



Mission Partner of the Month February 2019

Upcott is a Christian charity committed to providing an environment where young people can experience the fullness of Jesus



Residential Weeks

During the school holidays we run a variety of Upcott Weeks for young people between the ages of 8 and 25. During each week there will be a mixture of Bible teaching, worship and prayer as well as fun games, swimming, sports, arts, etc. The weeks are deliberately small (an average group size is 20) to enable relationships that are open, deep and long lasting. Our hope is that every young person that passes through Upcott will leave with a deeper friendship with Jesus and the people they spent time with on the week.



Gap Year

Our gap year is called eXcellent Life (XL) and it's an opportunity to live and serve with the Upcott team and other volunteers. Sharing life is costly but we believe it is an essential part of our relationship with Jesus. XL is not about opting out of normal life – we make no apologies for the work centred approach; we believe it provides a great environment for getting to know God better.

The Future

You may be already aware but the trustees of Upcott have decided to sell The Beacon. There are several factors that have led to this decision and on our website you can find a letter from the trustees going into more detail. Below is a excerpt from the letter:

"This step does not change the vision of the Trust and its aim to bring young people into a relationship with Jesus. We are genuinely excited about the future for Upcott and all that the Lord has planned for us. We are currently working through what this means for the long term work of Upcott, of the structure and form for its work with young people, and how this will manifest itself."

As we look to the future, one verse has been given to us on several occasions and has come to encapsulate where we are at the moment!



Not knowing the future is exciting but occasionally a little unsettling but we take strength and encouragement from Abraham's example. He left not knowing where he was going but every step he took was one of faith trusting that God would make the way clear. We're on an adventure of faith as the work of Upcott transitions from a primarily building based ministry into something new. We would value your prayers at this time, particularly that we would rest in His peace as we wait for the next step to become clear.

The theme for the Upcott Weeks last year was Friendship with God, based on the life of Abraham. It proved to be one of the most challenging subjects we've ever looked at and it was particularly gratifying to see young people of all ages grappling with the reality and nature of their relationship with Jesus.

For those of you who've never been to The Beacon the picture in the middle is the one which hangs in the main lounge. It represents the heart of what we do at Upcott, pursuing friendship with Jesus and drawing others into that relationship. Around it are pictures of a few of the many young people who've come from St Michael's to Upcott over the years.



Zoom

This year instead of Refresh we are trialling Zoom discipleship for those who were on Tops in 2018. Zoom is an online video conferencing platform (see picture) similar to Skype. It will consist of six one- hour weekly sessions in groups of four or five with Andrew and an Upcott helper who the young people know. We will be using material developed by Mike Breen and 3DM and the aim is to give the young people a tool that they can continue to use together after the sessions have ended.



Prayer Pointers

- For the young people who came in the summer, that their relationship with Jesus would continue to develop
- For God's provision during the coming year
- For wisdom as we seek God's will for the future

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