

JANUARY 2019



Dear friends

'These commandments are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children.' Deuteronomy 6: 6-7

FOR PRAISE...



Weekend away

10-12 Oct 2018, Letton Hall. Formative time in the book of Ezra. We mucked in and did our own childrens work and catering. It was a good time and our third weekend away. God's sovereignty, his interest in individuals, the facing of opposition, the joyous return. Please pray we are fit for another effort in two years' time and the gathering is special and great fun.

Christmas

We managed a useful outreach event on 16 December with activities run before the service. Isaiah 9 pointed us out of the darkness into the light. The event highlighted our need to try and find a bigger venue with flexible breakout spaces. We feel we are at capacity at the college Lower School Hall and nothing obvious presents itself. Again please pray.



Preaching

It was a sobering series in the book of Jude in the autumn arming us to notice and combat false teaching. We pray for faithfulness and evangelistic keenness when the pressure is on to keep quiet about the gospel and not rock the boat. This January we are into a systematic series on 'intergenerational discipleship' looking at the trinity, Deuteronomy 6 (instructing children), 1 John 3 (loving one another) and Mark 10 (ensuring those who come to faith in Christ have the home, siblings and family relationships they may have left behind).

Prayer

We have a steady but not large monthly prayer meeting. It is a great place to give out new news and urge the faithful to be praying for us as we aim to make and mature disciples of Christ for the glory

of God. People are praying about our future shape and size. God gives the increase. We are to labour in his harvest field and make the most of every opportunity (and organizational wisdom) to that end.

East Africa

We have nurtured a great link with Uganda and Kenya by sponsoring Cornhill students from those countries to visit us while they are in the UK. They visit three times a year and are hosted by different people at church over a weekend. Back in Uganda we contribute to their travel to the Living Word Uganda conference in January where their skills in bible-handling are put to good use leading small groups. Famous graduates of 'our link' are Daniel Odhiambo, Daniel Ledama, Peter Gikunju, Ken Irungu and Joseph Matovu. They keep in touch with prayer letters. Ben Bongamin currently placed with Phil Parker at Frimly Green.

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Evangelism

At the 9:38 apprentices conference this year (2-4 January), at which I helped lead a small group, we were taken through Jonah and shown that God is the great evangelist whose compassion for the lost is such that he will continue to use even reluctant and failing people to do his work, against the odds and with faithful preaching that does not flinch on warning about judgment. The fruit and the glory always goes to him. Please pray that we so love the lost that we are willing to sacrifice time and comfort for their sakes. I am praying about starting up a door-knocking ministry again and would love a partner or two to train up and make inroads.

Discipleship

Not to be separated from evangelism to any great degree; we want to keep maturity at the top of the agenda for the church family. We are determined to offer training, especially for parents to be teaching their children at home and for the family of God to function across nuclear family boundaries more.

Training of leaders

We have a thrice yearly homegroup leaders training slot. We will look at Orlando Saer's Big God together on 27 January. Elders have a morning away on 24 January to think about vision and planning our discipleship program so things are more jointed across men and women's work and between the 'make disciples' and 'mature disciples' elements of our vision.

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