

**KINDER KALSI-Lead Evangelist**  
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**ATTERCLIFFE & DARNALL CENTRE OF MISSION**

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**Our Prayer for 2022**  
To be able to Grow in number our Christian community  
to create deeper connections with people and  
transform Attercliffe and Darnall  
Bible verse Isaiah 61 1-4

**Feb 2022**

It's newsletter time again - and it is lovely to tell you about some of the things that have been happening here. And in sharing all of this, we want to thank you for your support - we appreciate the prayerful and practical support that many of you give us.

**Praying** - we have continued our rhythm of prayer, and as lockdown restrictions have lifted, and activities have increased, we wanted to root all we do in prayer. So we set up a 12hour prayer day, during Prayer for Christian Unity week, and invited other churches and Christians from Darnall and across Sheffield, to join us in praying for Attercliffe and Darnall. It was a wonderful space to pray for the community and listen for what God might be prompting. There were some really helpful insights, especially around seeds being planted and nourished, and rivers - seen and unseen - bringing refreshment and life.



We continue to gather once a month around a fire, for a short service, including reflecting on a bible reading. At the moment, we are focussing on the "I am" sayings of Jesus. Attendance at the fire service has been lower than usual, with people being unwell or unable to attend, but they have still been a blessing to those of us who are able to make it.

**Our Community Outreach**

The focus of all we do, is being with people in the community and responding to where we see God there. We continue to deliver **bread and cake** from a local bakery, to people in the area, and this continues to bless us so much, with wonderful conversations and deepening relationships with people - especially now we can meet inside. And to be an activity that enables us to make a very visible difference in the area, and meet people who are out and about.



During the summer, we organised play mornings for families, and talking to the families who came, it was clear that there was little provision for toddlers in the area. So in January, we opened up **Toddler Fun Time**, for toddlers and their carers. It has started small, just 4/5 families, and they have all said how much they value it. We have toys and books, and then end with a snack, a bible story and singing. We run it alongside a coffee morning, and the folk who come to the coffee morning seem to enjoy seeing the youngsters having fun. And it has shown us how much this community know each other - lots of people recognising each other and having a good chat. We will run the Fun Times throughout the holidays, so that families have somewhere to go during the school holidays.



**Creative Space continues** - we meet twice a month, and chat and create together. It is a lovely space, and often it is quite late before we are finishing up - we enjoy the space so much! As part of the creative space, we organised some lantern making days - both after school and in the evening. Only a few families came to the after school opportunities - but the few who came really enjoyed the space and time to be creative together. It was so lovely to sit with children and encourage their creativity. In the evenings, we



had lots of people join us, and again, it was a joy to see creativity and community. The lanterns were then part of the Darnall Lantern Festival, where we walked with our lanterns through the main road in Darnall. One of the children who had joined us for lantern making, came straight to Gina and held her hand the whole parade, and

announced at the end “I love you” - which made our hearts melt! And he gave her his tiny lantern as a gift to say thank you - what a wonderful blessing. We are hoping to offer similar activities at different festivals in the year. We have also been given a grant to purchase materials, and offer workshops, as part of Creative Space, which means that we can start offering adults the opportunity to explore different arts and crafts.

During Advent, we started a community meal every Sunday afternoon, and it proved popular and so we have continued this into the new year. We gather together, give thanks, prepare food, lay the table and eat together. We have had people join us who we both know, and people who came in to see what we are doing. It is still early days, and the number of people joining us fluctuates by week, so we are having to be creative in the food we plan, so we can scale it up or down dependent on who is there. It has been lovely to see people getting to know one another, and different ages together. And it isn't just people who come along - we have a dog who is a regular, and a puppy came to visit too.



Galeed House - a Christian place of meeting for all people - run a youth group, and we help out there when needed. This has meant that we have got to know lots of the local young people, and often bump into them when we are prayer walking. At Christmas, it was great to talk to them about how they celebrate Christmas, if they do, what songs they sing and to talk about the meaning and importance of Christmas. And it was a joy and blessing to pray for the girls group and then have one of the girls to pray for everyone in Roma.



We organised it at the same time as a coffee morning that a few of the local church folk organise. This was really a test to see if it was something that would work. Each week, we got more families coming along and they were all really encouraging and said that there isn't anything in the area. An unexpected bonus, was the interaction with the older folk at the coffee morning, and the delight some of them found in seeing children playing, and even joining in with the singing! We are now looking to establish a toddler group with a similar format.



## Partnership Outreach

Gina is a trustee at **Darnall Wellbeing**, and Kinder is a Community Hub Leader for the Oasis academy. These allow us to use our experience and knowledge from previous roles and jobs, and help us to learn more about the community in Darnall and Attercliffe.



We continue to help at the **Community allotment on Fridays**. It is such a wonderful space - there are the sounds of chickens, views over the whole city, expanses of sky, the slow growing of things, and the opportunity to marvel at God's wonderful creation. It is a place of soul food.

On a Sunday morning, we gather with a wonderful community of volunteers, to help at the local junior **park run**. It has often been chilly and a bit wet, but the enthusiasm of the young people and the friendliness of the volunteers and families, always make it

worthwhile!

Kinder is involved with a local network of **businesses**, who are part of a wider group, who have successfully applied for 17 million pounds from the levelling up fund, to develop and improve Attercliffe. Kinder is able to speak as a local resident and Christian, to inform the priorities for the funding.



**David** - an ordinand - continues to support us, and helps deliver bread and cake, and the community meal. He has been a real blessing and support, and we will miss him when he is ordained this summer and moves to his curacy - please pray for him and his wife, Helen who is training with Church Army.



