

# citizen

ISSUE 01

@citizenchurchuk



# citizen

Welcome to Citizen Magazine!

This issue marks the celebration of our first anniversary as a church, bringing together many of the highlights we've shared together so far.

Throughout these pages, you'll find stories and testimonies from people in the life of our church, as well as insights into some of the incredible events that have taken place over the course of this year, including Alpha (pg.18) and our unforgettable Christmas live event (pg.52).

Here, you can also look forward to reading our One Year in Review (pg. 6), where we recount the story of Citizen so far and round up the key milestones that have brought us to where we are today. We hear from some of the amazing volunteers and customers from Citizen Coffee (pg.26) and find out how the coffee van is creating positive social change in Cardiff, connecting with local businesses, and combatting loneliness. We also tell you more about our church plants launching in Pontypridd and Senghenydd (pg.64), as well as our lovely Tots & Toddlers group for parents, carers, and little ones.

Over the last year, so much has happened! Our church has seen incredible growth and we've seen God move in amazing ways.

As we celebrate our first birthday, we also look forward to the exciting future ahead. We have big dreams for our growing church and can't wait to see what this next year has in store.

The best is yet to come!

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# ONE YEAR *in review*

2021 - 2022

CITIZEN CHURCH



# *TO PLAY OUR PART*

**EVANGELISATION** *of the nation,*

**REVITALISATION** *of the church,*

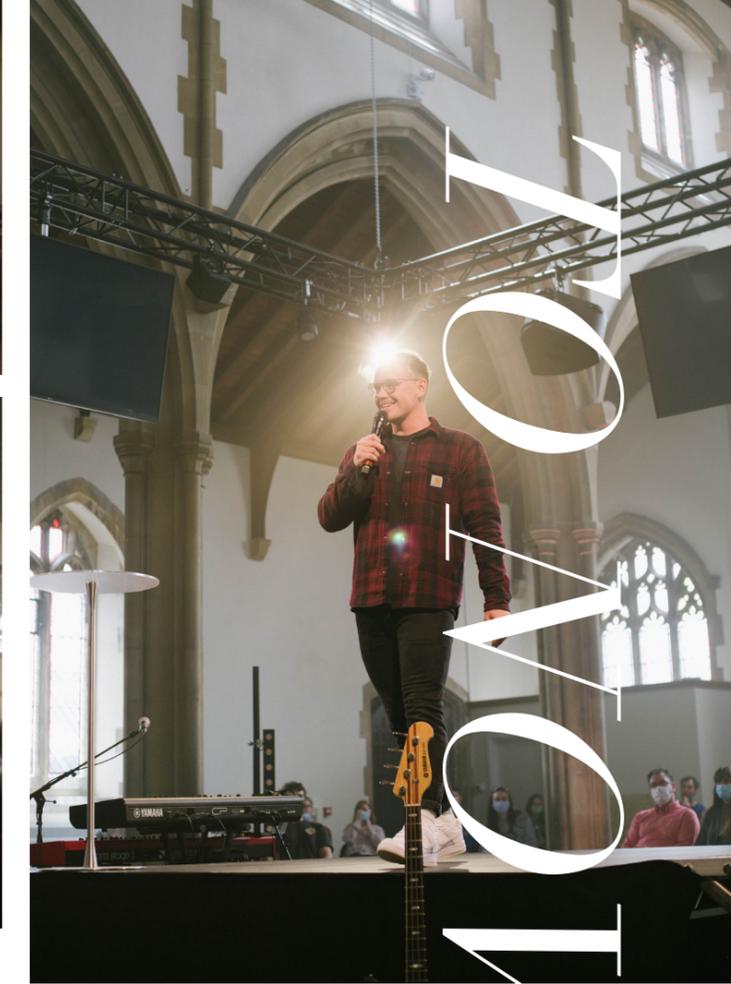
**TRANSFORMATION** *of society.*

*in the*

In 2019 the Bishop of Llandaff invited us to start a new church in the heart of Cardiff. We were asked to build a church where the 99% of people who don't currently go to church can belong – a church that can reach the 'missing generations' of Millennials, Gen Z, and now Generation Alpha. We were asked to be a church that can break the stereotypes and barriers surrounding the church and Jesus.

St Teilo's Church was identified as the best location for this, due to its history with Cardiff University and its location on Woodville Road, Cathays, which is home to thousands of students.

After gathering a small team, we moved to Cardiff in June 2020 to begin dreaming and prepping. The aim was to launch Sunday services in September 2020, but Covid had other plans. We entered another lockdown, which held up a lot of our building work and meant that we were unable to do much of what we had planned. Our building work eventually began in October 2020 and was finished in February 2021.



On 2nd February, we began to gather a small number of people together on Tuesday evenings. Social distancing made it difficult, but we gathered as many as we safely could. We used these evenings as an opportunity to record content to release online on Sunday mornings. The response online was overwhelming, and we had thousands of people tune into our first online service. We continued in this fashion until the restrictions eased enough to allow us to launch Sunday services in person.

On Sunday 25th April 2021, we launched our Sunday services. We started with two services, one at 11am and another at 6pm. We ran Alpha online and outside (as we couldn't gather inside) for a small amount of people. When it came to Sunday services, we still had to keep people socially distanced by 2m, so it meant that we couldn't have more than 70 people in the church at any given time. Gradually, restrictions began to ease. In fact, they eased just in time for all the students to arrive in Cardiff for the new academic year and for us to launch Alpha in person.

Since September we've seen rapid growth. Both services are full of people. As I write this, we are 11 months into our Sunday services and we have 450 people who belong in the church. We've held Alpha in person twice and have had 345 people attend. We also ran one baptism service where we had 21 adults get baptised.





# TO COME

Now we've been invited to plant two more churches. One is in the Aber Valley in a place called Senghenydd, where we've been invited to bring St Peter's, a church that has been closed for a number of years, back to life. This will be known as Citizen Church Senghenydd. The other is in Pontypridd, a town 12 miles north of Cardiff. St Mary's Church is a large, iconic Victorian building overlooking the University of South Wales' Glyntaff Campus. USW has 23,000 students and we have been invited to revitalise and restore St Mary's and use it once again to reach and serve the students and people of Pontypridd and the surrounding areas. This will be known as Citizen Church Pontypridd.

As a church, we have a vision to play our part in the evangelisation of the nation, the revitalisation of the church, and the transformation of society. We have a mission to break the stereotypes of church, to breach loneliness, and to bring people home. We want people to belong before they believe. We want to create places for people to belong all over this nation and the key strategy to seeing that happen is church planting. That's why it's at the forefront of what we do and why our ambition is one day to see a Citizen Church location serving every community in this nation.

This magazine showcases and highlights some of the incredible things that have happened during our first year... but the best is yet to come!



## KAI'S STORY

*Kai Mcilquham, 19, is a student at USW and a freelance sound engineer and lighting designer from Cardiff. He recounts his journey of faith so far and reminds us of the extraordinary value of 'belonging before you believe'.*

Growing up, my family wasn't traditionally Christian, but we were brought up with Christian values. I remember singing hymns and praying in primary school, and my nan would also go to church every Sunday. I'd go along to Christingle services (for the free oranges and sweets), and at Christmas too. While we weren't specifically brought up as Christians, we knew we could fall back on religion if we wanted to. So, I didn't go to church a lot, but I'd go when I needed to. It felt a bit boring sometimes – sitting at the back of the church for two hours... it wasn't really my thing.

I'm from Cardiff and I go to university here too. I study Sound and Live Event Production at the University of South Wales. Originally I didn't want to be a sound engineer. I wanted to be a paramedic. The idea was that I'd work in this field until I felt old enough to become a paramedic, but then I began to fall in love with sound engineering.

On my course, I met a guy who had been part of Citizen since the start. One day, he wrote in our group chat explaining that he was looking for



*“This is what Citizen does so well – you can take your own time, volunteer, belong, and find your place before you believe”*

sound engineers to help at church. I thought ‘that could be interesting,’ so I started volunteering. We were in lockdown at the time, so it became a bit of an escape from staying at home. As well as massively helping me out with experience on my course, volunteering also helped my social life too. I have a lot more friends now because of Citizen. Friends that I can really relate to.

The first time I came to Citizen was for a training day. I remember walking into the building and thinking ‘this is not a church’. It felt huge. When the band came in that afternoon for sound check, they started playing and I just knew that this was my kind of place. At this point, I didn't necessarily have a faith, but I was open to it.

