

## **LETTER FROM ELDERS AND PASTORS**

The year 2017 can be described as a time of change and refocusing on the calling that God has for Crossroads.

Financially we struggled but, thanks to the generosity of the Crossroads community, we ended the year reasonably well. While the figures show a positive result, this is mainly due to a different way of accounting. This year we started to capitalise purchases over €500, which resulted in a little window dressing of the results. In reality we had an overspend of around €30,000.

We started the year by reintroducing our vision of encountering Jesus, embracing one another and engaging the world. These then became the three key themes of 2017.

From January – May we focused on Encountering Jesus, culminating in a Good Friday worship service where we experienced a wonderful time of meeting Jesus in worship.

From May – August we focused on embracing one another, ending with a great community event where the Indian community cooked a delicious lunch while also highlighting how wonderfully international Crossroads is.

From September – December we focused on engaging the world. This included having Michael Harvey join us to help show how we can become an invitational church.

During 2017 we also started making new investments in our leadership community, including inviting Gary Rivas to share with us on the wider leadership issue in May. This event was well received, and we have since continued to have bi-monthly ‘Xrds Lead’ meetings, where we invest in and interact with people in leadership at Crossroads.

Although there were quite a few staff changes in 2017, by the end of the year we found ourselves with a young and wonderful team, shaped around the three areas of our vision and ready to take on 2018.

We also made the change to have the youth (15 years and older) join us in the services. They are now sitting in the front rows and the feedback has been mainly positive.

Most of the year we were on the lookout for a new Community Centre, which proved to be a challenge. At the end of the year we had a good lead for a temporary solution and we will continue to look for a permanent space.

The Crossroads community continued to support our missionaries with finances, prayer and relational support and experienced counsel. Teams were sent again to teach English in a setting designed to open opportunities to share the story of Jesus, often with those who had never heard it before.

In the year ahead, may God give us grace to continue to encounter Jesus, embrace each other and engage with the world, all as a sign and expression of his gospel of redeeming grace and transforming love!

Many thanks for your partnership in our Crossroads community.

The Elder Board and the Leadership Team