

**Trent  
Life**

Trent Vineyard is a church where everyone's

# Welcome

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John and Debby Wright  
Senior Pastors

We're delighted you're interested in  
knowing more about life at Trent Vineyard

**This magazine is full of stories, articles, photos and information to give you a glimpse of who we are and how you could get more involved.**

#### **How to get involved**

There's a lot to get involved in and something for everyone. Once you find an area you like the look of and want to find out more, we'd love to hear from you. You can email us at [connect@trentvineyard.org](mailto:connect@trentvineyard.org) or visit the Connect area at one of our Sunday services.

#### **Explore further at [trentvineyard.org](https://trentvineyard.org)**

You can get a feel of what to expect and see what's coming up on our website. You'll also be able to find out all about our vision by watching or listening to our vision talks.



# Our Vision

— God has called us to build a growing, regional, biblically based church in Nottingham which will in a creative and contemporary way, in the power of the Holy Spirit, worship God and communicate the gospel with compassion and generosity.

We aim to make, train and equip disciples to be effective in the extending of God's kingdom, to develop leaders, to plant new churches and to contribute to the blessing of the whole body of Christ.

## Where do I start?

### Sunday Services

If you're exploring faith or looking for a church in Nottingham to call your home, we'd love to meet you at one of these events:

Morning and evening services at 10:30 and 19:00 every week

From Sunday 06 October 2019, morning services will start at 09:15 and 11:15

### Alpha

A chance to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed environment

### Newcomers' Meals

Enjoy a welcome meal and meet some of our leaders including our Senior Pastors, John and Debby, and hear their personal story

## Making yourself at home

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Come along on a Sunday

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Join a small group

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Find somewhere to serve

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Give a portion of your income regularly

Our desire is for you to feel **needed** and **known** and that you will **grow** as a follower of Jesus.





## Andrew's story

**I was lucky to be brought up in a very loving household. As a family we went to a Catholic church until I was around 12 years old. After that the concept of faith was something I didn't really think about until I was 23. During those years I would have described myself as an atheist.**

When I came to study at Nottingham some of the best friends I made happened to be Christians. Although they never pressured me into anything, I was always interested in having conversations with them about God and faith. I would regularly voice my struggles over issues like suffering, that were barriers to my own belief.

# Changing Lives

Then one day I found out my best friend Andy, who was a Christian, had been diagnosed with cancer. Andy's diagnosis was very serious and it hit me very hard emotionally. The following months involved a lot of uncertainty and fear. I couldn't understand how Andy stayed so strong mentally especially during the months of hard chemotherapy. Thankfully Andy got better, but a short time after he received the all-clear we had a conversation that shocked me. He said that throughout his illness he'd not been afraid of dying. I realised it was his faith in Jesus that gave him strength.

From that point I decided regardless of what I believed I wanted to learn more about my friends' faith, even if it just meant I could understand them better. I heard the Alpha course at Trent Vineyard was a good place to find out more, so I started coming along.

I was quite nervous before starting Alpha and actually sat in the car park on my own for twenty minutes before plucking up the courage to go in. I was made to feel very welcome though and really enjoyed exploring faith with fellow Alpha guests

over the nine week course. One week that really struck me was when we looked at the historical evidence for the Bible. We were shown how there's greater evidence for the Bible than for other well known historical sources that no one questions.

Alpha gave me a lot of 'head' knowledge, but since then I've gained a greater 'heart' knowledge of God and developed my own relationship with Him. This has come through experiencing the Holy Spirit. During times of singing at church I regularly feel connected to God. Another really key moment came when someone prayed for me and spoke incredibly accurate words they couldn't have known about Andy's illness and how that had affected my own journey of faith.

I know I still have a long way to go but I also know I'm on the right path. I've joined a small group and have made so many friends that I now feel at home at Trent Vineyard and really enjoy coming along every week. I feel much more content and peaceful knowing that my life is in God's hands.