I continued volunteering and then I helped out at Alpha, which is when things fully started to sink in for me. It was here that I realised, ‘this is a family’. Alpha opened so many doors for me and I met lots of great people. Everyone was so nice, and I also got time to sit down and watch the Alpha videos. During the videos, they were interviewing people and asking questions on the street like, ‘what do you think about faith?’ As I watched the clips, I thought ‘this is how I feel too.’ They answer the questions as they go along, but not in a way that makes you believe one particular thing. It gives you the freedom and space to believe what you want to. I think this is what Citizen does so well – you don't feel obligated to stay, but instead you can take your own time, volunteer, belong, and find your place before you believe.

While I was volunteering on the production team at Alpha, I was still able to have that time with just me and God – a chance to reflect on things. I realised I needed to explore my faith more, so I came along for a few more Sundays, which is when I began to feel like ‘this is what I'm meant to do – this is my calling.’ I was asked if I wanted to get baptised and I thought, ‘yes, I do!’ I saw this as the start of my path.

Since getting baptised and doing the Alpha course, life has changed massively, and it's given me a lot more certainty. I know where I'm going. I know that I have God and I have church. I don't have to make decisions by myself anymore. It's easy to feel lost and lonely at university or to not know your place. But I've found my home and I know God is setting a path ahead of me.

Though it's not always plain sailing – there will always be mountains to climb and questions to ask – I have people looking out for me here, which is an amazing feeling. I've found my community.



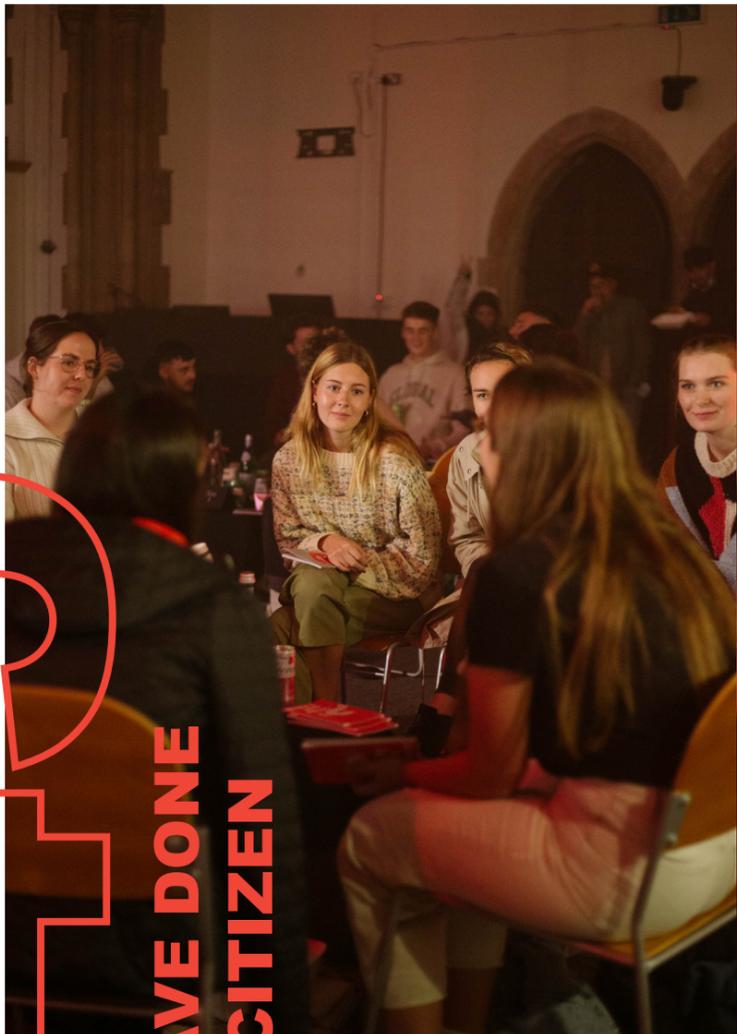
# A

Alpha was established in 1977 at Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) which is a vibrant Anglican church in London with church plants across the country and beyond. Alpha began as a course for church members to learn more about the core, basic beliefs of the Christian faith, however in the 1990s, it was rebranded to focus on people outside of the church. Alpha is an opportunity to find community whilst exploring life's big questions.

Today, Alpha runs in 169 countries around the world in 112 different languages. Since it began, over 30 million people have taken part in the course, and our vision is to see Alpha running in every nation and language by 2033! Here at Citizen, we run Alpha a few times each year. The event always begins with delicious food, followed by a musical performance, a short talk, and a discussion in small groups. So far, 345 people have attended Alpha at Citizen, with 74 people joining online and 271 in person. We've loved seeing so many people find faith and community through Alpha so far!

345

PEOPLE HAVE DONE  
ALPHA AT CITIZEN





“I decided to go to Alpha in order to hopefully find some answers to the bigger questions I had. Through growing up in a Church and being a Christian I was often faced with millions of personal questions about God. At this point in time I was struggling to find the answers I was looking for in life which resulted in a lack of my faith in God. Through Alpha not only did I find a lot of educational and encouraging answers but also found an extended family. I decided to attend Alpha for a second time to continue my personal development with God and found out so much more about myself and my relationship with God bloomed again from there. I genuinely couldn't recommend Alpha enough.”

– Bella

“Going to Alpha I was a little nervous and unsure whether I would be out of my depth. From the first session, however, I immediately felt comfortable and at ease. I made new friends, felt part of a community, and got to discuss my own questions about faith as well as questions and perspectives I had never thought of. I now regularly spend time with the friends I made at Alpha and I would recommend it to anyone else who has questions, whether you regularly attend church or not. One week that stands out to me is the week we spoke about healing – something I have to admit I was slightly sceptical about. Whilst at the session, I was surprised to hear someone had a word that described exactly the pain I had been having in my back for years (sciatica) and was really pleased when I was prayed for. I left still with a little doubt, however I have not suffered from back pain since and I no longer have doubts.”

– Andy



“I've done two Alpha courses at Citizen during my second year at uni. I was hesitant to get involved with anything church-based but Alpha has shown me something that I really needed to see – that no two Christians are the same. Perhaps that's an obvious point, but after years of staying away from church this was the most pivotal part in a wider sense of belonging that I've discovered at Citizen.

Despite the two experiences being comparatively different, the universal takeaway for me was the strong sense of community. In first year, I didn't achieve this. As I come towards the end of my second, I can confidently say that I've met more of my people, I've asked questions I didn't know I needed answering, and I've been challenged on assumptions I'd not attended to before. Alpha, in no small part, has been a big part of that.

If you're unsure about whether it's for you I'd say that's exactly the kind of questioning attitude that drives Alpha and makes it what is.

– Peter



**SCAN FOR  
MORE INFO**





## MADGE'S *story*

*Alpha is a safe place to meet new people, discuss questions of faith and explore the meaning of life in a fun, no-pressure environment. No question is ever too big, too small, or too silly. Here, Madge Ball, a dentist from Lancashire and a volunteer in the life of our church, shares her moving story of finding fulfilment and community at Citizen's first Alpha course.*

I went to church occasionally when I was growing up. My mum always encouraged me to go as she's a Christian, but I never really enjoyed it. Instead of going to church on a Sunday, at every opportunity, I'd try to tag along with my dad when he went golfing. I'd say that my early experience of church backed up the stereotype of it being quite a boring place. It wasn't for me.

When I moved to Manchester to study dentistry, I made the decision not to go to church. I just didn't feel like I needed it and I wanted to enjoy university. I thought that church might hold me back from that. While I was at university, however, I found myself feeling like something was missing but I couldn't work out what it was. I felt lonely, but I couldn't work out why. I got into a relationship with a guy who happened to be Jewish, and I guess some part of me was hoping this would fill the void and loneliness within me. But it didn't. In fact it just added to it.

After dating for a few years, we moved to London for work. Shortly after, I found out that he hadn't told his parents about me because I wasn't Jewish. When he did tell them, they insisted that I convert to Judaism. This led me to question not only my relationship but also, somewhere deep down, the faith I'd been exposed to as a child. I started seeing a counsellor to try and work out some of these feelings and we quickly concluded that perhaps my faith meant more to me than I once realised. So, I decided to try out a church called HTB. I went along to a couple of services but snuck in and out without speaking to anyone, as I didn't want my boyfriend at the time to know I was going to church. I even tried a session of Alpha too.

My counselling sessions helped me make the decision to end my relationship, as I knew it

wasn't good for me. We broke up just after Covid hit, so my life imploded a bit. My mum wanted to help so she sent me a book on prayer. I thought I might as well try it and I found it so helpful. I started praying for the first time and speaking to God as a friend. Around this time, I also found out I was moving to Cardiff for work as a hospital dentist. I was both excited and nervous as I knew I wanted a fresh start, but I also didn't know anyone... So I tried praying about it. It's so crazy, but during the next Sunday service at HTB, they announced they were planting a church in Cardiff called Citizen – I couldn't believe it. I thought 'if this isn't a sign from God, I don't know what is'.

