



Mission Partner of the Month October 2023



"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

The above verse sums up what Upcott's ministry has focused on this year; that as Christians, Jesus lives in us and we can experience Him in us, and let Him work in and through us. Keeping Jesus at the centre of everything we do has moved the emphasis from outside- in (e.g. Jesus speaking externally to us or experiencing His presence around us) to Him in us— out, and we have noticed the responsibility and impact of this in our moment to moment walk with Jesus.

Young Leader Development Programme

The Young Leader Development Programme (YLDP) has completed a second year, and we had modules on character, vision and maturity. These modules were held on weekly zooms again and at the end of each module we had a residential weekend. The last module on maturity proved to be highly significant in its impact on the residentials as well as how the young leaders were outworking what we were studying in their local contexts. We realised from Scripture that maturity is something that can be worked towards and achieved by anyone in any area. There is an example of this in the section about the Upcott Weeks. We have started a third year in the programme and are about to begin with a new first year cohort.



Partnership



We feel God has been showing us what Biblical partnership looks like and have pursued different partnerships with people, groups and organisations that God has opened doors for. A significant aspect of partnership that God has shown us is the mutual relationship. One particular partnership that has developed this year is with a church in Gloucestershire who we were connected with because some of their young people attend Upcott residentials and are on the YLDP. We helped organise and run a youth weekend event for them in June, have recently had one of the young leaders move there to do an internship with the church. We are also currently exploring running a missions trip with them. Another partnership that is in development is with a university prep college who have an emphasis on faith in their programmes. We have run discipleship zooms with them and we are expecting our involvement with them to increase into more discipleship zooms and in-person events. This year, our relationship with St Michael's included speaking at the Saturday breakfast in January where some on the YLDP shared testimonies and experiences from what God is doing in and through them.

Mentoring

We continue to provide one to one mentoring with young people and those on the YLDP with the aim of spiritual formation. However, we are encouraged by the number of young people connected to Upcott who are receiving it in their own church contexts as we believe this is the best model for it.

Upcott Weeks 2023

We had two Upcott weeks this year: one during May half term and one in the summer holidays. We looked at the theme of 'Christ in me' on both weeks but as mentioned, themes from the YLDP impacted on the weeks too. A testimony from the younger week that confirmed what God had been talking about with regards to maturity in Christ on the YLDP was from a girl who was not consistently experiencing God's peace. She would often benefit from a leader praying for her to receive peace when something happened that caused worry or stress. Over the course of the week, leaders supported the girl to progress to receiving peace from God for herself by praying for her, to praying with her, to the girl praying for herself and receiving peace. By the end of the week she was growing into maturity in the area of living in God's peace because she was living it independently from the leaders direct support each time.



We are expecting the residentials to be different next year as we will likely change location due to lower numbers on the weeks but also because we feel God is still reshaping this aspect of the ministry.

Something to do with preserve?

God spoke to us about how things that might naturally die can be preserved. When preserving fruit, the fruit shape or outside structure is not changed but the preservative is added to make it keep for longer. This has to be an active choice and effort is required but once complete, the fruit lasts a long time in a different state. A preserve is different from a jam as the fruit is not crushed or strained and so there is much of the fruit that is recognizable. We feel God is speaking about this in terms of the residentials. We are praying about what preserving in some capacity like this looks like and means for the future.

St Michael's HOTC Grant

We applied for a grant from St Michael's as we are hoping to employ someone into another role within Upcott. We are very grateful for this generous amount which will enable us to begin this process. We are praying about the specifics around the role and who might be able to fill it.



Team

Andrew continues to lead the work, he is based in the Bristol area.

Hannah continues to work two days for Upcott alongside other jobs, mostly remotely in Dorset but travelling for in person work about once a month.

As mentioned above we are looking to add to the team in the next few months.



We would like to thank all of you at St Michael's for your generous support of Upcott.

Prayer Pointers

- The ongoing development of the Leadership Programme
- The strengthening of relationships with our partners
- The future shape of our residential activities as we transition from traditional Upcott Weeks
- For the young people, that their relationship with Jesus would continue to grow

St Michael's Link: Andy Greenslade

Phone: 07307 618230 - Email: Team@Upcott.org.uk - Website: www.Upcott.org.uk
Upcott - P.O. Box 659, Bristol, BS34 9LU
Registered charity 285783