**"I feel much more content and peaceful than I did a year ago knowing that my life is in God's hands."**

To explore life, faith and who Jesus is, come along to our Alpha course. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions exploring the Christian faith in a friendly and informal environment. Each session looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. For information about our next course go to [trentv.org/alpha](https://trentv.org/alpha)



# Sundays

"For where two or three gather in my name,  
there am I with them." Jesus, Matthew 18:20

## We'd love you to join us for our Sunday services in the morning or evening

*From Sunday 6 October 2019 our morning services will start at 09:15 and 11.15, and our evening service will start at 19:00.*

Things get going about half an hour before the services start. We have plenty of parking with a team in high-vis jackets to guide you to a space.

To help you settle in we offer free tea, coffee, juice and doughnuts. Our coffee shop is also open serving quality coffee, cakes, snacks and light bites.

## What to expect during our services

We start with a time of worship for about half an hour followed by a short welcome, announcements and a break. Then there's a talk based on the Bible that's practical and relevant to everyday life. After the talk there's

an opportunity to receive prayer.

## What happens after our services

At the end of our services you can get another cup of tea or coffee. The coffee shop will be open after the morning service. After the evening service the bar will be open where you can buy a drink and enjoy Afterhours.

## Bringing the kids

Trent Kids (morning services only) is the place for little ones from babies to school Year 6. Trent Youth is for anyone in school Years 7 to 13.

## Accessibility

The building is easily accessible and we have a number of disabled parking spaces. Every second and fourth Sunday evening service is fully signed from the right hand side of the stage using British Sign Language. There is also a hearing loop provided.

# Worship

**Singing is a universal language. Across generations and cultures, throughout history, people have sung songs; using melody and lyric to express truth, communicate affection, stir emotion, to tell a story.**

Since its birth the Church has expressed its love for Jesus in this way. The same is true throughout the Bible. Again and again we're encouraged to "sing to the Lord" and worship Him in song. Here at Trent it's one of our greatest joys.

Worship is for Jesus, about Jesus and to Jesus. It's the place where we fix our eyes on Him and express our love and thanks to Him. In our experience it's also the place where we are most encouraged and most deeply changed, and where we encounter the beauty of His presence. What a wonderful thing it is to sing.





# Small groups

**“It made me realise when they said they were there for me, they meant it.”**

## **Hannah's story**

**I was already a Christian when I came to university so I did a church search in the first few weeks after I arrived in Nottingham. A friend invited me to a Trent Vineyard student small group on campus. They were so welcoming it helped me make my mind up about which church to join. My small group became a place where I could be known, loved and supported, and it made the transition from my local church back home, which was much smaller, a lot less daunting.**

From the beginning I felt able to open up about how I'd been struggling with my Dad having cancer. Only a few weeks after I arrived at university my small group felt prompted to help me out one week by clubbing together to get my shopping (plus a few extra goodies). It made me realise that when they said they were there for me, they meant it. My Dad eventually lost his battle with cancer but through that difficult time, my small group continued to support me. Even after university as I navigated the new world of work, my small group have been there for me and their support now extends beyond my bereavement to anything I face day to day.

Small group is an extended family for me and a place where I can totally be myself. It is a safe place I can go each week and be honest about how I'm feeling – where I've learnt it's okay not to be okay. I love being part of a group of friends who, whether we're experiencing highs or lows, can walk through life together.

## **Small groups: living life together**

Small groups are at the heart of Trent Vineyard. We're committed to being more than just a large group of people who gather on a Sunday and small groups are the best way to provide community as we grow in our relationship with God and get to know others.

We have lots of groups who meet at different times and locations all over the city. Most groups meet on Wednesday or Thursday evening and have between six and twenty people in the group. A typical session might involve catching up, looking at a section in the Bible, prayer and worshipping together. Small groups regularly find ways to bless the community around them with practical and creative projects that demonstrate God's love.

Some small groups also organise social activities like weekends away or meals together. You'll find that each group is different and we would encourage you to find one that works for you. We also have a number of special interest groups based around a particular activity.

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another.

— the Bible, Hebrews 10:24–25



# Serving on a team



## Andrew & Stacey

Sundays host team leaders

### What made you want to serve on a team?

We attended Trent Vineyard for a year before we began serving on a team. Throughout that time we always noted how happily and graciously people at Trent Vineyard served in the different teams. It continually made us feel welcome and at home. We saw serving as an opportunity for us to give back to the church what we had already received.