Next I went onto the Citizen website and signed up for Alpha, and I was able to be a guest on the first Alpha course here. I loved it! If you've never done Alpha before, I couldn't recommend it enough. You've really got to do it. You'll meet great people, have great conversations, and you'll be able to ask the questions you might have been meaning to ask for a while. I met loads of other people my age and made some incredible friends who have been instrumental in my faith journey. One friend in particular, who has had quite a similar experience to me, encouraged me so much. It was so good to hear what God has done in her life and how her faith has sustained her. It was so inspiring for me. Alpha has given me the opportunity to make lifelong friends and it's helped me to discover a relationship with Jesus which beforehand, I didn't have.

The void in my life has now been filled – I don't feel lonely anymore as not only do I have a great community around me, but I also have God. I'm not getting my sense of fulfilment from people, things, or distractions anymore. Rather, it all comes from Jesus and knowing God. Now I volunteer as a small group leader, and I also run a ministry working with vulnerable women, too. I feel like God brought me here to Cardiff, and it's through His healing that I'm able to communicate this story.



# *citizen* COFFEE

Citizen Coffee runs from a converted HORSEBOX in our courtyard. We opened in *September 2020* in Cathays, an area home to many of the students in Cardiff.

Only a stone's throw away from the city centre, Cardiff University and Bute Park, Citizen Coffee brings in a variety of different customers every day. In what was once an unseen garden, our coffee van has transformed the area into an unmissable oasis, where students, local residents, and nearby businesses can enjoy delicious speciality coffee, refreshing cold drinks, and sweet baked goods.

We love meeting each and every person who walks through the gates, and we believe that the coffee van offers a glimpse or a 'shop window' into the beating heart and life of our church. Above all else, it serves as a tool to support the wider vision and mission of Citizen Church – we seek to breach loneliness, break stereotypes, and bring people home by cultivating an engaging space where people can also hear about upcoming events such as Alpha.

**A**t Citizen Coffee, we're dedicated to creating and supporting positive social change in Wales and beyond. Our speciality single origin coffee is provided by Manumit Coffee Roasters who specialise in ethically sourced coffee which is roasted by survivors of modern slavery in Cardiff. Manumit Coffee Roasters offers dignity and hope to survivors of slavery through training and employment, and their coffee is roasted by men and women who have suffered from exploitation but are now rebuilding their lives. Manumit is also committed to investing all profits from the sale of their coffee into local and global anti-slavery initiatives, and their coffee is slavery-free from crop to cup.

As well as this, we partner with a local Cardiff-based charity called Oasis, which provides a warm Welsh welcome to refugees and asylum seekers. Through this partnership, we offer work experience to refugees and asylum seekers, training them as baristas at the coffee shop as well as giving them a place to practise their English and develop their professional skills in a time when they're unable to get paid work. So far, we've had six refugees come and work with us. We work alongside Esther Gibbs who runs a coffee consultancy business called Hope Espresso. She's also a qualified SCA (Speciality Coffee Association) trainer. After having their initial training and placement with Citizen Coffee, we then organise certification with Esther. She offers extra barista training to these refugees and is able to give them an internationally recognised qualification in coffee.



*“COFFEE TRAINING HAS BEEN BRILLIANT AND REALLY USEFUL. I’M LEARNING TO MAKE SOMETHING I ENJOY AND IT WILL HELP ME WITH FUTURE JOBS.”*

*– B*





At the very start of Citizen Coffee’s journey, we had to use a crane to lift the new coffee van into our courtyard. What initially seemed like an inconvenience, turned into an opportunity to meet the other businesses on Woodville Road as they all came out to see what was happening.

From this, we met Ryan and Cam. These two letting agents have become great friends of Citizen Coffee. As well as being our valued regular customers who pop in for their daily dose of hot coffee, they’ve also invited other people to the coffee van which has enabled the community to grow. We’re now connected with over twenty local businesses who regularly come in for coffee.

In addition to Ryan and Cam, we’ve also connected with Thomas Lloyd Barbering Academy and two other Letting Agents – Letting Angels and Jeffrey Ross. It’s been great to see the businesses who may have not mixed before coming together and having conversations while ordering their coffee at our van.

Laura is another regular customer and business owner who works on Woodville Road. She came to thank us for creating such a positive community amongst all the businesses. Laura said, “I love what you guys are doing here. You’ve created such a welcoming and friendly community on Woodville Road before nobody around here talked to each other or knew each other. I love coming here and meeting all the other business owners.”

CONNECTING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

COMBATTING LONELINESS

When it comes to our customer base at Citizen Coffee, students certainly make up a large proportion of this. Situated in Cathays, we’re surrounded by student houses and flats, and we’re right in the middle of many students’ commute to university, too. Everything we do at Citizen Coffee is aimed at reaching students, the un-churched and the de-churched. Our baristas have been able to offer encouragement to many students struggling with their workloads and the stress of the pandemic, as well as those experiencing loneliness.

A recent study published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) found that one in three students feel lonely often or always. In Cardiff, this equates to around 26 thousand students who are struggling with feelings of loneliness. In a bid to combat this, Citizen Coffee became a real lifeline in lockdown – particularly to the many people who expressed that getting a coffee and having a chat was the highlight (and maybe even the only conversation) of their day.

Citizen Coffee offers a unique way to meet people who would never normally connect with a church. It’s a way of breaking stereotypes and creating a place where people can ask questions about church without feeling the pressure of having to come along to a service. Once we build up a relationship with our regular customers, we invite them to other events here at Citizen. This way, students, local residents, and business owners are able to belong before they believe. Since opening the coffee van, we’ve seen many customers who have never been to church before come along to socials, Sunday services and Alpha. For us, this is what Citizen Coffee is all about.



# HAMLET'S STORY

*Hamlet and his family moved from Nicaragua to the UK in 2021, bravely leaving everything behind to start a new life in Wales. This experience wasn't without its challenges, but despite it all, his trust in God carried him through. With a passion for coffee and a desire to serve the church, Hamlet now volunteers at Citizen Coffee.*

*He narrates his story so far...*

# M

My name is Hamlet and I'm from Nicaragua. I moved to Cardiff in July 2021 with my wife Clarissa and our son Tiago. Before I came to the UK, I was the owner of a coffee shop. We are asylum seekers here as the socio-political situation in my country is really difficult. We were facing threats and persecution, so my family and I decided to leave because Nicaragua is quite dangerous for us at the moment.

Leading up to our move here, things were really busy. We needed to sell everything – our car, house, and the coffee shop too. It's scary when you have to leave everything behind in your country, particularly when you've lived there your whole life. When we got the tickets to come to the UK, it was really exciting. We travelled from Nicaragua to Guatemala, but we missed our flight. So, the next day, we had to pay for a different flight. When we arrived at the airport in Britain, one of the officers told me, 'you

can't stay here' and 'you're going back home now'. My family and I started to cry and then we began to pray. We were waiting for around seven hours in the airport to get our photos taken and fingerprints recorded. After this, they moved us to a hotel in London where we were in isolation for 15 days due to Covid. We were there without our baggage as they were left in Spain, so for two months we didn't have our belongings. We met a family in London, and we told them about our situation. They prayed for us which was amazing. We were so grateful for them and to this day, we're still in contact.

In August, when we eventually moved to Cardiff, we decided that the first thing we'd do is look for a church. I prayed, 'Lord, where do you want us to go?' I searched online and this is when I found Citizen, so I sent a message and came along the next day. When we first came to Citizen, it really impacted my heart – I loved the worship, the music, the lovely people, and the coffee (which is my passion!). I met some of the team here including Mark and Jess who I was able to speak to in Spanish. Since English isn't my first language, I was trying my best to communicate, but meeting other people who speak Spanish was great.

Around this time, I also met Dan who manages Citizen Coffee. We got chatting and I told him that I'd love to get involved, so I started volunteering at the coffee van. Since we're here as asylum seekers, I'm currently unable to work. So, volunteering at the coffee van has become my way of serving God through my gifts.

For me and my family, we have a saying 'if you serve God, you'll always have everything you need'. God has provided for us since being in the UK. Before we arrived, I didn't believe the same way that I do now. God is working in our hearts and growing our faith. We've learnt to trust in Him and to rely on Him.

Leaving everything behind and starting a new life has been challenging. It means that when problems come up, you don't necessarily have a shoulder to cry on or a support system to lean on. It's just you, your family and God. But we've found community here at Citizen and we're really grateful for that. We've made some really great friends and we're so happy to be here.

