and for the nations, amongst other topics.

### Prayer Weeks

New Community joined together with Christians all over the world for the Thy Kingdom Come initiative. Over the course of the week, we met daily at St Andrew's from 8am - 9am and at Central Hall from 8pm-9pm, concluding the week with a 24-hour prayer session and evening celebration. We also ran two additional weeks of prayer at St Andrew's in Sholing.

### Prayer School

In October, we ran a popular Prayer School event at Central Hall, with guest speaker Brian Zahnd focusing on how to actively engage in a deeper prayer life. The Prayer School provided inspiration, teaching and a sustainable framework for both community and personal prayer.

### Prayer Pods

Over the course of the year, various prayer pods met regularly to pray for specific areas of our church life and our world. In 2018, pods included: prayer for the leaders, prayer for the persecuted church and prayer for Hope Community School.

# Outreach

This year, willing volunteers gave their time and support to share the good news about Jesus and pray with people for their needs.



## Alpha

New Community ran two very successful Alpha courses in 2018 (one in the spring, one in the autumn). Both courses saw around 20 guests attend. As a result of completing the course, we have seen a number of guests join the church, become involved in a weekly connect group and start to serve on one of our teams. Two people were baptised (with a third due to get baptised in 2019).

## Healing on the Streets

Each Saturday, volunteers from New Community and other local churches made themselves available to pray for people in the local community. Over the course of the year, many people from outside the church were impacted, receiving prayer from the team.

## Weekly Outreach

On Wednesday afternoons, a small team of people went out from Central

Hall to talk to people on the streets and introduce them to Jesus, to which we saw a great response.

## Family Movie Nights

On the second Friday of each month, we opened the doors of St Andrew's to the local community for their family movie night and mini movie nights. Offering free popcorn and drinks, these movie nights proved to be a great success, welcoming over 60 people each month.

## Pit Stop

On 31st of October, at St Andrew's in Sholing we hosted Pit Stop, a free drop-in event for families in the local community who were out 'trick or treating'. Over 400 people joined us for hot dogs, glitter tattoos, crafts and activities. It was a great opportunity to bring God's presence and light to the community.

## Local Projects

We run several fantastic projects that provide practical support to help many people within our local communities.



### Community Café

Our Community Café is now in its 12th year of running and has opened its doors every Sunday afternoon at Central Hall, without fail, since it began. In that time we have served around 45,000 free meals to some of the most vulnerable people in our city. The café provides a friendly and inclusive space for around 70-100 individuals each week, who otherwise often feel marginalised, neglected or misunderstood. Over the Christmas period, we continued to offer meals, alongside gifts of warm clothing, at our Christmas Café.

### New Community Toddler Groups

Our two community toddler groups, Tiny Treasures at Central Hall and Stay and Play at St Andrew's, continued to thrive, impacting many families in the local communities. Tiny Treasures has continued to serve around 46 families in the local community. This year, we have had

the privilege of seeing children we have known since they were babies start at Hope Community School. In the summer, 60 people (children and their parents or carers) went on the Tiny Treasures day trip to Longdown Activity Farm. Stay and Play saw up to 30 families coming along each Friday morning. Our Christmas event with Father Christmas and Trigger the Train was especially well attended, bringing warmth and joy to many local families.

### Baby Branch

Many items of baby clothing, toys and equipment were donated by over 150 people, to be redistributed to families in need. Baby Branch has also supported international charities, Olive Grove Project, Farm for Life, and Lullaby Africa, with donations, alongside a range of local projects, including Sure Start, Women's Aid, Women's Refuge, and more.



New Community Church is a resource church called to serve the city, the nation and the nations. With two sites: Central Hall in Southampton city centre, and St Andrew's in Sholing, we have a vision to see lives changed and communities transformed by the love and power of Jesus.





## International Projects

With your generous support - praying, fundraising, and volunteering for overseas trips - we were able to make a positive difference for many international communities.