### Did you ever see yourself leading a team?

Honestly, no! We were content simply being members of our Sunday team. We loved helping and didn't envision leading the team ourselves. From the first week our team leaders and co-ordinators have always been excellent and we continue to feel encouraged, supported and cared for by them.

Trent Vineyard's culture of building people up and seeing them reach their full potential was something that we wanted to be a greater part of, so when asked to lead we said yes. We were also confident we would have other leaders around to guide and help us when we needed it.

### What do you enjoy most about serving at Trent?

When we give a little of our time we see it not only as serving Trent Vineyard, but also serving God. Our Sunday team feels like a second small group and we really value the friendships that we've made and also have a lot of fun together. It's great to be part of bringing a Sunday service together and having the opportunity to make people feel welcome and at home.

**We want to be the kind of people who generously give our time, energy, skills and resources to serve God and extend His kingdom. Church is not about a few people doing all the work and everyone else watching. It works best when everyone takes part and shares the ownership, responsibility and passion, so we can serve our city with generosity and compassion.**

One of the best ways to feel at home at Trent Vineyard and meet others is to get involved by serving on a team. Each month thousands of voluntary hours are given by our church members to serve others. Whatever your personality, skills, talents or passion there's something for everyone.

### If you're new...

The best place to start is on one of our Sunday teams like the car parking team, refreshments team or Sunday host team. This will give you the chance to offer a welcome to others who are new, meet people on the team and understand more of the heartbeat of the church.

## Trent Kids team — Dani

Trent Kids is a fun and exciting place where kids can come and experience what it means to love and follow Jesus. It's our prayer that children would grow up never knowing a day without Him.

On a typical Sunday morning we host several hundred children across a number of different groups. We also run midweek groups and larger events. If you love seeing children living out their faith and being filled with the Holy Spirit then get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

### What does a typical morning in Trent Kids look like?

Busy, busy, busy but also incredibly fulfilling and inspiring. We arrive early to set up, brief teams, pray together for the morning and quickly grab a coffee before the kids arrive. I lead the Year 2 team in Lift-off and we're serving just over forty kids in this year group alone, which is a privilege and very exciting. All our 5-11's kids join together for BiG, a place when the kids have their own time of worship, teaching, games, fun and ministry. BiG is a lot of fun and it's been amazing to see the six year olds in my group encounter God in times of worship and see them praying for each other!

### What do you love most about it?

Kids are our future leaders and world changers and we have the exciting privilege of serving, leading and teaching them. Kids are also hilarious; their perspective on life and faith is so refreshing that they often teach me rather than vice versa.

### Why is serving in Trent Kids so important?

In Trent Kids we're all about loving, welcoming and acknowledging every single child that walks through our doors, as well as having the privilege of teaching them all about the amazing God that we love, so they never know a day without Him. This is so important.

### How did you first get involved?

Back in January 2005 I was new to Trent Vineyard and my then small group leader invited me to serve on Trent Kids. I felt really thankful I'd been asked and have been serving the kids ever since!

# Trent Kids





# Trent Compassion

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Trent Compassion encompasses a range of areas that seek to demonstrate God's love in practical ways. The Arches, one of those areas, is a practical resource and support centre (located next to the warehouse) for those in need across Nottingham. We aim to provide an environment of compassion and care, where people feel they can belong and are accepted and where they can build a sense of self-worth and confidence.

We want to be a place where we are generous with our time, energy and practical resources and where we can go the extra mile. To find out more visit [www.thearchesnottingham.org](http://www.thearchesnottingham.org)

## Cora's story

I've been coming to Trent Vineyard for 15 years now. I found Trent through The Arches when I found myself in difficult circumstances. I came to The Arches as a client and one day someone invited me to the church next door.

When I first walked into Trent it felt like a family. It was overwhelming because it was so big but it felt like I belonged and that was something I wasn't expecting. I've found people love me there for who I am and I don't have to put a mask on. If I'm having a rubbish day they come alongside me and if I'm having a good day they celebrate with me.

