

# ANNUAL REVIEW

## 2017/2018



FAITH IN YOUNG PEOPLE



**THE BOYS' BRIGADE**  
>the adventure begins here





## WHO WE ARE

The Boys' Brigade is a volunteer led, uniformed Christian youth organisation, which provides youth and children's work to the Christian Church. Founded by Sir William Smith in Glasgow in 1883, through partnership with local Churches we provide a safe and caring place where children and young people can learn, grow and discover.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is that children and young people experience "life to the full". **Faith in Young People**, our mission, expresses our vision and belief in young people, in their skills, abilities and their voice, and, as a Christian movement, our commitment to sharing and exploring faith. We believe that empowering children and young people is important and do this by involving them in decision making at all levels and giving responsibility appropriate to their age and aptitude.

## 2017-2018 SESSION

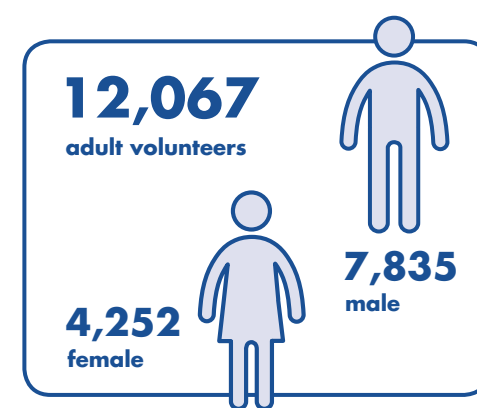
This session was special for so many reasons, not least the fact it marked 100 years of The Boys' Brigade working with children aged eight to 11 years old. Across the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland celebrations took place to celebrate **Juniors 100** with members taking part in the Juniors 100 Challenge and attending BIG 100 Birthday Parties. The adventure for this age group started back in September 1917 and continues today with this week more than 14,000 members aged eight to 11 years old enjoying a fun and engaging programme.

Throughout the year we have continued to focus our work on the main themes of our development plan **Growth, Quality and Voice**. With aims to see more young people having the opportunity to participate in the activities the BB provides, to build on the quality of the experience we offer and to give young people a voice, both internally and in the wider community.

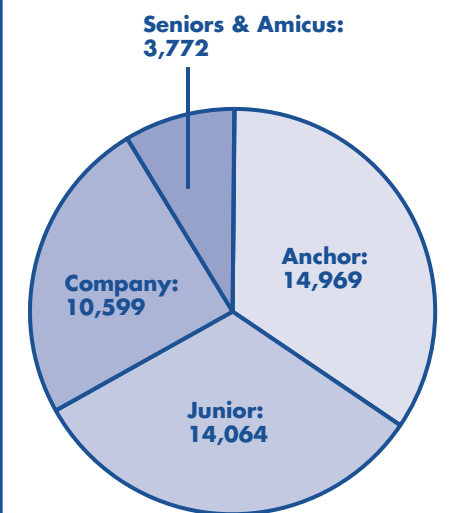
Much has been achieved during the session and we are excited to highlight some of the progress we have made through this review.



# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



### Our age group numbers are:





# DEVELOPING THE BRIGADE

Much has been achieved during the session and these pages provide some highlights from the year under review.

## GROWTH

We have continued to explore ways to grow existing Companies to provide every child or young person with the opportunity to join BB regardless of where they live.

Throughout the Brigade our team of Development Workers have not only supported the work of existing groups but have also helped to start new Companies. This work has involved engaging with churches, supporting programmes, identifying and training new leaders and recruiting new members.

In keeping with our strapline 'The adventure begins here' The Boys' Brigade continues to provide opportunities to children and young people beyond those possible at school or at home. Residential activities including sleepovers, camps and trips abroad continue to be key highlights in the programme for children and young people.



## QUALITY

We want all of our members to have the best possible experience; to have fun, to achieve and to be able to participate fully in their Companies and the wider Brigade.

In July 2018 we launched a new campaign, **Raise the Bar**, set around 10 challenges for each and every part of the organisation, focussed on raising the quality of experience for children and young people in The Boys' Brigade.