## School of Ministries

**In 2018, we were able to set up more schools in more nations with more teachers, as a result of the increase we saw in the provision of both personnel and finance.**

School of Ministries is a teaching and training programme which aims to develop and train leaders in Christian ministry, working particularly in developing countries where leaders would be unable to attend traditional training establishments. The international aspect of the project has grown considerably in the last five years.

55 teachers from the UK, India, Uganda, Kenya, Ghana and South Africa were involved in the teaching of 1,850 leaders in 31 School of Ministries training centres, across nine countries in Africa and Asia. 87

modules of teaching were covered, which we believe will have had fruit in thousands of church members across the nations. 50 monthly training courses ran over the course of 2018.

---

**A testimony from Pastor Robert Soroti – ‘I am happy to let you know that we had a wonderful time with our UK teachers. The Lord used them greatly and they touched people’s lives – spiritually, physically, academically and materially. One teacher prayed for a student who was heading to the hospital because she had an eye problem and she received her healing and never went to the hospital again.’**

## New Community Kibera

---

**New Community Kibera is a non-profit organisation working in Kibera, Kenya, one of the world's largest slums. The organisation seeks to support practical development in the region.**

This year, New Community continued to partner with people in Kibera, sending out two teams from the UK, but also providing regular online support. The

project serves the needs of the local people by providing basic healthcare advice, educational training, football coaching and a children's feeding programme, alongside leading micro-enterprise development programmes.

New Community Kibera seeks to foster independence, not dependence, for the people in the area. This is achieved

by connecting and partnering with local people, as well as by enabling them through the sustainable sharing of resources and ideas. We work closely with the local church in Kibera, in addition to partnering with other charitable organisations working in the area.

Our 14 volunteers from the UK and 85 volunteers in Kenya have had a great impact on thousands of people in the area, bringing about fresh hope and practical skills and advice. This year, police shootings in the Kibera district were down from 25 to two.

Our micro-enterprise loans programme provides the first step up from selling oranges to passing cars on the congested highways. This year we had the privilege of visiting the newly created bijou barber shop, a small ray of light in the community.



## Partnerships

New Community Church partner with several organisations across the city and the nation. We also have connections with churches worldwide.

### **Pioneer**

New Community Church is part of the 'apostolic' Pioneer network of churches founded in the mid-80s. Pioneer is committed to the re-evangelisation of our nation and to seeing the Kingdom of God expressed in every sphere of society and culture.

### **Southampton Christian Network**

New Community Church is a member of Southampton Christian Network (SCN), united in the conviction that the good news of Jesus is for everyone. The network exists to facilitate citywide communication, joint prayer, and mission opportunities that help churches and organisations work together as one body.

### **Love Southampton**

In response to the challenges we see across our city each and every day, we work with Love Southampton to support the City Council through a partnership with local churches, united in our love for God and our love for our neighbour.





# Hope Community School

New Community Church is the partner church of Hope Community School, Southampton's first mainstream Free School for children aged 4–11 years.

**As a church, New Community is committed to supporting Hope Community School and contributing to its Christian ethos. We also aim to enhance the life of the local community, for example by encouraging individuals to volunteer with the school.**

In 2018, 36 families were impacted through our work with Hope Community School. Each week during term time, at least six activities were run for Hope School children and their families, including coffee mornings, English classes, Discovery Bible Studies, chaplain 1:1s, parent-initiated projects (such as the joint trip to give blood), a bake club and wellbeing sessions.

**A story of Hope:** One of the Mums from Hope started coming to church not long after her daughter started at Hope Community School. In the last year, she has decided to follow God. She had never regularly been to church before but she is finding that coming to church every week helps her stay on the right path – she enjoys getting to come and pray and worship and understand the Bible more. She says, “It’s been amazing having a chaplain as there is someone there to listen and do Bible study with us and help us practically if we need it.” She is now on the welcome team and would like to reach out to the community so is thinking of volunteering for our Community Café too.



# Training and Resources

Last year, we were able to help train and inform people in a variety of different roles.

