



IF YOU WEREN'T AFRAID...

JO DOLBY, COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

What would you do if you weren't afraid? This question, popularised by author Spencer Johnson in 1998, has been stuck in my head recently. It's a hugely challenging (and liberating) thought when I apply it to every aspect of my role at Oasis. If I wasn't afraid how would I lead? What decisions would I make? What would I prioritise? What would I scrap? How would I treat people? If I wasn't afraid...what would my life, and my role look like?

Honestly, the last year or so has been really tough at Oasis Bath. We've had to navigate a period of deep uncertainty as we've faced huge funding challenges, and tough decisions related to that. Thankfully we're through the worst of it now and you'll read about that on the pages ahead, but I think for a long time we have been operating from a place of fear, and survival.

Going into this new season, as a team we are starting to ask this question, we are letting ourselves dream again, and it feels really good! So how about you? **What would you do if you weren't afraid?** I hope you find this an interesting and helpful question in whatever season of life and work you find yourself.

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Pantry News

CLAIRE HENWOOD, COMMUNITY WORK MANAGER

We have lots of exciting news to share! After a period of funding uncertainty, we have secured funding to cover the core costs of running our food pantries for the next three years. This is a combination of a significant grant from The National Lottery, and a grant from the community co-ordination strand of the Crisis and Resilience Fund (distributed through B&NES local authority). This means we can focus on our longer term sustainability through developing more local partnerships and funding streams.

We've had a big change at our Roundhill Pantry - in preparation for a move to a new location next year, we have significantly changed the space we use at Roundhill Hub, which has improved the experience of shopping for members and volunteers, as well as providing much needed confidential space for our visiting organisations. This was driven by exciting developments for our partner Lux Youth Project as their work continues to grow, and we're so grateful for their support over the last few years.



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!

HELP US COLLECT DONATED FOOD FOR OUR CITY CENTRE
PANTRY ON THURSDAY MORNINGS



Email us today at pantry@oasisbath.org

Advice Cafes

CLAIRE HENWOOD, COMMUNITY WORK MANAGER

We're delighted to offer new, monthly advice cafes, running at the same time as our pantry sessions. This is an evolution of the additional support we already offer, but instead of inviting one organisation into our pantry session at a time, we'll be able to have multiple organisations together. This means people will be able to easily access multiple organisations for support, without waiting on referrals or having to repeat their information multiple times.

We know "warm" referrals like this (where people identify what help they need, and are introduced face to face with the people who can assist) are much more successful and effective than "cold" referrals, where someone completes a form to refer a person to an additional organisation. We'll also be able to run these as open drop in sessions to anyone, not just pantry members. Lots of local organisations are interested in attending these, and we're excited to launch them very soon!



Get Involved!



We're looking for **volunteers** to help welcome people to our advice cafes each month. All you'd need to do is be a friendly face, make tea and coffee, and direct people to the organisations in attendance. For more information or to sign-up, email pantry@oasisbath.org

If you're a **local organisation** offering some kind of advice to people in the community and you'd like to attend our advice cafe, let us know! Send an email to pantry@oasisbath.org



Advice Cafe (City Centre)
THURSDAYS

12th November, 1-3pm
3rd December, 1-3pm

Advice Cafe (Roundhill)
MONDAY

7th December, 1-3pm

Brand Refresh

Oasis
Church

Bath

Oasis

Bath

You may have already noticed, but we've had a bit of a makeover! Oasis UK have been working hard for a while now to update and refresh our brand, and we'll be rolling this out gradually over the next few months. We're keeping our signature orange as well as our all important circle of inclusion, but you'll see some new shapes, a new set of fonts and new logos for our church and charity.

One major change for us will also be phasing out the use of the word 'hub'. Whilst we still work to the Oasis hub model of community development, we recognise most people associate the word hub with a physical building or place, which isn't quite how we use it. So, from now on, you'll hear us describe ourselves as Oasis Bath, and Oasis Church Bath. We hope you like our new look!

Check out our website, and don't forget to follow us on social media!