**"I've found a home,  
family and I've  
found friends.  
I don't feel lost  
anymore."**

When I first came to The Arches I was a client but then I moved into being a part of the team and helping in all sorts of different areas. Now I'm a receptionist and the first person people meet. The first smile you get is truly mind-blowing because that's what I got and that's what I want to give.

The Arches organised a group to go to Encounter Camp, a place for broken people who had lost their way in life. It was a place to experience God and receive healing. The first year I went I cried all week. God was breaking so much off me. I had been through domestic violence and at the camp I felt a sense of freedom. God just broke it off me.

The Arches run a programme called the AIC programme (Arches Inspiring Change) which includes having a mentor come alongside you to help your walk with God, to be a listening ear and to help you develop life skills. I've done domestic violence training, first aid training and safeguarding training.

I've been changed by coming to Trent Vineyard and by finding God. I've found where I belong. I've found a home. I've found family and I've found friends. I don't feel lost anymore.





**“You just can’t put a price on seeing the next generation passionately worshipping Jesus and loving Him.”**

# Youth

**Trent Youth is about inspiring young people to love God, love others and change the world! We usually meet on Sundays and Tuesdays, for anyone in school Years 7 to 13. Trent Youth is a place for young people to be known, hang out, have fun, chat about the Bible and worship together.**

**What do you love about being involved in the youth team?**

I love being on team and serving young people is a lot of fun! The youth team itself is an amazing community within Trent, with so much help and support from everyone around you. It’s almost like another small group because it really does feel like home. There’s no pressure with how many Sundays or Tuesdays you commit to and with such a large team it’s never too difficult to find a swap. All in all, it’s just super chilled and fun to be involved!

**Tommy Tam  
Trent Youth team**



**What sort of thing do you get up to when you’re at Trent Youth?**

There’s always loads going on in Trent Youth, especially sport. There’s pool, table tennis, football (where I spend a lot of my time) and even a climbing wall! On Sundays we have teaching and worship and every Tuesday the young people get to be in a smaller group and deepen their friendship with each other. For me just being able to have fun and hang out with them is so life giving. I don’t think church was ever meant to be boring and so I really want to be able to show the young people that following Jesus and being fun aren’t mutually exclusive.

**Why do you think serving in Trent Youth is important?**

I wasn’t raised as a Christian, but now I know just how important it is to have Jesus in my life. I feel incredibly privileged to be able to lead a youth small group and see more and more young people come to know Jesus. I genuinely love leading the group of boys that I have and really want to be able to mentor and support them all the way through youth. As fun as it is serving on Trent Youth, it’s not without its share of sacrifices but it is so worth it! You just can’t put a price on seeing the next generation passionately worshipping Jesus and loving Him!





We're so thankful for the generosity of those who give to Trent Vineyard, providing the church with the resources to realise our vision, do things well, and demonstrate God's love in practical ways to those outside our church.

To find out more about giving  
at Trent Vineyard go to  
[trentv.org/give](https://trentv.org/give)

or fill out a card at the Connect area on a Sunday

# Giving

*"I've appreciated the way the church uses the Bible to explain the principle of generosity, which I've applied personally. I feel like I've been on the receiving side of our church's generosity in so many ways. It's simply a part of our culture here."* **Marie**

*"After meeting with one of our young people for a mentoring session, I asked him if he was going to be at the youth service on Sunday. He said he was and asked if we were still taking an offering for the India-based children's charity we're linked to. When I confirmed we were he said: 'Great! I've had some money saved for a while and have been wondering what would be a good thing to spend it on.'"* **Ben**

*"The challenge to live generously is one of the most exciting parts of my walk with Jesus. It's a real adventure to go out on a limb and then see what God will do. The teaching at Trent Vineyard continues to challenge us to live generously and recently it has made me reassess my stewardship of other treasures as well as money, in particular my time and my home."* **Lizzie**

*"When we first came to Trent we didn't have much and we knew just one couple. However, we picked up that generosity was a part of Trent's vision, so we decided to be generous with what we had. We've found that being generous with our money, time and energy has allowed us to feel part of the overall vision and helped us build relationships with people from all walks of life."* **Matt & Lizzy**