# BRIDGE THE GAP

Bridge the Gap creates footballing communities that connect with young adults across the UK.

Bridge The Gap Cardiff became the third site in the UK, and the first in Wales, after it was born in October 2020.

Since then, we have welcomed 135 individuals (predominantly 18-30 year old non-christian males) into the growing BTG community.

So, if you love football and want to find community, come and join us!

Just send us a DM  
@bridgethegapcardiff

“I’d say Bridge the Gap has given me the confidence to be myself more as I feel so comfortable around the lads there and it’s such an easy way to invite your mates and create community”

– HARRISON

“What started as a bunch of nervous football fans having a kickabout with a group of strangers, turned into a family both on and off the pitch with people from all over. BTG really helped me feel welcome and at home in Cardiff and puts a smile on my face every Monday”

– GEORGE





“Citizen has been a huge blessing and being a part of the Church is definitely the best thing I could’ve done this year. From day one it’s been a home away from home because of the warm welcome and real sense of community. Being involved in a hangout with other students across Cardiff has to be a highlight of the year. I’m so thankful for the friendships I’ve found, for being there through the ups and downs that university and life in general bring. The church is also so invested in seeing you grow in your faith and leadership, making Jesus known and welcoming everyone in our city, no matter who, which is so encouraging.”

– Dammy

“I came back to Cardiff for my third year of university, after spending lockdown in Bristol and we started to go back into uni, seeing mates and lecturers. Over the lockdown period I found out one of my coursemates was a Christian. We got talking about it and he invited me along to Citizen on Sunday evening. So, I came along not really expecting anything crazy but had heard good things. From the moment I arrived I have felt like I have a place at Citizen and have been getting involved with the team and have met lots of amazing people. I really do feel like Citizen has brought me to God and has shown me that there are other people who are the same as me, which is something I have struggled with a lot.”

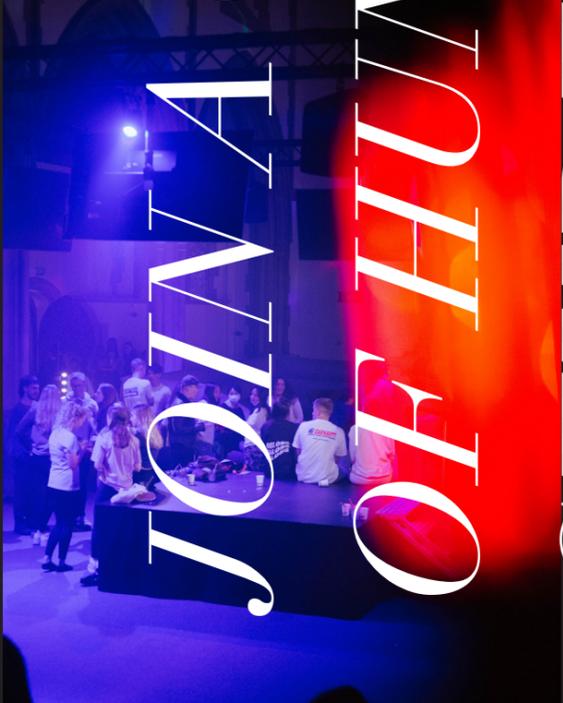
– Fin



# CITIZEN STUDENTS



JOANAS COMPLETES HER PART OF THE





# LIZZY'S STORY

*In the midst of the pandemic, 21-year-old Lizzy Roper began questioning the true meaning of life. With a background in ancient history, along with a tug in her heart beckoning her to something greater, her curiosity led her to explore Christianity through Alpha. Here she describes how she discovered her faith in Jesus.*

I was first introduced to faith at Catholic school. We'd say prayers every day and go to mass every week, but we weren't really sure why. My grandparents are quite religious, and my parents are agnostic, but I wasn't really involved with church when I was younger. In sixth form, I studied theology at A Level. I found it really interesting, but I didn't consider myself religious. It wasn't that I didn't believe Jesus was a real person. At first, I believed he was a political revolutionary, but then, looking at the historical documents, I wondered 'how could he have performed miracles and lived his whole life in this amazing way?'

Faith was always in the back of my mind when I went travelling during my gap year. I had this

feeling that there was something greater. And while I had an inclination toward Christianity, it was never something that was encouraged by those around me. I started thinking about faith more when I came to university in Cardiff. Being away from home gave me the opportunity and freedom to step back, make independent decisions, and explore my personal beliefs without any pressure.

At university, I started looking at the different societies I could join. One of my friends was part of the Christian Movement Society and she invited me along. I met a few people there and they inspired me to dip my toes into faith. At the beginning of the year, the society gave out a brochure all about 'church

**“For many people, the pandemic was a really desperate time... it led me to question the true meaning of life”**

shopping' which is something you can do when you arrive in a new city and you're looking for a church to be part of. Citizen was listed in the brochure with a link to the website and a brief synopsis. I was looking for a contemporary church that encourages young people to grow in their faith in an open way. So, Citizen stood out to me as the church that would be right for me.

Shortly after this, I met the student pastor at Citizen. We met up for coffee and she suggested going along to Alpha. So I signed up for the online Alpha course which was really good. During lockdown, it became an hour or so every week where I could sit down and talk about something I was interested in. For many people, the pandemic felt like a really desperate time. Because of this, I think it led me to question the true meaning of life – it caused me to wonder and ask questions about why we're here. I started reading the Bible and I also found a YouTuber who broke down the Bible in a way that I understood.

When Alpha finished and I went home for Christmas, I was able to talk to some of my friends who also go to church. As we spoke, I got to hear about what church life was like for them and hear about their experiences of faith. I came back to Cardiff and went to the next Alpha course, which was in-person this time, and went along to Sunday services, too. Alpha has played a major part in my story when it came to discovering faith and exploring my own beliefs. This is where I began to realise, 'this is what I'm supposed to do with my life' and 'this is a community I want to be part of'. I met lots of people and had open, in-depth conversations with them. For example, I didn't really understand much about the Holy Spirit, so Alpha was great for understanding this, as well as how and why we pray. It was so helpful to sit down and make prayer something that was personal to me. During the session on the Holy Spirit, I felt something that could only be described



as an encounter with God and I suddenly felt this massive longing to be a part of all, and I haven't looked back since!

Life since that point has been great, and since Alpha, things have felt lighter for me. I've found community which has been really beneficial for my journey as I have people who support me and who I can ask questions to. My family have been really supportive too, and for my baptism, they even sent me an ornament that reads, 'you are loved'.

Since coming to Citizen, my relationship with Jesus has come so far and it's become a central fixture to what I believe my life is meant to be. My love for others has grown, too. I've joined the justice team and I'm also leading an Alpha group soon. The Sunday services have helped me to apply my faith to everyday life and I now understand my faith a lot better. On the night I made the decision to be all in, I felt an overwhelming sense of love. It was a real 'this is it' moment. I don't think I could ever forget that now as the longing to stay with God will always be with me. In fact, this is a journey I know I'll be on for the rest of my life.

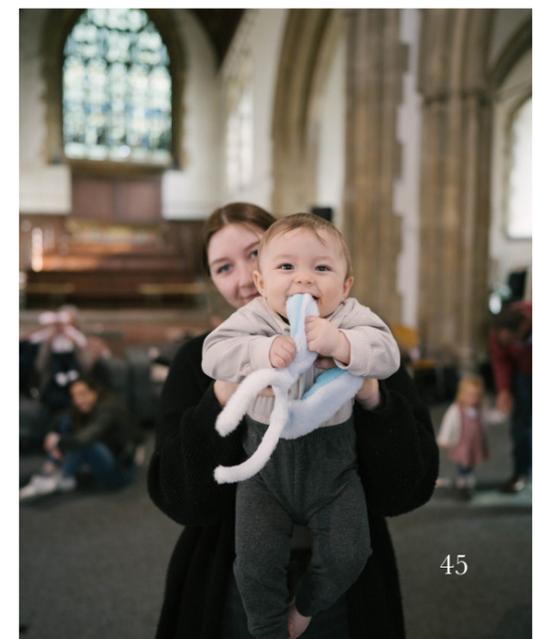
# TOTS & TODDLERS



In November 2021 we launched Tots and Toddlers, a group created to build community for parents or carers with little ones. Tots and Toddlers was an idea that came from our Mama's ministry, which is formed of a group of mums who support each other, go on walks together and enjoy socials including brunches and cocktail evenings.