 @OasisHubBath

 oasisbath

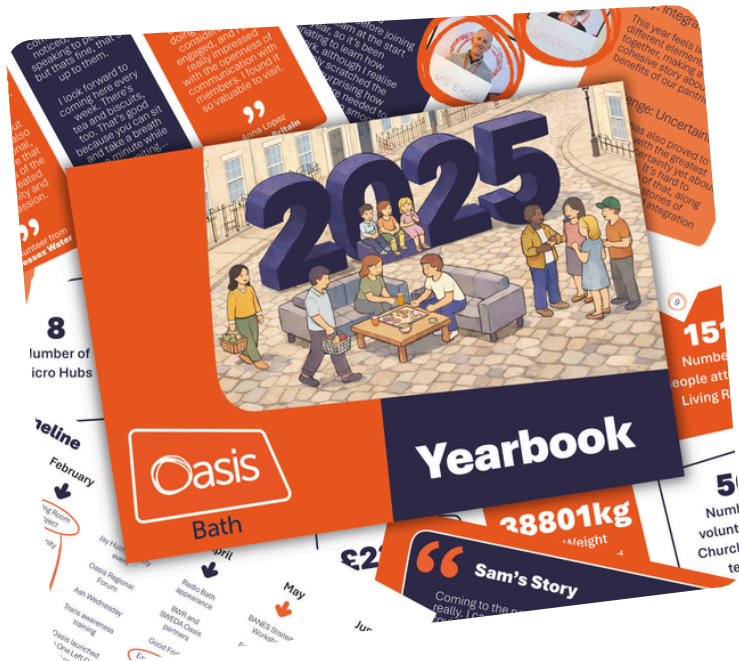
 www.oasisbath.org

Oasis Yearbook

Have you read Oasis Yearbook yet? Yearbook is the new name for our annual impact report, where we tell the story of our year and reflect on the highs and lows, as well as the impact we've made in people's lives. View it now by scanning the QR code or go to:



<https://tinyurl.com/OBYearbook2025>



Bath Pride

AMANDA HIGGIN, ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Bath Pride celebrated its third year this year, and we were there again on August 22nd to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community. This year we worked together with other affirming churches in Bath under the banner of 'Affirming Christians', bringing together Anglicans, Methodists, Quakers, and university chaplaincies. Each individual church would not have been able to organise a presence at Pride on their own, so we are really proud of being able to support other churches and show that our inclusive faith is shared across denominations.

We marched proudly in our bright orange t-shirts, and then had some amazing conversations on our stall in Sydney Gardens. We invited people to fill in a speech bubble with positive messages for people who might be struggling to hold both their faith and sexuality, and received some fantastic messages that we will be able to share at events to come.

The day after Pride, the affirming churches gathered at Oasis Church for a Pride Celebration service, where we kicked off with a music video from Flamy Grant, everyone's favourite Christian drag queen! We celebrated and reflected together, and a talk from Amanda (our Associate Minister) encouraged us all to 'Stand Up and Show Up' (the Bath Pride theme for 2026) as affirming Christians, especially for our transgender siblings. Bath Pride has been a highlight of our year for the last couple of years, and this year was no exception. See you next year!



A Wedding of Firsts!



AMANDA HIGGIN, ASSOCIATE MINISTER

In August we were OVERJOYED to host the wedding ceremony of Karl S and Karl A, both of whom have been part of our church community for the past year. It was a fantastic, fabulous day, with superb outfits in the congregation and even better ones on the grooms!

This event marked a few big firsts for us. It was our first ever same-sex wedding at Oasis, after we voted to register the building for same-sex marriage in December. It was also our Associate Minister Amanda's first time officiating at a legal wedding, and our Community Director Jo's first time as authorised person! Thankfully the right words were said and the right forms signed, so everything went off without a hitch. As another first, the ceremony included elements from Karl A's Buddhist practice, led by representatives from SGI UK. It was a privilege to share this moment with Karl and his community, and fascinating for many of us to experience a practice very different to our own.

The day was a wonderful celebration of the Karls, their relationship, and our whole-hearted commitment to inclusive faith. We won't forget about it any time soon, because it was such a special day but also because we are still finding confetti in various corners of the church building!



Snapshots from Social Media...



In September we had our annual staff sorting day where we cleaned, organised, got a huge pile ready for recycling/the tip and got a bit carried away with the label maker! It's always hard work, but worth it to make sure our building is as welcoming, inviting and user friendly as it can be for all the groups and individuals who use it each week.

Our staff and governance groups met together for an away day. We used a process called 'Appreciative Inquiry' to review our progress as a hub and dream about the future together, designing some actions to move forward with. It was a wonderful, hope filled and joyful day! We're very excited about the future, and we're so thankful for our incredible team.



Our Roundhill Pantry in Southdown is a partnership project between ourselves and Lux Youth Project, Bath Methodist Church, St Barnabas Church and the Southdown and Whiteway Church and Community Partnership. Here are representatives from all of those churches/organisations at a recent partner's meeting.

Join in!

Here's how you can get more involved at Oasis Bath...

There are loads of ways to get involved in the work of Oasis Bath. Reading this newsletter is a great way to stay in touch with all we're up to so if you want to make sure you receive this direct to your inbox, let us know by emailing welcome@oasisbath.org. Here are some other ways you can be a part of what we're doing...

Volunteer

There are a variety of opportunities at Oasis Bath to use your skills to benefit others and get to know new people. Even a couple of hours every few weeks could make a real difference to someone in need, so if you've got some time to spare get in touch and we'll find the perfect role for you. Just email welcome@oasisbath.org.



Give

There are lots of ways to give financially to the work of Oasis Bath. You can give regularly through online banking or by completing a standing order form, which enables us to claim Gift Aid on your donation. For all the information you need about different ways to give, visit www.oasisbath.org/donate. Thank you.



Check out our website, and don't forget to follow us on social media!



@OasisHubBath



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www.oasisbath.org