



WREXHAM CENTRE OF MISSION

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2025

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 and colleges, a number of football projects to reach out to men and organising hot meals during school holidays for families and individuals struggling.

It's been a good but odd couple of months as we continue to serve people in Wrexham, seeing new initiatives being born and others receding, but we believe God's heart is in everything that is currently happening within the centre of mission.

BRIDGE THE GAP

Bridge the Gap has been so encouraging this winter. We've seen the community come to another level and one of the lads who comes invited everyone to his pub for a Christmas do to celebrate the BTG lads. It was a great time together where we were able to chat with the boys and build on the relationships made on a Wednesday at football.

Away from the football pitch we've had a great term at alpha. Four of the lads from BTG consistently attended the whole course and we saw a further three attend once or twice but were all keen to do the next course. The four that attended throughout the whole thing expressed their desire to do the course again next term but invite more of their friends from BTG along. Alpha starts again at the end of January so please pray for us as we invite all the lads along that we will see more people stepping out and coming to faith through BTG & alpha.

Patron
HM The King

President
The Rt Revd & Rt Hon
Lord Williams of Oystermouth

CEO: Matt Barlow

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CHRISTMAS DINNER BOXES

Once again we ran our Christmas Dinner in a Box scheme this December. This is a way we support families and individuals across Caia Park in a practical way. We put everything you'd need to make Christmas dinner in a box and deliver it to people's door. We saw a large increase in requests so we delivered Christmas dinner to 132 people. This is much more than we have had in previous years so thank you to everyone who sponsored a box and helped us to deliver. Here's a few testimonials we had:

"We wouldn't have Christmas dinner if we didn't have this. It makes our Christmas." Sean

"We've relied on this for a couple of years now. It takes away a lot of the worry and expense of a Christmas meal." Julie

Here is a link to a film Church Army have done to promote the project:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bP1fNTJaUtl&ab_channel=ChurchArmy



TIN CAN

Tin Can continues to be a joy and place of life. We are seeing a really settled community of young people and we are continuing to build deep relationships with these. They have started to actively engage with faith related activities. In December we set up a Christmas tree and invited the young people to decorate it with baubles they'd made and asked them to write something they are thankful for on the back. They really engaged, with some of the thankful notes being very deep and meaningful. There are also new young people coming to Tin Can all the time either with friends inviting them along or just hearing about us from word of mouth. In February we'll be taking a group away for the weekend to an outdoor activity centre. We're praying this is a great time for the young people where they can experience things that they wouldn't normally, that our relationships with them would deepen and that they will respond as we share the gospel in our sessions. We are planning to run the new Youth Alpha as a response to this weekend so please pray as we advertise and prepare this.



On the recent Premier Christian Radio appeal some of our young people were interviewed about Tin Can and their experiences of exploring faith through it. Here's a couple of quotes:

"Since I've been coming here it's given me a lot more opportunities. I think the people are really nice here and it's helped me make new friends. They're really open about it (Christianity) and they don't force you to do anything. They say it's completely up to you. Since I've been coming here I've been picking up praying. Praying helps relieve stress and praying helps you wind down." Harley, aged 14.



"If there's anything on my mind I can come here. It gives me someone to talk about who isn't too involved in my personal life so they can their outside opinion on it. It's just nice to talk to somebody. It's a massive safe place for everybody and you never feel judge. They do a lot of things based around Christianity and they talk about it. They've done talks on how some of the staff members became to be Christians and that was really nice. We all sat together and spoke about it." Ellie, Aged 14.



COLEG CAMBRIA AND COLLEGE CAFE

The work with Coleg Cambria has been going really well, with an increased focus on detached youth work and supporting the young people Jack has built a good relationship over the past season. This winter, the young people have been in a season of questioning, both from their own lives and what they believe, and it has been a pleasure to journey alongside them and share my own faith to help them inform their decisions. It will be exciting to see what the new year holds in this space.

VAN FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We are continuing to fundraise for a new van in the new year. This is so integral to our work, we use it for the food deliveries, Tin Can and Bridge the Gap in different capacities so a new van would have a massive impact for us. We have currently raised over £12000 so thank you all to those who have donated or fundraised for us. If you would like more info about this appeal or would like to donate please do get in touch with either Josh or Jack.

PRAYER POINTS

- *For the families and individuals who received a Christmas Dinner Box. That God will provide their practical needs but also lead them towards Himself and that they would experience the love of God.*
- *That Tin Can will continue to grow, relationships deepen and for more conversations about Faith.*
- *For the upcoming weekend away in February. Pray for all the practicalities and sign ups will be in place but also for the team as we share Jesus with the young people. Pray that God by the power of His Holy Spirit will speak to the young people and they will have an encounter with Him.*
- *Pray for Youth Alpha starting February. That this will kickstart journeys of faith for the young people from Tin Can and they will encounter God themselves and step into a relationship with Him.*
- *Pray that more lads from Bridge the Gap will do alpha & come to faith.*

