

OUR ANNUAL REVIEW

THE STORY OF OUR
2024-2025 SESSION



THE BOYS' BRIGADE
>the adventure begins here



Reflections on the last year...

This year we have seen our first young people being awarded their King's Badge in over 70 years. I'd like to congratulate them and all of our children and young people for what they have achieved over the last 12 months through being part of The Boys' Brigade.

Recognising and celebrating achievements – whether large or small – may sound simple, but in a world where so many negative influences are close at hand I do think that more than ever that it's important for children and young people to feel supported, encouraged and valued.

I was recently able to join with young people taking part in our KGV Youth Leader Training courses at Carronvale House and Broomley Grange. These opportunities to support young people into leadership pathways are crucial to both our present and future.

Whether it's KGV, our Young Leaders Weekend or our new course 'Elevate' – bringing young leaders together to have space to develop their skills, learn from each other and broaden their understanding of how BB works beyond their own Company is invaluable.

The work of the Ministry Team in raising our profile with Churches and developing strategic partnership has continued. We recently joined with Youthscape to

play a leading role at the Christian youth festival, Satellites. Our presence shows our commitment to shaping confident, Christ-centred young leaders for today's world. and we are looking at other opportunities to do this over the next year.

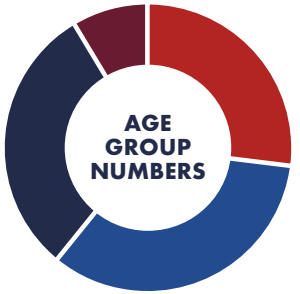
I am delighted by the continued investment from both the UK Government through the Department for Media, Culture and Sport's 'Uniformed Youth Fund' and the Scottish Government's 'Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund'. The funding we receive I believe is recognition of the value and impact of our work today.

As part of our current strategy to improve the quality and consistency of experience for children and young people we have commissioned independently led consultations with members around the volunteer led support layer of the organisation and also about inclusion. The learnings and next steps on both of these areas we have reviewed will be integral to our next five-year strategy to be launched next year.

Finally, may I thank all our dedicated volunteer leaders in communities across the UK and RoI for everything they do, as well as to all our supporters, partner organisations and funders.

Jonathan Eales
Chief Executive

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



Our year in quotes

“BB has had a massive impact on my life, ever since I was 5 years old and in the Anchors. It's opened up a lot of doors, a lot of opportunities to make friends and connection.”

Matthew, young leader at 8th Wigan

“Building Stronger encouraged us to review our current practices (strengths and where we could improve) using the Company Heath Check questionnaire together as a team. As a result, we improved our social media presence, did some work on recruitment (resulting in several new young people joining), met with our Church leaders, and thought about succession of BB leaders.”

Peter Curran, leader at 1st Guildford

“It's great to see our National Competitions taking place. Not only do they encourage young people to get involved with a wide range of activities we offer, develop their skills and build confidence, they also allow them to meet other young people from across the country, who are all part of the wider 'BB family'.”

Jonathan Eales, Chief Executive



“My child is so happy to go to BB and I'm thankful that it is a place where members are valued, accepted and encouraged as they are. The positive impact that it has on my child is immeasurable. Thank you.”

Parent/carer

“There are many of us across the BB that are in the same boat in seeking to develop skills. It's good to learn in a peer group setting and being able to discuss issues and develop together. Most of all it is fun and I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to grow as a leader.”

Jamie, 5th Hamilton & Elevate course participant

“It's fantastic to have a growing number of BB groups at Satellites and for the national team to be helping host one of the most popular venues on site. It's great to have Youthscape and BB working together so closely on something so important.”

Chris Curtis, Chief Executive of Youthscape

“I became a Trustee because I wanted to help shape the future of the organisation and help be a voice of the young leaders within the organisation. Transitioning from being a young person to a young leader can be a challenging stage in a person's life, but with the right support I hope I can help.”