“Our experience tells us that real and sustained growth will only be achieved through focussing on the quality of our work.”



Our programmes are an important resource to our leaders and central to our engagement with children and young people and we are pleased to report following an extensive review we are launching new programmes for the Anchors and Juniors age groups, providing fresh and relevant resources to support our leaders.

Following the introduction of GDPR, during the session we have launched a new **data protection policy** providing clear guidance and support to our Leaders and members on how we share, process and retain data.

We continue to invest in our **learning and development strategy** for leaders, with a re-launch of our Youth Leader Training programme. We have also run workshops alongside partners like **YoungMinds** to help raise awareness of mental health issues among young people and identify ways that our leaders can help support young people who are suffering or vulnerable.

Following a review of the outsourcing of **BB Supplies**, we have successfully transitioned the operation to a new supplier which has involved the launch of a new online shop.

## VOICE

Putting our “Faith in Young People” strapline into practice, ensuring that our members’ voices are heard both inside and outside of the organisation.

Many of our young people have been contributing to their local communities and making a real difference. We have seen examples of supporting local charities, running a food bank collection point and cleaning up local spaces to mention just a few projects.



The BB has continued to be involved in **Step up to Serve**, and re-pledged its commitment to the **#iwill** campaign by promoting social action across all age groups.

Developing our young leaders continues to be a priority and we have run a number of workshops during the session to bring **under 26 year olds** together providing opportunities to share ideas and experiences and develop skills.

Following the 2017 General Election we reconstituted our **All-Party Parliamentary Group** at Westminster.

The voice of our members is also represented at national level, with examples including our delegation of young leaders to the **British Youth Council** and also the election of two members of the **Scottish Youth Parliament**.







## JUNIORS 100

This session's highlight has been the celebrations to mark 100 years of the Junior Section, which was formed back in 1917 as the Boy Reserves.

Companies got involved in celebrating this significant milestone in one way or another through the Juniors 100 Challenge, holding a BIG 100 Birthday Party or taking part in a special Juniors 100 event at a Company, Battalion, District or Regional level.

The **Juniors 100 Challenge** encouraged young people to complete 100 challenges during 2017 including activities like 'Taking part in a world record attempt', 'Learning basic first aid skills', 'Raising £100 for a local charity' and 'Trying-out a new sport'. The challenges encouraged Companies to try something new through getting active, being creative, learning new skills, exploring and being adventurous whilst helping others in their local communities.

Congratulations go to members of 133rd London Company who were the first section to complete the Juniors 100 Challenge. The boys and girls completed all 100 challenges in the middle of November, a good six weeks before the end of the year.

In September 2017 hundreds of Companies held a **BIG 100 Birthday Party**, with September being the month that The Boys' Brigade first started working with this age group back in 1917. Many celebrated through playing games and trying out activities that were common back in 1917, as well as looking forward to the next 100 years and of course finishing things off with a cake and singing Happy Birthday!

- 01** England & Wales Juniors 100 Sleepover, Staffordshire
- 02** Scottish Juniors 100 Event, Stirling Castle
- 03** Midstaffs & Sandwell Battalion Juniors 100 Celebration
- 04** 400 Juniors attend Giant Sleepover at Glasgow Science Centre

# A YEAR IN PICTURES



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## 05 NORTHERN IRELAND MAKES IT HOME!

Northern Ireland District 'Made their way Home' on a sponsored 35 mile walk from their previous Headquarters Rathmore in Larne to their newly renovated home at the former Newport Primary school in Culcavy, just outside Hillsborough on Saturday 23rd June 2018. Having raised nearly £400,000 this event finished with a celebration recognising the completion of the work to convert the former school in to a fully renovated residential centre and the home of The Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland. The new centre can accommodate up to 40 in dormitories and also has a modern training room and well-equipped kitchen.

## 06 CELEBRATING 70 YEARS WITH HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

As part of the celebrations to mark HRH The Prince of Wales' 70th Birthday, BB members from across the country attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to recognise and celebrate the work of his Patronage Charities.