Many individuals benefited from the various short courses, Bible studies, retreat days, and one-off events we ran in addition to our three services.



## **Baptism Explored**

In 2018, New Community Church increased the frequency of baptism opportunities, hosting baptism services every two months. Baptism Explored provided a great way for anyone interested to find out more about what the Bible says about baptism and to ask any questions.

## **Belonging**

With the aim of developing our Discipleship Pathway and having a clear pathway for newcomers to get connected into the church family, we created the Belonging course, running it every two months. The Belonging course covers who we are as a church and what we believe, looking at key topics such as faith, baptism, generosity and serving.

## **Speaker Training**

Running for four weeks in January and February, our speaker training course, run by Adam Clewer and Phil Orchard,

encouraged a group of 20+ individuals to grow in their communication skills, with each person presenting a 10-minute talk at the end of the course for practical group feedback.

## **Worship Training**

Throughout the year, worship leaders received monthly training and input, encouraging them to grow in their giftings. Termly student jams enabled university students and those in their 20s to play together in a relaxed environment, and monthly youth jams encouraged the youth in their worship skills.

As a result of the youth jams, the youth were able to lead the Central Hall 10am service worship on Sunday 30th September.

## **Leadership Development Programme**

A leadership development programme was run over six sessions to grow and train the emerging leaders within The Six team.

## New Community Network 2017/2018 Financial Report (Pre-Audit)

**On an annual basis, we review and forecast a plan for our budgets and pray about where God wants us to use His money, whilst walking in faith that God will challenge us and stretch us to fulfil our vision.**

2018 has been a truly extraordinary year for the finances of New Community Church, and the generosity of our congregation has been staggering. Thanks to your faithful giving, donations have increased by 9.6%. During the year 2017/2018, our total giving was £844K (compared to previous years £770K in 2017; £803K in 2016) (includes restricted giving).

### Tithing Income

Tithing allows us the opportunity to put God first financially, giving back to Him that which He has entrusted us with. Our offerings are therefore over and above our tithes and come from a grateful heart of thanksgiving. Many people within the church were greatly blessed and

challenged by the Blessed Life teaching series in 2018, after which we saw great fruit and testimonies as people entrusted their finances to God.

### A Culture of Generosity

We are so thankful for those who give generously to New Community Church. Your donations are making a huge difference. This year we gave away £159,315 (2017: £134K, 2016: £91K ) within the UK and to our partners overseas.

Your generosity has been inspirational and transformational to these organisations in the UK:

Barnabas Ministries, Edith's Home, Families First Southampton, Flower of Justice, Firgrove Family Trust, Miracle Street, New Horizon Christian Fellowship, New Life Home Trust UK, Southampton Christian Network, Southampton Children's Hospital, Southampton City Mission, Southampton Street Pastors, The Children's Society,

Pioneer Trust, Thrive Church UK.

Our overseas support in 2018 went to organisations in Ghana, India, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Uganda, the USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

£9,000 of our unrestricted income was distributed to the three charities that were nominated by you. Southampton Children's Hospital Charity, Families First Southampton, and Edith's Home each received a share of the £9,000, based on the proportion of votes they received from church attendees.

### Tax-Efficient Giving

This year we were able to increase the value of your giving by £98K through Gift Aid.



## New Community Ventures

In order to create a more sustainable future for New Community Church, in 2017 we decided to separate the commercial element of what we do from the church side. New Community Network is now made up of New Community Church (NCC) and New Community Ventures (NCV). Our long-term goal is that NCV would make enough profit to cover the operating costs of the church and the Central Hall building, so that in the future all church tithes can be used for mission and community projects.

NCV has developed significantly over the last year, with notable progress across all areas: Buildings, Events, CCTS, and Central Coffee.

### Events

New Community Ventures hosted a wide range of events at Central Hall

in 2018, including concerts for choirs and orchestras, conferences (such as the Pioneer Leaders Conference and the Pastoral Conference), career fairs, the Vintage Fair, the technology event Hacksoton, and many Christmas events,

including the King's Chamber Orchestra, Treasure Island, and A Christmas Carol. Highlight events included the sold-out Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, and the London Community Gospel Choir. Alongside the Main Hall, other rooms



within Central Hall were rented out for commercial bookings.