The pandemic was such a lonely time, particularly for new parents. NCT classes were all moved online, and it was even illegal to have the grandparents over to help out. Since the pandemic, studies suggest that depression rates in the UK have doubled, and in a UK-wide survey, six in ten new parents shared significant concerns about their mental health because of the additional stress the pandemic caused.

At Tots and Toddlers, we have a vision to combat loneliness. It has become an incredible space for parents and carers to meet other people in similar life stages, reminding them that they are not alone. It's a place with a joyful atmosphere where little ones can play, sing, and create – encouraging imagination and development. Our Tots and Toddlers sessions are completely free, so there are no financial barriers for anyone who may wish to come. We want everyone to be able to belong at Tots and Toddlers.



# TOTS & TODDLERS



“Since Tots & Toddlers started last year, Thursday mornings have become our favourite morning of the week. My son Luca and I have been coming every Thursday – he loves song time and playing with the other babies, I love chatting with the other mums and enjoying a much-needed coffee! Being a first-time mum, I’ve found it invaluable to have a place to go each week where we can both make friends and also make some lovely memories together. From week one, the team have been so welcoming, and they’ve created such an enjoyable environment for everyone.”

– Chloe

“When Harri was two months old, I joined the Mama’s group which was started during lockdown... We were restricted on what we could do due to Covid, but it was lovely to get together for walks and coffee and to meet other mums and their little ones too. We’ve been going to Tots and Toddlers since it started in October 2021. I think it’s such a lovely little community in itself. It’s great seeing old and new friends, feeling safe, happy and relaxed, while also watching Harri happily run around. I came to a carol service at Christmas time which I loved – I was totally amazed by the talent of the church choir. I also helped to pack the gift bags for the mamas and midwives which was a lovely fun morning, finished with some mulled wine and mince pies. Citizen is nothing like what I thought church would be. I really don’t know what I thought church would be like but the atmosphere, the people, and the community are just so special. There is something for everyone and the volunteers and staff are all so welcoming. I feel very lucky that Harri and I are part of it. My favourite memory is Harri and a little girl who’s a similar age to him standing very close to one another and talking to each other before continuing to play. It was so sweet – it melted my heart. I can’t tell you what they were saying but I’m sure they were talking about their enjoyment of being at Tots and Toddlers. Being part of the Mama’s group has made my whole journey of being a mum so much more special. I can talk openly to the mums about all the highs and lows and know there is no judgement, as well as sharing Harri’s firsts and getting much-needed advice, too. I’ve made friends for life here, and I love attending the mum socials, baby-free!”

– Alice



# HANGOUTS

*Hangouts are how we do community at Citizen Church. Hangouts happen every other week and meet throughout the city for a variety of fun activities. We have hangouts for everybody – from netball to brunch, to hiking, to Spoons!*



“My hangout has enabled me to build community, grow friendships at Citizen and navigate student life with great like-minded people! I really value having those certain friends at church that have gotten to know me better than most people and who I have a regular time to meet every fortnight. I found it particularly encouraging when a girl who’d never been to Citizen before signed up for our hangout online and came along! The next Sunday she asked on our group chat who was coming to church and she came – she’s been coming ever since. I felt so encouraged that we’d been able to lay the foundation for her time at Citizen.”

– Bryana



“Hangouts have been a great way for us to meet up, have fun and have a great laugh. I’ve had so much fun going to pubs, curry nights and mini-golf as a group of lads. It’s been a great way for us to get to know each other, build friendships and I couldn’t recommend joining a hangout more.”

– Matt



*We sat down with 24-year-old Welsh filmmaker, Sam Jennings, who speaks of his story of healing, transformation, and the life-changing power of prayer. In the face of trouble and trials, his testimony points to the faithfulness of God and the beauty found in surrender.*

## SAM'S STORY

**I** came along to Citizen by myself on a Tuesday night and it was my first time being in a church after a challenging few years. Growing up in a religious household, you're always aware of the importance of faith. But personally, I mostly rejected the idea as I didn't like the thought of being confined to a particular set of rules. I wanted that sense of freedom.

That evening, when worship began to play, it just blew my mind. I could feel the drums vibrating in my chest and I was loving it. I thought 'this is everything a church should be.' There was a point in the service when we were talking about the love of God and

feeling worthy enough to come into His presence. I remember sitting in my chair, holding my hands out, and praying. At this moment, it felt like I was being spoken to. I heard the words 'you are loved' and 'you are worthy'.

Walking out of the church that night, I felt a real sense of peace. For the first time, I felt like my mind, body and soul were all connected. It felt like a massive sense of relief, and I knew that I was loved. I'll never forget this moment – it changed my whole life completely.

After coming to Citizen, I was able to make

new connections here in church. I have my friend, Jonny, to thank for this because he encouraged me to come along every week and we used to meet up for coffee too. I then started to explore my faith at a deeper level by getting more involved with church. I devoted the next couple of months to growing in my faith and growing in the Spirit.

Along the way, life still threw me a few obstacles. I had a motorbike accident and ended up falling off my bike, doing some serious damage to my leg and cracking a rib. Before, I would have turned to other solutions, but I decided to pray about it and talk to God. I read two of the gospels while I was recovering, which was great. I told Jonny about what happened, and he said, 'It's okay, I'll come pick you up and take you to church.' I was limping and struggling to walk, but I came along. Johnny said, 'you should get some prayer for your rib.' I was sceptical at first and said no. But after a bit of encouragement, I said 'alright, let's see where this goes!'

A group of friends came to pray for me, and I closed my eyes, held my hands out, and thought, 'Lord, I know you can work. If you want to work and heal me now, my heart is open.' As they prayed for me, I felt a weird sensation in my leg – like a brush of cool air even though it was a really hot day. Things felt different.

We stopped praying and the guys asked me, 'how does it feel?' I said, 'it feels a little better, but there's still some pain there.' They said, 'okay, we'll pray again.' When we finished praying, I touched and tapped my leg, and the pain was gone. I started walking and putting pressure on my leg again, and I couldn't believe what was going on. I remember it so clearly – I was completely blown away.

From that moment on, if I ever need confirmation of faith or proof that Jesus is real and working today, I remember this sign. It's amazing how God works. He's moved in my life, and he's allowed me to do things that I previously felt unworthy to do before. Because of this experience, I've now gone into prisons to give this exact same testimony and

to tell them about the love of Jesus. It's given me a new sense of purpose and direction. Now I'm working for God instead of against Him.

Looking back, I can see that Jesus has always been with me. I think I was always meant to come back to Him. Even in those moments when I hit rock bottom, God always had a plan for me. He always had me in His hands.

I see life through a different perspective and now I'm living solely for Jesus. Through every trial and circumstance, I know He'll walk side by side with me. I feel whole again and ready to face whatever life throws at me. If I've learnt anything, it's that the power of prayer is so real... God's got your back.

**“NOW I'M  
WORKING  
FOR GOD  
INSTEAD OF  
AGAINST HIM”**





OUR FIRST  
CHRISTMAS  
2021———AT  
CITIZEN

# CITIZEN CHRISTMAS LIVE

We kicked off Christmas 2021 with a bang! We hosted a live recording night with indoor fireworks, confetti cannons and the best carols! It was an incredible evening and the best way to celebrate our first ever Christmas!

We then released the full recording of the night so you can see for yourself just how much fun it was!