Eden Fisher, Under 26 Trustee

“The faith element of BB is really important. I hope it has helped my children to build on their own faith and to get more experience and knowledge for themselves, so it become more real for them and in time they can make their own decisions about Jesus.”

Parent/carer

“We thank God that 1st Calne has got off to such a great start. Each week sees an increase in numbers and we're loving being a part of the BB family!”

Wayne Lawther, leader at 1st Calne, Wiltshire (one of our newest groups) and minister of Calne Baptist Church

“I wouldn't be the person I am, doing the job I'm doing, if it hadn't been for The Boys' Brigade. I genuinely believe that. I am who I am today because of it.”

Pete Markey, former BB member



“Christian Aid are delighted to be working with The Boys' Brigade as part of our 80th anniversary... As a movement rooted in the Christian faith and committed to equipping young people to learn, grow and discover, The Boys' Brigade is a perfect partner for Christian Aid.”

Val Brown, Christian Aid

1 End Polio Now

We joined together with Rotary GB & Ireland to create new resources aimed at helping give children and young people an opportunity to learn more about polio, the devastating impact it can have on peoples' lives today, and work together to support the campaign to end polio.

2 Young Leaders Weekend

Young leaders from across the country came together in Kirkham, Lancashire for the Young Leaders Weekend. The weekend included exploring the foundations of a good quality programme.

3 Coming together in remembrance

Thousands of BB members took part in Remembrance activities and events, with a contingent joining the National Service of Remembrance in London.

4 Spaces

Our first Spaces groups have started to meet, giving young people places where they can come together to discuss the big questions of life and help them to become more like Jesus.

5 Building Stronger

Through our Building Stronger campaign we have supported over 150 groups – challenging them to reflect on how they could become stronger and welcome new young people into the BB family.

6 VE Day 80

BB members took part in a series of local and national events to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

A YEAR IN PICTURES



7 National Competitions

Over 150 groups from across the country took part in seven different national competitions, including football, FIFA, Masterteam (quiz), badminton, table tennis and chess.

8 Cumbrae Camp & Unite

Hundreds of young people and leaders took part in Cumbrae Camp on Millport and Unite which was held for the first time at Well End Activity Centre in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.

9 Guard of Honour

A group of BB young people formed a Guard of Honour at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for the Lord High Commissioner.

10 KGVI – Equipping our young leaders

Young leaders aged 17 to 25 from across the country took part in KGVI Youth Leader Training at Carronvale House and Broomley Grange, to support and equip them as they move into leadership roles.

11 Satellites

We partnered with Youthscape to play a leading role at the Christian youth festival, Satellites, overseeing the festival's main "Activity Village", creating a vibrant active space that helps young people connect with Jesus and each other.

12 On the ocean waves

Young people from four different Companies in Scotland enjoyed a week of sailing with Ocean Youth Trust through our CashBack for Communities project.



Thank you to our partners, supporters and donors...

Working together with organisations like the **University of Bolton**, **Christian Aid**, **Youthscape** and **Rotary GB & Ireland** is incredibly important to us.

We have also continued to work with partners across the youth sector through the **Youth United Foundation** and **YouthLink Scotland**.

We are grateful for funding providing by the UK Government through their **Uniformed Youth Fund** and by the Scottish Government through **CashBack for Communities** and **CYPFEIF**.

Patron: HM The King

President: Rev Dez Johnston

Chief Executive: Jonathan Eales

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

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HOW TO HELP...



Prayer

Each week thousands of children and young people come into the Church environment through our activities. Many have no other real connection with the Church. The support of prayer for leaders and members is vital in our ongoing commitment to advance Christ's Kingdom.



Volunteer

Many of our local groups need more volunteer leaders. With the support of more volunteers, 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.



Donate

The Boys' Brigade is mainly dependent on raising finances through our membership. With greater financial resources, we could offer more support to our local groups and expand our work with young people. Can you help by means of a single donation or through a regular financial giving?

BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK