



WREXHAM CENTRE OF MISSION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

Wrexham Centre of Mission is a partnership between the Diocese of St. Asaph, the Wrexham Parochial Education Foundation and Church Army. Wrexham Centre of Mission is based on the Caia Park Estate, an area with issues around child poverty, low social mobility and drugs.

The work of the Wrexham Centre of Mission includes working with young people through the Tin Can Youth Centre and leading Tin Can Youth Church, working in the local schools, a number of football projects to reach out to men and organising hot meals during school holidays for families and individuals struggling.

The last few months have been a really encouraging time for the Centre of Mission. We've started a couple of new initiatives, restarted our Youth Church Service and seen steady growth and attendance in everything we've been doing.

Exercise Group

This season has been very exciting for the Tin Can Exercise Group, we've seen some growth as the group has started to become a little more established. We've had young people come running with us who have had no involvement in Tin Can previously and have come to Youth Church and agreed to come on camp with us this summer. Jacks hope is that this will continue to grow, and both help people become more active as well as allowing us to share our faith with young people we wouldn't normally encounter.



Hafod Y Wern Gardening Mentoring

After the Easter break we returned to Hafod Y Wern Primary School again this year to continue the gardening and mentoring program. It's been great to watch the 6 young people we work with slowly coming out of their shell, as we try to guide them through growing their own vegetables. We are hopeful and expectant that this project and our good relationship with the school will flourish during the rest of the year.



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THE WREXHAM (PAROCHIAL) EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Registered charity number 525414



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Messy Church

To continue the partnership with St Mark’s Church we have ran 2 Messy Church Sessions in February Half Term and during the Easter Holidays. We looked at the story of David & Goliath in February and then the Easter Story at the Easter event. These sessions were the usual Messy Church mix of games, songs, story, food and plenty of crafts. It was so good to see the church full of children all engaging in every different part of the sessions. The two story times we did went down really well with the children listening well but also being willing to engage and get involved. It was great to see church in action so obviously and a testament to the amazing work St Mark’s is doing in the community of Caia Park.

Bridge the Gap

Bridge the Gap continues to be such an encouraging project. We’ve recently extended the Wednesday session for another 45 minutes and have upped the capacity to 40. This means we have much longer to play football but also be more relaxed and chat to the lads. We’re also operating on a five teams system so there’s always one team not playing. The whole idea of this is that it gives us some social time to get to know the young men a lot more.

Outside of the Wednesday nights we’ve also hosted a Champions League social and have had a couple of 11 a side games against BTG Liverpool and Wrexham Police. These have given us a lot more space for relationships to deepen and the team are finding lads opening up more and more. We’re also seeing BTG as a community thrive with lads looking out for each other on a Wednesday night, relationships deepening and we’ve recently spoken to the lads before KO on a Wednesday about the topics of mental health and our roles as men to stop the abuse of women, both of which were well received and provided good topics of conversation.



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Chief Executive Ven Dr Peter Rouch

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Tin Can

The Tin Can afterschool drop in sessions have been really encouraging over the last few months. We've seen a community of year 7-9s come in and really make it their home. Both Josh, Jack & the team of volunteers we have are getting on really well with this group and we're excited to build on the relationships we have with these young people. We've invited them to camp this summer and are hopeful we'll get a number of them coming along.

Our 16+ group is also going really well. The relationships we have there are much deeper as we've been journeying with these young people for a few years now. We'd really value prayer for this group as some of the issues they're dealing with in their personal lives are really tough. A few of these young people have stepped up as young leaders in the drop in and are doing really well.

Youth Church continues to grow. It's been so encouraging to see young people from unchurched backgrounds returning each month to hear the gospel, engage in worship and come and chat about faith with us. We've had a good uptake for camp this year from this community with 12 young people already signed up and looking forward to coming along.

Last month Jack and Josh started the Questions Sessions to run in conjunction with the Youth Church in Tin Can. These were set up as a non-judgemental space for young people to come and ask any questions they feel like they need to ask about the Christian faith. We found the first session very encouraging and will use future sessions to start answering the multitude of questions asked in better detail. We're hoping these sessions will allow young people to better explore their faith journey, feel in a safe space where they can ask questions they wouldn't normally ask and have some fun along the way.

College Café

Jack has really enjoyed working in partnership with Hope Street Church to help College Café to continue in serving the young people in Coleg Cambria by making sure they have a safe space to come and eat their lunch, socialise and overall just be themselves. College Café has seen a bit of change in recent weeks, with starting to share the space it occupies with the Tabernacl Café, however we are sure it will continue to serve the College in a meaningful way.

Hot Meals

We continued to run our hot meals project throughout February Half Term and the Easter Holidays. This remains a much needed service as during Easter we had the most meals we've ever had requested. It's great to keep providing practical support in this way but is such a shame that it is needed. The increase in number of hot meals just shows how hard things are for people at the moment and sadly we don't see that changing any time soon. Please pray for this project and for wisdom as we try to keep expanding it and supporting people practically but also for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ to them.



Lads Hiking Group

Early this year Josh and Jack started an initiative where we take a bunch of young men hiking. The idea behind this is to get to get them out into the hills, build bonds and relationships with them in a more open and friendly environment. We hope we can use this as a stepping stone to help them explore faith and use this time to grow into the being the amazing men we know they are capable of being. Since starting we have tackled Meol Famau and Hope Mountain. In the next planned walk, we'll be going for a nice 9-mile loop onto Liberty Hall Hill by Corwen.



Wrexham FC Chaplaincy

This season has been the most encouraging for Josh in his role of Chaplain at Wrexham FC. Not only has Josh's reach gone beyond the first team but he's managed to deepen relationships with members of staff, players & coaches due to the open door the club have offered this year. Recently Josh was invited to speak to the youth team before one of their training sessions about chaplaincy and make the support available to them.

One particularly encouraging thing from this year has been that a number of members of staff have been referred to Josh from the club. This is great because it clearly shows the trust the club now have in Josh but also the value they place on having a chaplain and using that resource to benefit all who work for and are involved in the club.



Tin Can Weekend Away

In February we took 10 young people away to Quinta in Oswestry for our first Tin Can Weekend Away. We had loads of time for fun on the weekend including a day trip to Llangollen as well as making the most of the on site facilities like the swimming pool. Like with camp in the summer it is so great to see young people come out of their shell once they're taken out of their normal environment.

We had a number of sessions together that included worship and one of Josh's friends came along (also called Josh!) who works as a youth pastor in Liverpool to speak to the young people. He did a number of sessions using stories from the gospels (unforgiving servant, wise & foolish builders, narrow door & prodigal son) and really accessibly opened up the love God has for these young people.

As ever with trips away there was lots of time for conversations and questions about faith which was truly amazing. These were the highlight for us as it was such an answer to prayer to see these young people engaging with faith.





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Regular giving is the best way to support our work as it helps us to budget, meaning we can focus more on the frontline work. However, every gift makes a difference.

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Thank you so much for your support - every donation makes a difference no matter the size.



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HM The Queen

President

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