**We are a coffee shop serving quality coffee,  
cakes, snacks and light bites.  
A great place for a meeting or to catch up with friends.**

**We are open during the week and on Sundays.  
[trentv.org/whitebird](http://trentv.org/whitebird)**

**Watch and listen  
to our vision:  
[trentv.org/vision](http://trentv.org/vision)**

The background image for the right advertisement shows a man and a woman on a stage. The man, wearing a dark blue shirt and jeans, is holding a microphone and gesturing with his right hand. The woman, wearing a red sweater, is also holding a microphone and has her right arm raised in the air. They are both smiling and appear to be engaged in a presentation or a talk. The stage is lit with blue and green lights, and a podium is visible on the right side of the frame.

**All our talks are available:  
[trentv.org/talks](http://trentv.org/talks)**



Why not head over to the Connect area at one of our Sunday services? The team there would love to meet you and give you some information about how you can get more involved. Here are some of the areas they'll be able to tell you more about.

# Connect A-Z

For more information about any  
of the areas listed please email  
[connect@trentvineyard.org](mailto:connect@trentvineyard.org)

## Afterhours

After our Sunday evening services we encourage people to stick around to have a drink, enjoy a snack and meet some new people. The Afterhours team help to make sure there's a great atmosphere.

## Baptism

We hold several baptism services each year. The team ensures anyone considering baptism feels welcome and helps support candidates through the baptism process.

## Discipleship

For those who are new to relationship with Jesus or want to grow in their faith, we have a number of courses that run at various times over the year.

## DY+

For those aged 35+ who are interested in serving the church for a year as part of a community and growing closer to God.

## Life to the city

Teams go out to minister on the streets regularly offering to pray for people and share Jesus using a number of different tools like Healing on the Streets and Jesus at the Door.

## Newcomers' Meals

Enjoy a welcome meal and meet some of our leaders, including our senior pastors, John and Debby, and hear their personal story.

## Pastoral care

The pastoral care team support people in a range of ways and help signpost to other support groups outside of Trent Vineyard.



## Alpha

Alpha is a free course for people exploring life, faith and meaning. See page 7.

## Prayer

Everything we do as a church is underpinned by prayer. There are regular opportunities to pray with others, including our pre-Sunday service prayer meetings and morning prayer meetings each week.

## Relationships

### Marriage

We value marriage highly. To support and invest in marriages we organise a number of events and courses through the year.

### Pre-marriage course

This course for engaged couples provides teaching and practical tools to help people start their marriage on good foundations.

### Singles

We organise a number of groups and courses through the year to support and invest in single people.

## Small groups

Small groups are the best way to be in community as we grow in our relationship with God. See pages 10-11.

## Theology

Understanding the Bible is at the core of what we do as a church. If you're passionate about theology we have a number of options for you to explore.





### Sunday teams

These teams are one of the best ways to meet people and get stuck in.

**Refreshments** — Welcoming people with a hot drink, something tasty and a smile.

**Car parking** — Helping visitors safely find a space and pointing them in the right direction.

**Hosting** — It takes a large team to set up the auditorium for a Sunday service.

### Trent Compassion

See pages 16-17.

**The Arches** — Providing practical support and community groups for those in need across Nottingham. Provisions include: furniture, food, child and baby equipment.

**Overseas** — We meet regularly to pray for and support groups who have gone out from Trent Vineyard or other churches on missionary work. Areas with projects we currently support include India, Zimbabwe and Japan.

**Prisons** — The prisons team visit a number of Nottingham prisons and help with small groups and Sunday services.

**Soup Run** — On Friday evenings we go into the city centre to share food and hot drinks with the homeless.

**Trent Debt Advice** — We provide a free debt counselling and support service for anyone in need of financial advice.

**Trent Justice** — Connecting people who are interested in applying themes of justice from a biblical perspective. We offer resources and suggest practical areas people can get involved in, including supporting the work of Nottingham Citizens.

### Trent Gap Year

For those aged between 18–20. Through serving, teaching, studying and lots more, we want to help you be all that you can be, discover more of who God is and His plan for your life, as well as have lots of fun on the way.

