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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

August 2022

It has been a full and varied few months in Attercliffe and Darnall, and so we are slightly later than usual in sending out our latest newsletter. It is always a joy to look back and reflect on the past few months, to notice where we see God at work, and to give thanks for the people we meet. We also give thanks for all of you - the people who bless us with support in many ways. We recently had Covid for the first time - and the enforced stopping has also led us to reflect on all that has been happening.



Ongoing activity

We have an established pattern to our weeks now.

Let's Talk on a Monday evening - still via zoom - is a space to talk about Christian faith and how we live it out. And on Monday and Tuesday evenings we prayer walk around the area - which has led to some wonderful conversations and opportunities to meet local people.

Wednesday evening is set aside to deliver bread and cake to people in the community. This is such a joy and privilege. We are getting to know people, and our conversations have deepened and developed in many friendships. We have opportunity to pray with those who ask, to listen and have had the privilege of sharing significant life moments with people.



Toddler fun time continues to be a small group of families, who come to play and sing and share storytime. We have a wonderful volunteer who has joined us, and alongside one of the mums, they have run the group when we haven't been there. It is one of our favourite times of the week, and Gina loves leaping around singing songs - even when she's the only one doing the actions! We continue to help at the Darnall Allotment Project every Friday - there is something so life-giving, being amidst God's creation, in the middle of the city,

digging the earth, and watching things grow.

Our Sunday community meal has become quite an established community of people, from across the area. We have started using "Table Talk" questions

to discuss while we share food and these have led to some interesting conversations. We were blessed when a Kurdish lady who is part of the community bought along some stuffed vine leaves, to share in a Kurdish celebration and the family came dressed in their national dress. Others have bought along salad and cakes that they have made - all contributing to the community sharing of food. As the apples and plums are ripe in the garden, this past Sunday included the young people picking fruit, while the older people supervised and sorted it out - it felt like a glimpse of a rural scene - all ages together, gathering the bountiful provision from God's earth.



And after the meals, at special times, we have held short services - at Easter, Pentecost and planned for harvest. People can choose to stay and join in, and different people have joined in with these simple spaces for prayer and discussion. At the Pentecost celebration, we sang songs that each person remembered - and so learnt different songs from each other. We plan to continue these, and maybe develop into more regular times.

The fire gathering has continued looking at the I Am sayings of Jesus. There seems to be a small group of about 8 people, who are regular attenders, alongside others who join when they can. We have some

interesting (and sometimes challenging) discussions around the theme. And then enjoy sitting around the fire chatting and eating and drinking together

Creative Space - As we try to encourage more people to join us at the Creative Space, we are trying some workshops. We have decided to use a theme - Peace - and invite people to create a square reflecting what peace means for them. So far, we have had lots of interest, but not many people have come along to the workshops. We are hoping that in the autumn, we will have a display of the peace squares. If you live in Sheffield, get in touch, if you would like to create a square for the exhibition, or would like to come along to a workshop - and we can send you the details.



Easter & Lent

We began Lent with a pancake party and celebration of us being here for 2 years (we can't believe it's been that long already!). It was a lovely community celebration with a real mix of people, coming together, eating pancakes and having fun. It was a wonderful way to celebrate all that God has been doing through the Centre of Mission, and wonderful to see people gathering together and meeting one another. We offered space for prayer - with prayers for Ukraine, and a prayer tree - alongside games and activities.



On Ash Wednesday, we offered the people we delivered to, the option of being ashed. And one lady asked to be ashed - there was something really special, when she and Kinder signed the cross on each other in ash.

With Arise Sheffield, we once again, prayer walked the area, updating the roads we had walked on the interactive map. It was good to walk and pray around the whole area, and notice the places that we don't often get to.



Gina got to do her first school assembly since we got here. She went to share the Easter story with KS1 children in Oasis Academy. At the end, they were invited to ask questions - there were lots of very insightful and interesting questions. The favourite one - "How does the Easter bunny keep the eggs in the basket when they hop?"!



On Good Friday, as part of the Arise Sheffield prayer, we walked with other local Christians from Attercliffe to the City Centre, where we met other Christians who had walked in from different parts of the city. We had a short service around the cross in the city centre, and handed out crosses to passers by.

For Palm Sunday, Kinder handed out palm crosses to the people who wanted them, when he delivered bread and cake. And we left some on the fence at the church building - where we surprised that most were taken.