Central Hall has now secured a full events licence from the council, allowing ticket sales of up to 1,000 people per event. We also secured our alcohol licence from November 2018.

### **Buildings**

In 2018, Central Hall underwent refurbishment works managed by New Community Ventures. The Small Hall roofing project was completed early, Central Coffee underwent a refurbishment, the foyer was painted and renovated saving over £6K by completing internally, LED lighting was installed in the Central Hall car park, and roof repairs were completed early, on a budget of 50% less than originally quoted.

### **CCTS**

Central Counselling & Training Service (CCTS) provides professional and accredited personal counselling, as well

as training courses in counselling and supervision for those seeking to gain a Christ-centred and holistic approach to counselling. CCTS went through a time of transition in 2018 as Norma Parrack retired from the team and new service manager, Pete White was recruited. A new pastoral conference was run by CCTS at Central Hall, welcoming over 80 people from local churches and offering a range of seminars to help equip them in their pastoral care of others. Feedback from the event was very positive, with 78% saying they would come if we ran it again.

The following courses were run by CCTS in 2018:

Introduction to Christian Counselling (ACC/OCN Level 2) - 6 people

Introduction to Christian Counselling (ACC/OCN Level 2) - 5 people

Christian Counselling Model and Practice (ACC/OCN Level 3) - 8 people

### **Central Coffee**

Central Hall's coffee shop, Central Coffee, underwent a refurbishment and rebrand in 2018, embracing an eclectic shabby-chic theme with new furniture, lighting and accessories. A new menu was launched and hospitality offerings were increased to cater for events within the building. We now provide catering services for Hope Community School, employing a Head Chef and Kitchen Assistant, alongside new coffee shop baristas and a part-time chef for events.

### **Local Projects**

A history project was started by volunteers, looking back at Central Hall's rich heritage to create a display of historical photos and key dates.

Southampton City Council approved our application for the underpass wall murals to be repainted. We began setting up a stakeholder group with the University and Southampton Culture to facilitate and launch a community project focused on this.

# 2025

## LEGACY VISION

### New Community Church

A RESOURCE CHURCH

INSPIRING AN ARMY OF ORDINARY  
PEOPLE TO BE THE CHANGE  
TO TELL THEIR STORIES  
TO SHARE THE LOVE

# 1,000 PEOPLE

 3 LOCATIONS

LEADING OUR CITY  
INTO LIFE

CHANGED LIVES, TRANSFORMED COMMUNITIES THE GOAL

MULTI-GENERATIONAL  
CULTURALLY DIVERSE

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE TO BELONG

TO ENCOUNTER

# JESUS

INSPIRING OUR  
**NATION** | A BEACON CHURCH. LEADING THE WAY.  
GIVING BEYOND OURSELVES  
LOVING THE NATIONS

---

SUPPORTING, EQUIPPING, ENCOURAGING

---

**15,000** IN **30** | LOOKING TO GOD  
LEADERS TRAINED IN COUNTRIES FOR ALL WE NEED  
FINANCIALLY SECURE  
**DEBT FREE**

---

FOUNDATIONS LAID NOT STOPPING HERE  
STILL MORE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION | A BEACON OF LIGHT  
FOR YEARS TO COME

---

# newcommunity

NETWORK

 [newcommunity.org.uk](http://newcommunity.org.uk)  [info@newcommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@newcommunity.org.uk)  
 +44 (0) 2380 237700  [/newcommunitysouthampton](https://www.facebook.com/newcommunitysouthampton)  [@NewCommunityUK](https://twitter.com/NewCommunityUK)

New Community Network, Central Hall, St Mary Street, Southampton, SO14 1NF  
Charity No. 1072645 | Company Limited by Guarantee No. 3578938