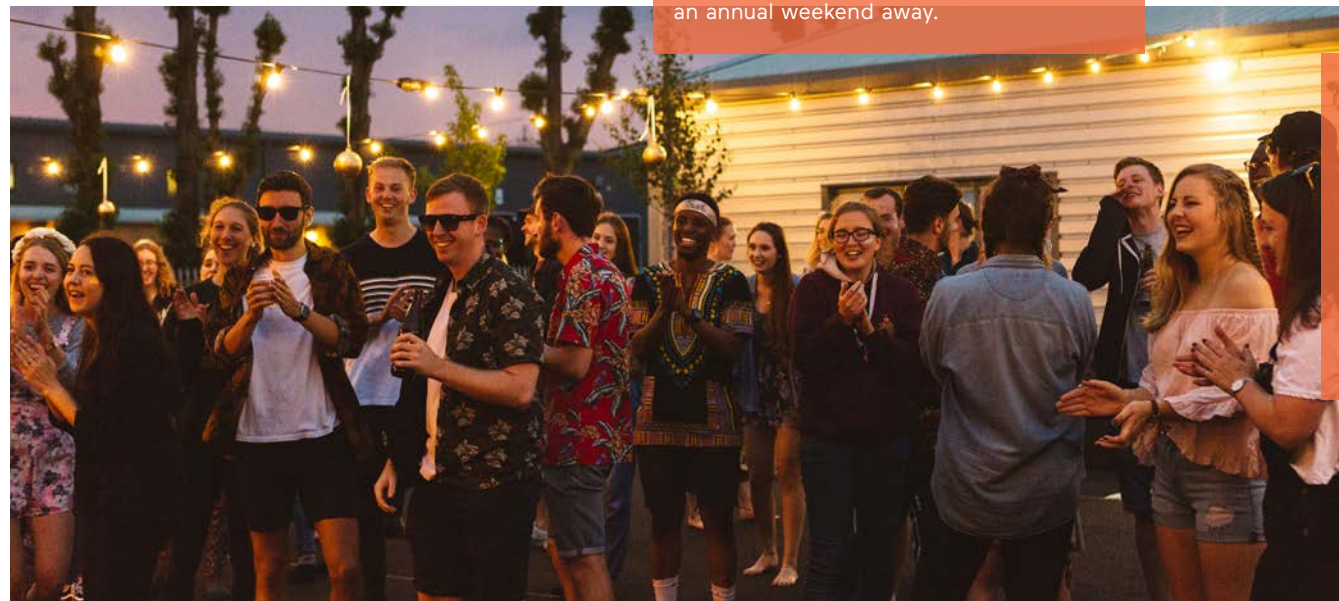
### Trent Kids

See pages 14-15.

**Sundays** — Hundreds of children come to worship, learn about Jesus and have fun.

**Bumps to babies** — Thursdays: for pregnant and new parents to support one another and share experiences.

**Infant dedications** — We have regular infant dedications at our Sunday morning services.



## Connect A-Z

### Worship

The worship network is a community of people involved, or interested in getting involved with worship.

**Microgroups** — Every other Tuesday evening we run small groups for school years 4–6.

**Baby & Toddler Haven** — Friday mornings: toddlers and their parents enjoy a haven of soft play, activities and games. With refreshments and opportunity for parents to chat too.

### Trent Students

We're passionate about students walking with Jesus, serving our community and having a lot of fun while we do it. We have student small groups, regular events and an annual weekend away.

### Trent Youth

Providing a place for young people to be known, hang out, have fun, chat about the Bible and worship together. Inspiring them to love God, love others and change the world! We usually meet on Sundays and Tuesdays, for those in school years 7–13. See pages 18-19.

### ZŌÉ

Join around twenty others in getting stuck into the life of the church by voluntarily serving two days a week. ZŌÉ is a year built in community, designed to equip you to grow as you serve, seek God, His life, and His calling.

### YA

A thriving community for 18–30 somethings. Join us for gatherings, worship nights and socials throughout the year. Our small groups and events are a great place to be known, encouraged and equipped.





**trentvineyard.org**

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