On Easter Sunday, Kinder did his usual sunrise service on the hill behind our house - live-streaming it. Then we celebrated with a church service in the St Albans building. Our community meal had an Easter theme - with Simmel cake, and Easter egg hunt. And after the meal, we had a short service for people who wanted to stay, and we shared bread and wine together and remembered the story of the first Easter morning.

Through Arise Sheffield, we had Easter eggs to hand out, and so we gave these to the people we meet - and to people who come to our activities. Kinder and David went around local businesses, giving out eggs, offering prayer and asking what they thought of the area. This was a scary experience - not knowing what the reception would be, but in many places, the conversations were positive and welcoming - after all, who doesn't want a chocolate egg!?



Street Party

Around the jubilee bank holidays, we organised a get-together in our local streets near where we live. We were not sure who would join in (or whether we would be on our own!). We took some games, food and bubbles into the small play area, and waited to see who would come. At first, we had a couple of ladies, and lots of children! But gradually, lots more families came out and joined in. We shared food, had lovely chats and the children all played together. It was a wonderful afternoon, seeing people of different faiths

and nationalities all together in one space. We are hoping to do something similar in August during the school holidays and then maybe something near Christmas.

The Kettle's On

When we first moved into the area, we sensed God drawing us to the Greenland Estate and the community room there. For a while, we have been trying to organise opening it up, and offering a meeting/prayer space for people. It has taken a long time - due to covid and lockdowns - but eventually, we have keys, and every Thursday afternoon, we open up the community room and put the kettle on. It has started very quietly - some people from the TARA have popped in, to see us. Most weeks, there are only 3 of us, but we are trusting that God called us here for a reason. We will be patient and keep praying and trying to sense why this place is important.



Partnership Outreach



We continue to work with partners across the area, including litter picking and environmental groups and the business network. Alongside Darnall Wellbeing and Oasis Academy, Kinder put on a bhangra activity, teaching dancing. We had the joy of visiting Philimore school during SATS and helping out at their breakfast club - and we were blown away by the wonderful staff and children - all so polite and confident. And on Roma International Day, we joined with other organisations in the area, with a craft activity around peace, to celebrate.

We are blessed by being part of the network of churches in the area, and meet regularly with the leaders for prayer and to share news. On Pentecost Sunday, we had a joint act of worship. We continue to seek ways that we can work together, to bless the area of Darnall and Attercliffe.

Breathe Deep

After a couple of years, of not being able to gather, finally Breathe Deep was back. A diocesan event for young people - Breathe Deep is an opportunity to gather young people from across the diocese together, to worship, learn and have fun together. We have been part of the planning team for a while and it was a delight to be able to be part of the event for 2022. This year it was held at Sheffield Cathedral, which was a brilliant place to gather. Taize being sung by over 100 young people was quite something - a real goosebump moment. And seeing the nave filled with bouncy castles and circus skills was fantastic. It was a brilliant day, and such a joy to be around the energy and enthusiasm of hundreds of young people.

Stories

For the first couple of years here, much of what we were doing, was putting stuff out and inviting people to engage with things - without us knowing whether they were helpful. But in the past couple of months, we have had conversations with people that have been really encouraging. A neighbour of the church, stopped to talk, and as he chatted, he mentioned the pavement chalks and the positive messages. He hadn't realised it was us - and when he discovered it was - he said that they had lots of people talking and it had really been a positive thing for the area. A muslim lady, was chatting to us, and started describing the butterflies that we put out around the area, with hope stencilled on them. She described how her mum had found one - at a time when things were difficult and she had put it up in her house, as a promise of hope. When we told her it was us, she was so pleased, and told us that it is still up in her home - as a reminder of hope. And we continue to hear of people who found the knitted angels at Christmas, and found comfort in them.



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We Give Thanks For

- The developing community - with the meal and short services
- The funding and support we receive from organisations and individuals
- The opportunity to work with others in the area

Looking ahead

We are trying to work out how we can engage with families after school - and how we could resource this. And we are continuing to seek wisdom on what we might do in the Greenland Estate community room. We are hoping to encourage others to engage in the peace project with Creative Space and to have enough art, to have an exhibition locally in the autumn.

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 Community Room space - and for people to come along and meet us.
- The development of spaces and times for prayer and worship - including after the community meal

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

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

Please use this reference number so that your contribution is directed to our work

To donate £5, text KINDER to 70970 To donate £10, text KINDER to 70191

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 or kinder.kalsi@churcharmy.org



Thank you Kinder & Gina



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