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**Another ordinand - Steve** - has joined us on a short placement from December. He and Kinder have been visiting local businesses, offering them blessing cards and prayer, as well as asking about the area and how they find it, and collecting good news (see Christmas). Both Steve and Kinder have found this really fruitful - even if it is a bit of a challenge at first - and have had some great conversations. And raised some interesting reflections - when they went into the betting shop and sex shop - what sort of blessing are we offering and how do we see beyond the shop to the individuals within - both led to great conversations.



## Christmas



As we did last year, we hid **600 knitted angels** in the area - this year, focussing on the area around the church. (Thank you to everyone who knitted us angels - we couldn't do it without you). This year, we heard so many lovely stories about how they angels blessed people:

One lady, who had lost her daughter, found an angel and took it home to put with her daughters picture - it gave her great comfort. And another lady found one after a recent bereavement, and it led to her asking questions about faith, and have a strong sense of God's love. And on social media, a lady found an angel on the way to get the vaccine and it cheered her up.

We put stars in the woods and local park this year, with questions for people to



ponder. Unlike last year, the stars in the woods seemed to disappear quite quickly - not sure whether they were taken, or fell down. But we still heard of people enjoying finding them and pondering the questions.

**Good News!** - we thought it would be good to encourage people to think about what is good, so we started gathering good news, and putting it on stars on the fence at the church. We asked community groups, schools, social media and local businesses. We then invited people to come and hear about the good news of Christmas.



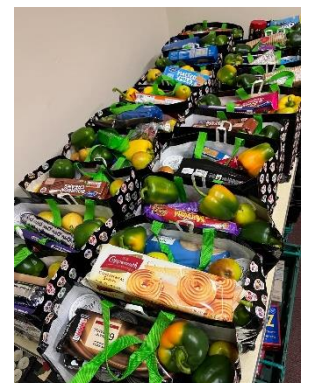
On the Sunday before Christmas, we had a Christmas meal as the community meal. We were blessed by a donation from the lovely person, Stuart, who drops the bread and cake to us, and so were able to have a lovely Christmas meal with crackers and little gifts for everyone. Along with the donation, we were given some food and toys, from local community groups, and so we were able to bless lots of local families with food and gifts, in Christmas week. Kinder said he felt like Santa, dropping off little surprises and gifts, and on Christmas Eve, was invited into family celebrations of some of the Roma families we know.



We were so excited to be able to **organise Beer and Carols** in the local bar this year. And, despite concerns with Covid, and various people having to drop out due to testing positive, we managed to have a wonderful evening. About 30 of us, made a joyful noise, singing carols and watching Bethlehem Rhapsody, that tells the Christmas story with puppets! We had lots of positive feedback, and lots of enthusiasm to do it again next year - including the owner of the bar, offering to provide a buffet for next year.



On Christmas Day, we put on an **afternoon tea**, for anyone who wanted to get out of the house. We had a few people join us, including a lovely family from Iraq. The children had fun playing, while the adults chatted. We had plenty of food, and so were able to deliver some to the local homeless project, and offer it to lots of others. In so many ways, Christmas was a time of abundance, where we were able to bless different groups and individuals, while being blessed ourselves - a glimpse of God's Kingdom on earth.

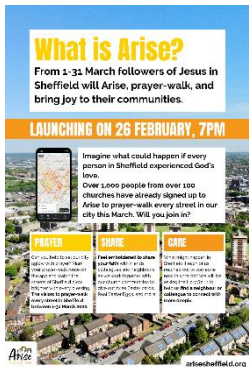


## We Give Thanks For

- The new activities - the Toddler Fun Time and Community Meal
- The funding and support we receive from organisations and individuals
- Christmas and the opportunity to share God's abundance with others

## Looking ahead

Breathe Deep is a day for young people across Sheffield to come together, to worship, learn and have fun. We are part of the planning team and are excited that finally, the day can go ahead, after the last 2 years of uncertainty and cancellations. So on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, hundreds of young people will gather at Sheffield Cathedral. We are hoping to be able to take a few young people from Darnall - please pray that this is possible. And that the day is a blessing to all the young people who come along.



As we approach Easter, we already planning a pancake party for the people we connect with. We will join in with Arise Sheffield again this year - where the aim is to prayer walk every street in Sheffield - we will be joining with local Christians to cover the whole of Darnall & Attercliffe. The joy of being in the local parks and streets last Easter morning, and offering activity packs for children, has convinced us to do the same again this year - so we will be putting together packs and offering them in the local parks.

## Resourcing Church Army

We do this by issuing a prayer letter 3 times a year and doing fundraisers when we can, mostly around Bhangra dancing and food and did our first one in 18 months. We are grateful to the people who supported this, and to our regular givers who continue to support our ministry - thank you.



## Please pray for...

- With all the plans and activities, we would love to have others join us, to develop community here. Please pray for people who could join our core group, who have a heart for the people in the area.
- Vision and wisdom in how we develop the activities - especially the Creative Space, Toddler Fun Time and Community Meal. How we might invite more people to join us, and how we enable all that are involved to participate fully in the life of the community.
- For the businesses and community groups in the area - that they can be part of strengthening and developing healthy community in Darnall & Attercliffe.

## Financial Support

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and financial support. Each year we commit to raising £5,000 for Church Army, so your support really does make a difference.

If you don't currently financially support the work we are involved in, but would like to, please visit

[churcharmy.org/donate](http://churcharmy.org/donate)

Or directly to... Acc. 80255491 Sort Code. 20-49-81 **Reference No. 1182 2006KKA**

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We don't take your support for granted, so thank you so much for standing with us. We want to pray for you so please let us know how we can, by emailing [Gina.kalsi@churcharmy.org](mailto:Gina.kalsi@churcharmy.org) or [kinder.kalsi@churcharmy.org](mailto:kinder.kalsi@churcharmy.org)

Thank you Kinder & Gina



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