

Langley Centre of Mission

April 2023

What's been happening

Since our last newsletter, our Centre of Mission community here in Langley continues to grow. 😊

The Stay and Play group unexpectedly has really taken off. The community have commented that this group was well needed as there are no other baby or toddler groups in Langley. (Social media have had a huge impact to the growth of this group) At Stay and Play we are able to start to share faith in a gentle way and some of the mums have started their own faith journeys to discover who Jesus is. This group have been really drawn to Sim's wife Paige so are regular visitors to their house, as well as joining them for visits to the local park with the children. We felt a prompt from the Lord to invite the ladies to a meal after one of the S&P sessions, to our amazement most of the group accepted the invite so we turned the local pub into a Crèche for a couple of hours, which the Landlord/Restaurant owner seemed amused at, saying to us that she will have to buy more highchairs for the children.

Shout out to Aunty...

Vicky is a lady that moved to England from Cameroon around 12 months ago and is having a huge impact on Langley Centre of Mission. Vicky volunteers as one of our Stay & Play leaders as well as helping out at the Living Well women's group and she is an amazing woman of prayer.

The Living Well group continues to thrive and the woman's group that Paige runs has now gained 4 of the mothers from S&P.



Schools

Moat Farm Infants School has continued to welcome us for both full and class assemblies. These have included one on love for Valentine's Day where we thought about different ways of expressing love and how God expresses his love for us. This led nicely into the Easter assembly, which was well received and Val was asked to go back and do a simplified version for the 120 children in reception. This was their first ever assembly in the hall and they coped real well with a new situation.

The link with Q3 is developing slowly. Unfortunately the Holy Week activities had to be postponed due to the school's commitments, but the good news is they are currently looking to set up a chaplaincy team and we are awaiting news on when this is likely to start.

Langley Library

The link with Langley library continues to be a blessing; we have even started using their community room for some of our business meetings and have been made very welcome.

Our two regular Wednesday sessions, CAMEO and Oak Green Lodge, are continuing. Some of the regulars at CAMEO have had quite serious health issues which has meant they couldn't always come. However, we have used the opportunity to talk about healing and prayer and it has been great that some people have taken up the offer of being prayed for.

In January, after celebrating Epiphany, Val started to teach the group from Oak Green Lodge how to sew. They produced some gifts for Mothering Sunday and we have enjoyed some good discussions about a range of issues whilst sewing. We then moved onto Easter crafts and Val was able to share the real meaning of Easter.

Val's holiday craft sessions continue and it is really good that some of the links made through the schools and chatting at the school gates are feeding into these. It is great to have the opportunity to get to know the families better.



Pool and Prayer

Pool and Prayer is a much needed group for Langley as it really reaches people that find it hard to fit into traditional style Church, the group is for some their only connection to Jesus. The group is made up of men that have at times in their past been involved in gangs, drugs and violence. P&P has slowed down due to some of the men gaining employment and various other reasons that I won't go into, but we do intend on restarting as soon as numbers pick up as I sense this group is something God is using to reach people and deepen their relationship with Him.

Coveberry

We are continuing to look at how we live out our faith, we used Epiphany to explore who we think Jesus is. This was consolidated at Candlemas when we explored how Simeon and Anna recognised something special about Jesus and asked the question would people recognise Jesus in us. In March we thought about Jesus in the wilderness and how we too can be tempted by outside influences. We then used stones to help us to focus our prayers. We celebrated Easter by looking at the story of Holy Week and Jesus' sacrifice for us and of course having Easter Eggs.

The two residents who asked to be baptised are still keen for this to go ahead, but one of the advocates is unsure, so we are taking things slowly.



Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Saturday saw 26 children take part in an Easter Egg Hunt at St John's Church. This year there were 3 different trails for the different age groups. The oldest group said Val was very sneaky as one of the pictures was hanging from the chair she was sat on and they had real trouble finding it. Interestingly, all bar one family who came were families that Val already knew through school, the library or the uniformed organisations.

Prayers

Thank you God...

- For the growing group of Ladies from S&P that are coming along to Living Well.
- For the amazing volunteers that God has sent us!
- For the openness at Moat Farm Infants and the opportunities this gives.
- For the new faces at CAMEO
- For the links that are building with the families

Please pray for...

- The Youth Group we are planning.
- The Ladies from S&P that have started their faith journeys.
- The CAMEO group, that those with health issues are healed
- That the advocate allows the baptisms to go ahead
- The formation of the chaplaincy team at Q3
- Continued growth in all our various groups and activities.

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Thank you!

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