**SCAN ME TO WATCH  
THE FULL EVENT**



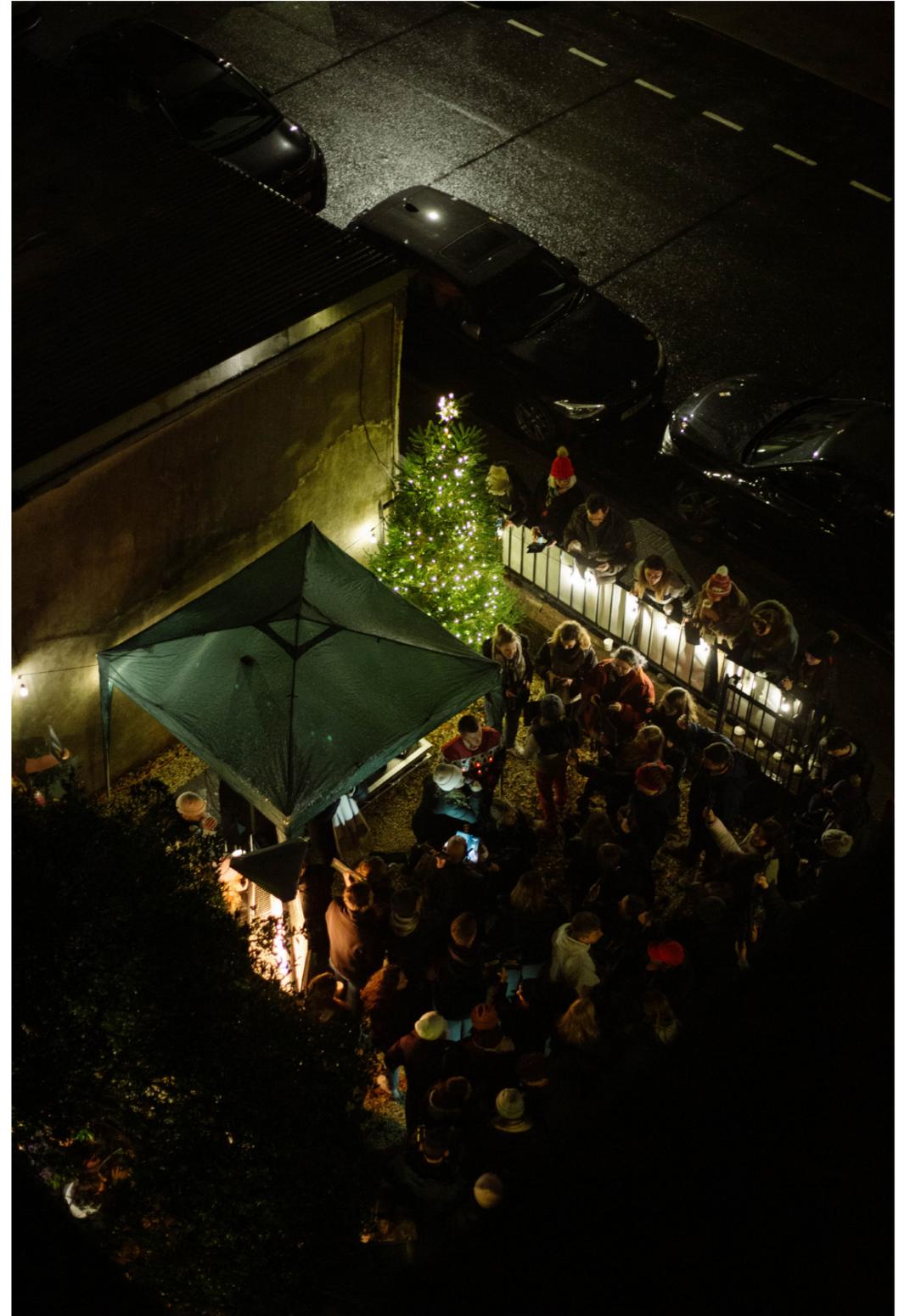


## CAROLS IN THE COURTYARD



Carols in the Courtyard was our chance to sing Mariah Carey, Michael Bublé and all the classic Christmas songs!

The courtyard was packed with people, the coffee van was open and serving mulled wine and the mince pies were out too! It was an incredible evening of festive fun and a great way to spread some festive cheer with our community!





## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Carols by Candlelight was an evening of traditional carols with a choir, strings and candles. It was an incredible evening as we welcomed 400 people in to join us. It has been our biggest in-person event to date. The number of people we welcomed surpassed our expectations so that we even ran out of chairs! It was deeply moving and we have since seen people find belonging since joining us for this event.

# CITIZEN WORSHIP

THIS SONG WAS WRITTEN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO REMIND US OF THE HOPE THAT WE HAVE DURING THE BIGGEST STORMS OF LIFE.



**OUT NOW**

AVAILABLE ON ALL MAJOR MUSIC PLATFORMS



*For Luca Sparey, a hairdresser from Nelson, Caerphilly, a conversation with a stranger at a barber shop sparked a shift in his life that he'll never forget. Here, he recounts the steps that led him to faith and speaks of the people that inspired him along the way.*

# Luca's Story

as smart as I could, but I felt a little out of place at first. They never once looked down on me, but I was still very much living my own way. So, I questioned whether I could truly belong.

Lockdown hit and I started watching church online. I had conversations with others about church and explained that I was thinking of becoming a Christian. I really wanted people to hear about it. This is when I met Kyle, who was the youth pastor of a church in Pontyclun. He invited me for a coffee, and I visited his church, Bethel. It was a beautiful church with other people my age there, too. I found community at Bethel, and we all started hanging out together. I knew then that these were the kind of people I wanted to surround myself with. One Sunday, Kyle said to me, 'bro, what are you doing this evening? There's an event at a church in Cathays, Cardiff – they've got a bar and pizza!' So, he picked me up and we came down with a few guys. At the gate, I met one of the guys on the team, Jonny, who was really welcoming. I instantly felt like there was such a great vibe here and I felt so connected. I didn't feel out of place, and nobody was questioning my earrings, tattoos, or the way that I dressed. Nobody looked at me thinking, 'that's not what a Christian looks like.'

As soppy as it may sound, I really wouldn't be here without Citizen. I love it here. I found community, compassion, and I found God. My faith has grown stronger since coming to Citizen and I have great role models, too – people who inspire me and help me to be a better person. I still have plenty of the Bible to read and I still have things I'd like to work on, but I often go back to what my friend, Jonny, once told me: 'come as you are' and 'Jesus loves you for who you are.' At Citizen, I've found a home and I've found a family.

After coming along on a Sunday, I met up with Kyle, and we started talking about faith. I asked him, 'where do I start? I've read verses in the Bible, but I want to know what they're really about.' He said, 'why not try Alpha?' so, I joined an Alpha group at Citizen, and I gave it a go. I asked lots of questions and made some great friends along the way. By the end of the course, I realised that I could be loved by God while still having things to work on, because we're all on a journey and we can't do it alone. This was definitely a turning point for me and the stories I heard at Alpha really influenced my faith. I met people who I can relate to and who've been through similar things to me. I'm not a perfect Christian – no one really is – but I'm growing day by day.

Coming to faith has changed how I work. I cut around 20 people's hair every day, so I meet a lot of people from different backgrounds, jobs, ages, and cultures. I love talking to them, getting to know them and hearing about their situations. I want them to always feel at home in the chair they come to sit in, and I hope to create a positive impact in their lives. I have a passion for mental health, so as a hairdresser, I can do a lot for others through my work. If they come into the shop for half an hour, I hope to be the guy that they can always talk to.

