

Mission Partner of the Month November 2021



**Our passion is
to create an
environment
where
young people
encounter
Jesus,
choose Him,**



**love Him above everything else, are conformed into His likeness, serve Him with joy,
discover their gifts, form lifelong godly friendships, and learn to enable others to do
the same.**

For those of you who have been involved in the work of Upcott for a few years now you may have noticed that our vision statement has changed. Earlier this year we spent a long time praying, and talking to key people from Upcott's history, to try and discern what Upcott's core vision has been. What emerged with absolute clarity was that discipleship has always been at the core of everything. The sale of The Beacon, completed on Friday 5th February 2021, has enabled us to pursue this in new ways.

One of the most exciting developments is that of young leader development. Over the last five decades many of the young people who passed through Upcott have gone on to become leaders, whether it is on the mission field, or part of church leadership, or as youth leaders.

Now we feel the Lord is wanting us to work with these people while they are still part of the Upcott family. So we are launching our Young Leader Development Programme this autumn. We have about twelve to fifteen young people between the ages of 15 and 25 who have signed up (several of them helped on the St Michael's Summer Week).

The overall aim is to develop leaders who can lead within the context of Upcott. However, many of these young people already lead in other contexts and we believe this course will help them be more effective in those settings as well.

The core emphases will be:

- Relationship with Jesus as a leader
- The power of the Holy Spirit (the essential nature of a Spirit-filled life)
- The character of a leader
- The necessity of wisdom
- One Lord – many paths in ministry

The course will run in small groups on Zoom, consisting of one module per term, with five or six Zooms plus a residential weekend together.

Summer 2021

Due to COVID-19 the Summit Centre had to cancel our weeks this summer, so we opted to run two non-residential weeks in Bristol.

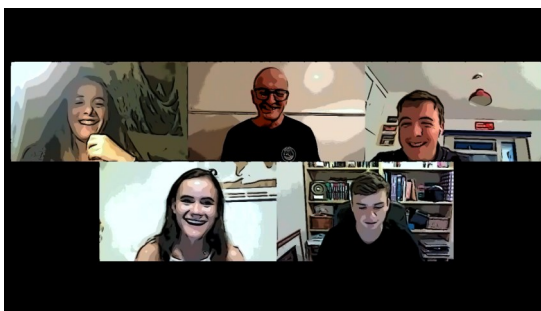
The mornings were hosted in local homes, with small numbers of young people in each one. Each group was responsible for taking ownership of how they felt the Holy Spirit was leading them. The afternoons were similar to a normal Upcott Week with a mixture of games and other activities. In the evenings we were at St Michael's, where we had a meal followed by worship.

The feedback from the young people and their parents was overwhelmingly positive. The times in homes were great and the leaders took on much greater levels of responsibility. There were many elements we want to take forward into next year's programme.

We've already found another venue for our main residential weeks in 2022 which is a wonderful blessing and allows us to plan more effectively.

Online

Our online work continues to thrive; one to one mentoring, discipleship Zooms, and "An Evening with..." have all been very successful. Mentoring online is extremely effective and an efficient use of time. We've seen many significant encounters with the Holy Spirit during these sessions. We are currently having a break from Discipleship Zooms but we will be restarting them in the new year. In the meantime, we will be running the Bible Course (from the Bible Society) this autumn. "An Evening with..." is a new venture where our young people experience ministries and situations in other cultures. So far, we've had speakers from Nigeria, the USA and Australia.



The Palmers

Andrew has really enjoyed doing some mentoring for St Michael's this past year. Ethan helped on the St Michael's Summer Week, and it was a joy to see Robbie baptised a few weeks ago. Despite having moved to Bristol over eighteen months ago, we look forward to meeting more of you in person as life returns to some semblance of normality.

Andrew, Fiona, Ethan, Robbie, and Wes

We would like to thank all of you at St Michael's for your generous support of Upcott. The additional funds that we were given this year have enabled us to update our computer systems. This is of immense value now that so much of what we do is online.

Prayer Pointers

- For the Zoom programme this autumn
- For the young people going to university this year
- For the young people, that their relationship with Jesus would continue to grow
- For the development of the young leaders programme

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