## 07 YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE

2018 has been earmarked as the 'Year of Young People' by the Scottish Government – an extra chance to shine a spotlight on the achievements of young leaders. BB young people have come together to create ideas, events and objectives for BB to make the most of this year of celebration. In February, 30 young leaders gathered in Stirling for **Youth Voice 18**, an event focussed on developing skills and the voice of young people in shaping the future of The Boys' Brigade.

## 08 NATIONAL COMPS

Every year hundreds of Companies take part in the Brigade's National Competitions, well done to this year's winners:

- Chess – 1st Cheslyn Hay (England)
- Table Tennis – 1st Monifeith (Scotland)
- 5 a side Football (Senior) – 15th South Shields (England)
- 5 a side Football (Junior) – 1st Moneymore (Northern Ireland)
- Masterteam – 1st Bearsden (Scotland)
- Badminton – 1st Houston (Scotland)

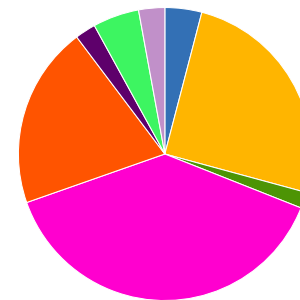
## 09 LIFE 2 THE MAX

750 children, young people and leaders from London and beyond came together at Felden Lodge for a great day with funfair rides, inflatables, games and more.

## OUR FINANCES 2017-2018

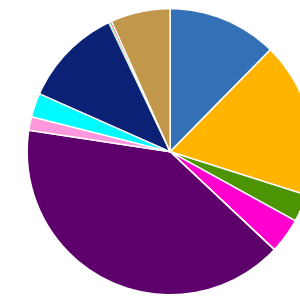
### INCOME

Donations and Legacies	£101,297
Training Centre Income	£626,250
Investment Income	£44,174
Annual Capitalisation	£961,623
Supply Sales	£500,182
Unrestricted Grants Received	£56,985
Restricted Grants Received	£127,131
Annual festival and Events	£71,750



### EXPENDITURE

Cost of Raising Funds	£337,804
Training Centres (non-Brigade use)	£478,886
Training Centres (Brigade use)	£85,396
Unrestricted Grants Payable	£108,421
Restricted Grants Payable	£495
Unrestricted Management & Delivery of Activities	£1,103,124
Net Losses on investments	£3,408
Actuarial Losses on Defined Benefit Scheme	£42,000
Supplies Administration	£73,848
Supplies Cost of Sales	£308,466
Investment Management Fees	£5,882
Restricted Management & Delivery of Activities	£183,703





## THE BOYS' BRIGADE

**Patron:** H.M. The Queen

**President:** The Lord Griffiths of Burry Port  
**Brigade Secretary/CEO:** Mr Bill Stevenson

## OUR OBJECT

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.

## MOTTO

**Sure & Steadfast** – Hebrews 6:19

## HEADQUARTERS

### UK & Republic of Ireland

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## REGISTERED COMPANY / CHARITY

The Boys' Brigade is a Company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales number 145122.

A registered charity in England and Wales (305969) and Scotland (SC0038016)

## DESIGN

CPO – [www.cpo.org.uk](http://www.cpo.org.uk)



## Can you help us?



### Practically

Many of our Companies need more volunteer leaders and there are groups that have to operate waiting lists. With the support of more adults, the BB experience could be offered to more children and young people. Could you help us by sharing some of your time to support a local Company? Full support and training is given to all of our volunteers. Please contact us for details of a local group.



### Prayerfully

Each week thousands of young people come into the church environment through the activities of The Boys' Brigade. Many have no other connection with the church. The support of prayer for leaders and members is vital in our ongoing commitment to advance Christ's Kingdom. There are also details of specific projects that you may wish to pray for on our website.



### Financially

The Boys' Brigade is mainly dependent on raising finances through its membership. We do not feel that we can ask more of those that give so freely of their time week by week. With greater financial resources, the Brigade could offer more support to its Companies and expand its work to attract more young people into the life of the church. Can you help by means of a single donation or through a regular financial giving? For details of our "Friends" scheme, please contact us.

**[WWW.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK)**