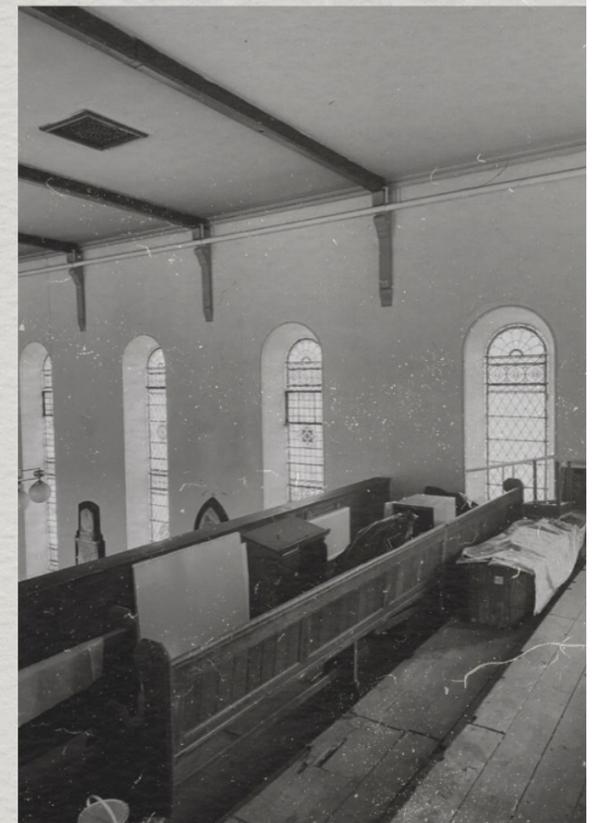
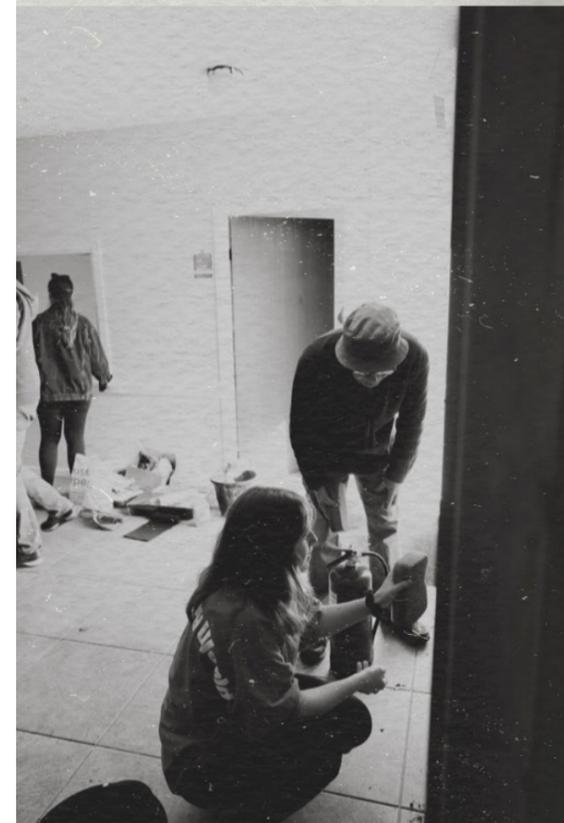
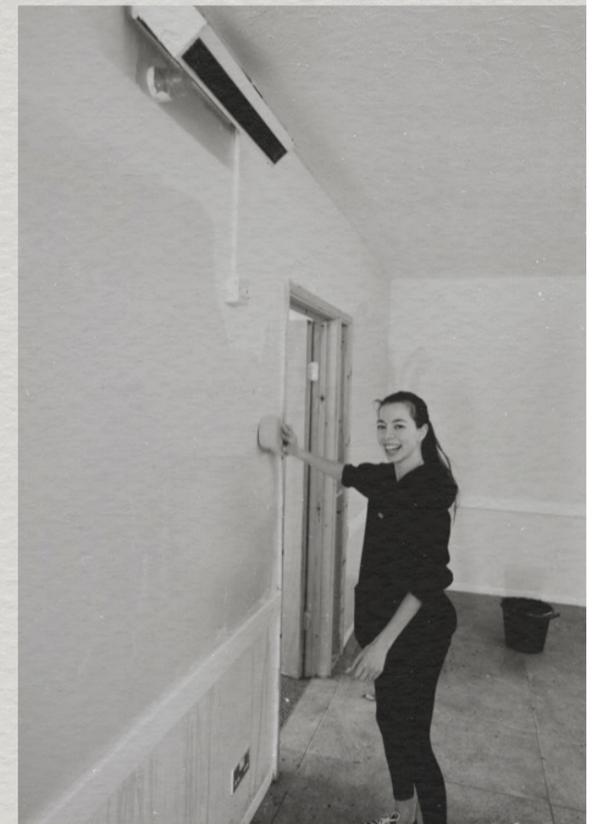
My life is also changing every day. In situations where I'd usually be angry, I now take a step back. I feel more fulfilled, guided, and whole. When I speak to people, they notice how much I've changed. They're telling me, 'you seem happier,' and 'you're more patient.' I know that I can let Jesus take the reins for me and I can lean back and trust Him.

**W**hen I was around 20 years old, I started working in hairdressing. I've always had a love for shaping and styling hair, and my heart had been set on hairdressing for a long time, so I've never looked back since. Through barbering, I started chatting to a guy from America who came to Wales about 12 years ago. He raised a family here and also built a church in Pontypridd. He invited me along, but I had a lot of

questions. I cut his hair and spent more time with him to try and suss it all out. For about 40 minutes or so, I asked him lots of questions, like 'what's church about?' and 'will I fit in?' I ended up giving it a go and despite my reservations, I found a real sense of wellbeing there. I wouldn't have called myself a Christian straight away as I still felt like a bit of an outsider. I walked in there, full of tattoos, and tried to dress

*new*  
church  
PLANTS

coming 2022



# BACK TO

Senghenydd is a town in the Aber Valley outside of Caerphilly. The town was established to house the miners that worked in the surrounding collieries, and in 1913 they experienced the worst mining disaster in the United Kingdom. 439 miners were killed by an explosion in the pit, leaving over a quarter of the town without their fathers, husbands, and friends. 542 children were left without fathers. After the disaster, the people of the town were compensated 1¼ shillings, or £13 in today's money. The mining disaster drew the community together, and the strength of the community still exists today. However, the community has also suffered a series of cuts, including the loss of their doctor's surgery, and the closure of the parish church, St Peter's in 2017.

# LIFE





We have been given the opportunity to revive the church in the area and rebuild the space to enable it to become a buzzing hub for the community once again. Our vision is to create a church that supports and represents the people of Senghenydd, enabling them to explore faith, while also nurturing and caring for the community – injecting new life and energy into the building. We are aiming to start a Tots and Toddlers group for the families and little ones in the area. We want it to be a place where the children can play and grow together, and for the parents to build community and connect with one another (and eat some really good cake too!). We would also love to create a space where the youth in Senghenydd can feel at home, with the potential to train as baristas on the coffee van that will sit outside the church. We would love to be known as a place where people can simply drop in and drink delicious coffee – offering a friendly listening ear and plenty of things for the kids to do.

From September 2022, we will be launching an all-family 4pm service in the church, with loads of fun and interactive games for the kids to get involved with, as well as songs and delicious snacks (think doughnuts and chocolate fondue). We'll also be providing dinner for the kids toward the end of the service.

Citizen Church Pontypridd is launching in September 2022! Just 20 minutes north of Cardiff, Ponty is a growing market town at the start of the Valleys and is home to many young families and thousands of students. St Mary's Church is over 180 years old and is an iconic Victorian building that was home to many of the area's most famous historical figures, many of whom are buried in its churchyard.

This building has stood at the centre of the community for many years, but over time the congregation at the church has gradually declined. We would love to bring the vibrancy and energy back to this beautiful building and restore the church to the thriving hub that it once was.

# NEW CAMPPUS





St Mary's is a church on the hill that looks out across the whole of Pontypridd, and we would love to build this church up to once again be a beacon of hope for the surrounding town.

We want to breach loneliness in the area by building authentic community, combining both the students of the nearby campus and the families currently in the area into one congregation. We want to break the stereotypes of church that sometimes create a barrier to people engaging, to change the image of what church can look like and create a space where everyone can feel at home.

We plan to start with a morning service complete with Citizen Kids, where the children will be developed and invested in while having the best morning of their week. We will also be launching an evening service aimed at the students and young people of Pontypridd, complete with Papa John's Pizza and lots of incredible things to look forward to.

# G'S & P'S

GRADUATES & YOUNG  
PROFESSIONALS



“I’ve loved how welcoming the church is and how much of a family it is. Within a few weeks of joining, I was involved in a hangout and was made to feel completely welcome! Our hangout is like a family and we can not only have a great time together but also trust each other and those are the people I know I can turn to. As well as the hangouts, the G’s & P’s events that take place allow everyone to get to spend more quality time together and to enjoy each other’s company. It’s always a great atmosphere to be in and something I’ve needed as a distraction from work life!”

– Noah



“When I moved back home to Cardiff after 7 years away at uni, I was worried about starting over again. I’d built a life away at uni, and felt quite lost initially when back in Cardiff.. But when Citizen Church opened soon after, the amazing sense of belonging and the friendships I built changed everything! I’ve made some besties for life, and the family-like feeling of Citizen makes me feel so happy and settled back in Cardiff now! I love it”

– Bethan



# Love CHRISTMAS

*Love Christmas is a national initiative to help us spread the power of love, hope and kindness. Love Christmas aims to connect with the vulnerable and isolated during what can be a challenging festive season, with churches across the nation supporting their local communities in different ways. This initiative lets people know that we stand with them during a potentially difficult time of year.*

The initiative came about through a project called Love Your Neighbour which was founded in March 2020 during the pandemic. Since then, it has grown to over 2,500 organisations helping people to overcome pressing social challenges by tackling the root causes of poverty through crisis support, debt advice, employment training, and community care across the UK.

Christmas can be a challenging time of year, so this is why Love Christmas was launched. Love Your Neighbour wanted to partner with churches all around the UK to put together 'hampers of hope'. We put together and distributed gifts for people who are struggling, lonely, or may not be able to afford gifts themselves.

When we took part in 2020, we saw that it really blessed so many people in the community, and we were so honoured to be a part of something bigger than just us. Love Christmas took place all over the UK and a million gifts were distributed, which is incredible! So of course, we knew we were going to do it again in 2021 and do even more!



# 13,168

## GIFTS GIVEN



## 2020

When we initially heard about Love Christmas, as a team we thought we could maybe do 500 gifts, but the more we talked about it we knew we wanted to reach more students, mamas, and refugee and asylum-seeking families. We just kept finding more and more people that we wanted to do gifts for.

By the end of it, we had packed gifts for 4,367 people, which is way more than we had ever planned to do! God was clearly at the centre of it all – people kept donating items and money! As a team we'd planned to do everything ourselves but because of Covid's impact we could only use 6 people at a time, and by the end there were only 2 people left – so it didn't exactly go to plan.

