

JAMES HAWKSWORTH

King's Lynn CENTRE OF MISSION

September 2019



Dear friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you have all had a great summer.

Family We have had a great summer; visiting family in Scotland and yes, it rained every day! We also Celebrated birthdays and enjoyed a time of rest and togetherness.

We're now getting ready for the autumnal leaves, hot chocolates and cosy blankets, can't wait!!!

Sam has had a very productive summer. He did really well in his GCSE's and came out with very high grades. We are all very grateful and thankful for his enthusiasm and motivation when it comes to his education. He also has a new job working with students marking their work. This is a real gift as he does this with his girlfriend and a few of his friends.

And now he's back at school in year 12 doing A levels. Sam seems to be thriving now in King's Lynn. Very different from when we first arrived! (Thank you so much for your prayers for him)

Becky is still one of the Anti-bullying ambassadors for her school and is now taking on two year groups, year 7 & 8's, in her lunch club; she is also looking for other volunteers to help her run it. Friendships have also taken a turn for the better.

I know I keep saying this but we are both so very proud of them. The way they have grown through difficult times, pushed through adversity and used their uncomfortable situations to benefit those around them is exactly what it means to shine for Christ in the community we find ourselves in.

Laura is doing well too, though at present she is ill in bed and has been for 2 days. I can't work out if she's ill so I do the house work or not!!!

She has been on a clergy spouse retreat recently and came back feeling very refreshed and inspired. She has started to see some of the ways in which we can barre God from parts of our lives through our own self-worth and together we are exploring how we might journey together to unpick some of those insecurities to deepen our walk with God. Very inspiring stuff!!!

Springwood High School My work in Springwood High School is growing well.

The staff have now given me permission to start seeking volunteers to come and help me do more one to one work. Although this is early days it is great to see that they value my role within the school enough for it to develop.

I have also started seeing the new year 7 students that have found it hard to settle into such a big school. Some of the primary schools around here only have 100-150 students within them so moving to a secondary school of 2000 is a massive change!

The lunch club is gaining momentum too, there are 35+ students on my register and recently they decided that our lunch club needed a name. They've simply called it "Games Club" as we play card and board games and chat about life whilst doing so.

Last week as a very timid year 7 girl popped her head through the door to see if she could join the group and these regulars invited her in and offered to play games with her to help her feel comfortable; I was very proud of them. This group is full of wonderful characters! It is such a blessing to be a part of these young lives. In some ways I feel like I'm observing an organism as it grows despite me being there. So fantastic!



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The other development with this lunch club is that two girls have asked if they can run the same club on another day in the week by themselves. This has been received well from the year manager and so we are looking to get this set up as soon as we can.

YMCA My work with the YMCA is going well, they have been kind enough to allow me freedom to bring young people from the school and use their facilities to enhance the work I am already doing with them in the school. They openly encourage networking across the area and aim to be a resource in the area for many different groups and charities.

New Wine Was a fantastic experience for our small group. This was a time of bonding and sharing deeper thoughts and experiences of life and faith.

We had one sunny day whilst there. It rained all – the – time!!!

This didn't disrupt us too much though, it meant that we were stuck in doors more often than not but we did manage to stay dry.



I think all of us were challenged to think deeper about who God is and who we are in relation to Christ.

Emerging Youth Group Over the summer months I have had a chance to reflect on the work I do and the involvement I have in the different communities, and I have come to realise how important the North Lynn estate is to me and how close to my heart it is. Because of this I have met with various leaders and members of the community that are respected on all levels and threw around some ideas to develop something that meets real social needs in the area.

The Methodist Church on North Lynn is a very key place in the area and already serves the community in a very wonderful way.

We talked about how I might add to this already great work in the community and so suggestions were made that there needs to be something developed for families with young children and also for teens.

We are working on developing a youth club for the teens which will hopefully be up and running just after Christmas all being well and a cinema night once a month for families which we will start once the youth club is running.

Again, this is early days but these ideas received a great welcome and we have been offered the use of a building for free and also a small team of volunteers are starting to emerge.

The other great news in regards to this is that another local church has offered us financial support for equipment to begin this work. Thank you so much!!!



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Thank you again for your prayers, financial giving and volunteering your time to this Centre of Mission. I am so grateful to each and every one of you. I would also love to hear from you, so that I can pray and support you where possible.

God Bless you all

Prayers

Please pray for...

1. Laura, Sam, Becky and me as a family, that we will live out our faith with passion and enthusiasm. For wisdom to make the right choices for our personal life as well as for our ministry.
2. The YMCA as they tackle some of the most difficult situations that come from an estate such as North Lynn. Also, for the relationship between the YMCA and the Centre of Mission.
3. The North Lynn Estate and the development of the youth group, that it will be more than a youth club; that it will become a flourishing community.
4. Give thanks for the work in Springwood High School and that the work here will continue to flourish and grow.
5. Our volunteers that they will continue to grow; in their relationship with God, in their knowledge of this work and also that we grow closer as a team.
6. For the young people involved in the lunch club and particularly for the girls that want to set up their own lunch club to create a safe space for their peers.
7. For volunteers to help do one to one pastoral care in school.

Financial Support

Thank you

Thank you, for the support you give to us through prayer, financial giving and your wisdom when I feel the need to bounce thoughts and ideas around. God Bless you.

If you would like to financially support the work I am involved in please complete and return the form below or visit churcharmy.org/donate

Or if you prefer, you can set up a Standing Order directly using the details below:

Acc. 80255491 Sort Code. 20-49-81 **Reference No. 1171 / 2005JHA** Please use this reference number so that your contribution is directed to the King's Lynn Centre of Mission

We don't take your support for granted, so thank you so much for standing with us. I want to pray for you so please let ME know how I can, by emailing james.hawksworth@dioceseofnorwich.org

Thank you!



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James, Laura & Family

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