But oh my goodness, was it worth it! The number of people that shared what we were doing on Instagram, saying 'this really brightened up my Christmas' or 'I wasn't able to go home because of Covid, and this gift really made my day' was amazing. Loads of people ended up visiting us at the coffee van because they'd found us through Instagram, and now some of them are actually coming to church!

We also got to partner with 3 other churches and a couple of other organisations. We were new to Cardiff and so to get involved in a massive project like this was just incredible – it was so much bigger than just us but we were all working together for the same cause and the same kingdom.

## 2021

In 2021 we did 8,801 gift bags, and we partnered with 10 other organisations and churches. We served refugees, prisoners, students, women that had been trafficked, mamas and parents with children in hospital and the homeless. Through other churches, Love Christmas also served people with bereaved families, families of prisoners, and kids on free school meals!

One of the guys that worked at one of the student halls was invited to church by our team, and his mum actually already goes to church in Pontypridd which is where we're now planting a new Citizen Church. As it turns out, someone from our team at a separate time invited his mum and told her to bring her son along – just one of those funny God moments! He ended up coming to church, which was incredible, even though that wasn't even a result of him receiving a bag!



It's amazing to be involved with something so positive, especially at Christmas. Even just playing a small part in a nationwide campaign is so great! We contributed such a small percentage of the one million total gifts, but we were able to help the people of Cardiff, our neighbours – I guess that's why it's called Love Your Neighbour! That's exactly what Jesus told us to do, to love our neighbour, and when you ask who that might be it could be just about anyone.

Our neighbours are the students who go to university in Cardiff. Our neighbours are the refugee families that have come to Cardiff because it's the city of sanctuary. Our neighbours are the homeless people that are on the streets when it's freezing cold in winter.

Our neighbours are the mums and dads who have children in hospital. Our neighbours are women that have been trafficked. We have so many neighbours and one person couldn't help them all by themselves. That's why as a church it's so important for us to be involved – as a team we can put together so many more bags, and as a team we can reach so many more people.

So many people came along to our packing days and we honestly could not have done it without them. Some people are great at lifting heavy boxes or packing things, but they might not be able to drive – but someone else can!

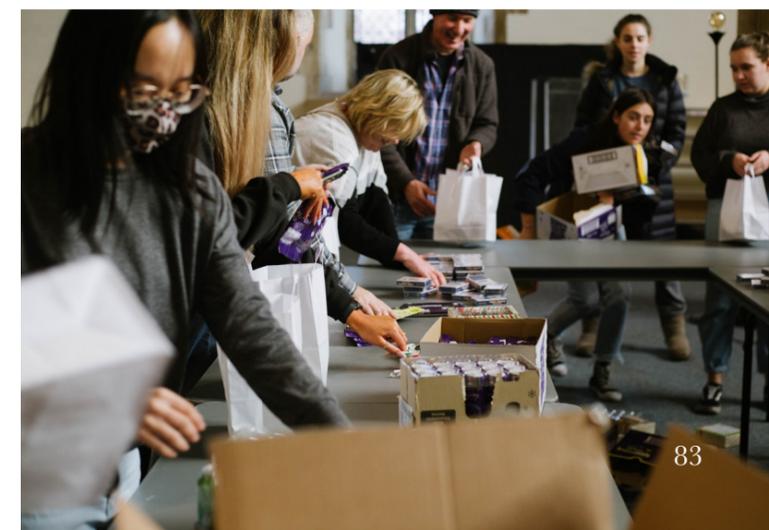
## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

There are 3 main ways to get involved: The first one is delivering – we always need people to deliver! Because we want to partner with so many people, this means a lot of driving to different locations, student halls, prisons, and hospitals. We want to give gifts to all these places, but a lot of the time, this means we require a car. If you drive then we always need people delivering, but even if you don't, we always need people in the car to help drop off the bags!

The second way is people can come along to the packing days and help put together all the gifts. It's such a fun day with loads of energy and teamwork, as well as Christmas music and treats.

The third way is to donate. Because of match-funding, the more we raise as a congregation the more Love Your Neighbour will provide us with.

If you work for an organisation or know of one that you think would make a great partner, then we'd also love to hear about them!



# SARAH'S STORY

*When Sarah moved to Wales from the Middle East, her life was radically changed. Though she's been curious about faith for over 15 years, she comes from a country where being a Christian carries the risk of persecution. Here, she shares her inspiring story which began with a dream and led to her getting baptised at Citizen Church.*

When I was 16 years old, I woke up in the night after dreaming of an angel. This dream recurred three nights in a row, each time at 3am. I told many people about this dream, as I wondered whether it carried meaning or a particular message for me. After this point, I started searching and became curious about Christianity.

In my home country, however most people are born into the Muslim faith, and it's a great risk to convert from Islam to Christianity. Life is made difficult and dangerous for Christians in my country, and it can cause many problems.

When I went to university, I met someone who was originally Jewish but converted to Islam. I asked him about Christianity, and he gave me a Bible. After he gave me this book, I started to read it every night. I found that the Bible gave me a message of hope and it brought peace to my soul. When I was able to read the Bible in my own language, everything became clear to me. It was so meaningful – I truly believed what I was reading. For a while, I kept this book and loved it. But the person who gave it to me eventually needed it back. So, I returned the Bible, however this meant that I didn't have any other Christian books or resources.

It was hard for me to go to church in my home country as in some cases, churches can be quite private about who joins in case any problems are caused. So, for that reason, I

couldn't go to church there. Instead, I started to read up about Christianity online, but I had to keep my faith a secret, even from my family. At the time, I also didn't know anyone else who read the Bible or who was a Christian, other than the person who gifted me the Bible.

After I got married, my husband and I decided to move to the UK. We moved not because of religious issues but because of the economics and politics in our home country. My husband wanted to study here as a data scientist, and I loved the beautiful scenery and nature here in Wales.

I told my husband about my experience of faith and that Christianity was a religion that I wanted to follow. When we first moved here, everything was closed due to COVID-19, including many churches. But in May or June, when things started to open back up again, we started looking for a local church and I found Citizen online after searching for Anglican churches in Wales.

I had a feeling that Citizen was going to be great, but I was so nervous. I'd never really been to a church before. Though I'd visited a church in Paris to explore and admire the building, I'd never been to a service. My husband encouraged me to go along to Citizen one Sunday and I'm so glad that he did. When I came to the church for the first time, everyone was so friendly – it was such a warm welcome.

# T

he Sunday services spoke to my soul, and I felt like I was truly drawing near to my God.

Next, I started going to Bible studies with one of the vicars here, Mark. I asked so many questions and learnt so much. Some of these questions had been lingering in my mind for as long as 15 years, but before, I didn't have anyone to ask. My husband and I also joined a hangout, which we loved so much! When we moved from the Middle East, we didn't know anyone or have any friends here. The hangouts not only helped us form new friendships, but it was also a great chance to practice and develop our English, too.

I then decided to get baptised at Citizen. My baptism was probably quite different to a lot of people's experience – it was a huge risk because of the problems it could cause back home and for my family. For this reason, we didn't have any cameras there, but I really wanted to get baptised to represent my dedication to God. When I went through the water, it felt like my whole life flashed before my eyes, almost as though I saw everything from when I was 16 up until that very moment. When I came out of the water, it was like I was stepping into a new life, and I just felt this deep sense of love. I understood that as a Christian, there would be many changes in my life from this moment onwards. And going forward, I want to try and show the way of Jesus to my friends, particularly those back home whose choices are limited due to the religious restrictions.

Since coming to faith and getting baptised, my life has changed completely. I'd heard about Jesus before but my belief in him is so strong now, and my faith is so firm. For so long, I wanted to learn more about God, but I didn't have the chance. Now I know so much more. I know that it was God's way that he put us in this country and in this church. It was his plan all along to bring us here and for our story to unfold in this way.

\*To protect the speaker's identity, a different name has been used here.

# year 1 IN REVIEW

# 1 LOCATIONS

532

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE



# 13,168

PEOPLE SERVED THROUGH  
LOVE CHRISTMAS



# SERVICES A WEEK



# 450

PEOPLE WHO CALL  
CITIZEN HOME

# 164

PEOPLE SERVING  
ON TEAMS

# 345

PEOPLE DONE ALPHA

# 21

PEOPLE BAPTISED

# 4

ASYLUM SEEKERS GAIN  
BARISTA QUALIFICATION  
THROUGH CITIZEN  
COFFEE

# 286

PEOPLE IN HANGOUTS

# 3

BUILDING PROJECTS



CLUB

BAR

citizen

