

JAMES HAWKSWORTH

SUFFOLK CENTRE OF MISSION – SW Ipswich



Dear Friends,

I hope you've had a great Summer full of joy and rest. Autumn is now upon us, which offers a great opportunity for us to reflect on the changes in nature and in our own lives.

Family

We've had a few good outings between us all this Summer. Albeit separately. Sam & Lauren escaped to Croatia and spent a week soaking up the sun there and Laura, Becky and I stayed this side of the ocean and went to Devon with Laura's Auntie and the Dogs. It was great to come back and share our journey's and see each other's photos. It was so good to see how grown up they are but, at the same time, I couldn't help realising that we are beginning to reach the end of an era. The kids are growing up and beginning to do things by themselves. Even Becky is talking of going on holiday without us. A Sad moment indeed, but very proud too. Autumn is marked by a shedding off but is also marked by the hope of a new season of growth and expansion. The kids will shed and become their own people moving beyond us but remaining part of us at the same time. Maybe I'm being too nostalgic!

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Laura is still enjoying her job, visiting people in their homes to support and care for those in the community that need additional support. Her role has evolved again, and she now creates care plans for clients as well as other important checks necessary for the smooth running of the day. Laura often comes home very tired and emotionally exhausted by the busyness of the day and somehow, she still has enough energy to spend time with me. I love her very much! We have also made some good friends here too. We love visiting them together and playing board games with a glass of wine. We have good fun with them. It always makes a difference when we make new friends. Quite often the nature of my work means we move a lot which means we sometimes struggle to find those key people that make a place enjoyable to stay. So we are so grateful for them.

Sam has been quite unwell over the summer months. He is undergoing tests at the moment to see what could be wrong. He has been a bit of a worry because of this but thankfully he seems to be on the mend, we are still waiting for tests so please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. He has also just started his new term at university and is in the process of transitioning into a master's degree in mathematics, this has extended his degree by one year.

He is still making very complex origami models. Here is a sample. He also has an Instagram account where he shares his models with the ever-growing origami community - take a look!



Becky has now started 6th form college, after so many bad starts, she is finally beginning to enjoy it. She has



great support from both staff and friends and is doing well. She has also just got a small job to earn a little extra pocket money as a cleaner too. I think if you saw the state of her room, you'd realise how ironic that sounds!!! On the whole she is more positive and more focused than I've seen her in a while so, I'm happy.

Lauren has come to the end of her college placement and has started back at university. She enjoyed the placement so much that she has asked to remain there on the days she's not in university. Lauren is very motivated and loves working. I love her work ethic and sense of integrity. She is doing incredibly well, and I'm proud of who she is growing in to.

Ministry

Sprites Primary School

Sprites Primary schools work is going really well. I am still meeting with lots of young people to do 1-2-1 pastoral support. We have just started back after the summer break and so I have a new list of students to get to know.

The staff are still a great supporter of my work. Which makes it so much easier for me to support the kids without restrictions.

It is such a joy to be able to support these young people. The staff are beginning to ask for more people to do what I'm doing - One day, I hope we can have more people going in to schools in this way but, for now, they'll just have to have me.

There is, however, a new pioneer that has started in a neighbouring parish that is looking to use this model in her local primary school, so I'm feeling very blessed by those that see my work and do likewise.

Greenfinch Youth Community

The youth group is still going well. We have still got 30 young people attending this and a growing waiting list. There are some young people that have left but a new group of young people have taken their spot from the waiting list, which is still seeing numbers been added to it. The demand for more youth groups is paramount. We are still the most significant youth facility in the area.



Over the summer term we decided to do something that would help us connect with the parents of our young people too as we felt that this was an important step towards building solid community with the young people at the heart of it.

So, we opened a drop in café, serving hot and cold drinks and freshly baked goods from the church community.

This was received well by the parents, and we found that we were full every week with parents, our young people and their young and sometimes older brothers and sisters. It was such a blessing to spend so much time with them all together and also offered us the opportunity to ask questions about what they think and feel about their community.



Since coming back in September, our young people have changed quite significantly. The young people are experiencing loss of friendship, due to changing friendship groups - young people are in different classes and have had to develop new relationships to cope with the new situation they face. Some of our young people go to a different school and feel alienated by their old friendships when they come to our group, and the workload and demand from schoolwork and homework means that our young people are feeling more pressured than ever which is coming out in aggressive behaviour, tears and a general high level of boisterousness we haven't experienced before in these young people.

At the end of the year, we felt that the youth group were a community together. We have to recognise now that, due to the pressures and changes that come with secondary school, we are more fragmented. We're not starting from scratch, but we are starting further back from a different angle, from a different foundation.

The good news is that we are in communication with parents and working together for the sake of these very precious young people.

Youth Community Network - Lightwave.community

Since the beginning of Summer, we have been acutely aware that our youth community is full and the need to expand has been a very pressing concern for us. The questions that have challenged us are:

1. How do we create more spaces for young people so that we can invite more young people into this great community?
2. How do we encourage other churches to do a similar thing in their own churches?
3. How do we grow and envision adult and young leaders so that these youth spaces can run safely?

It then occurred to me that we could offer churches a package. I can bring training resources and even invite young people to their church, if they would allow me to use their building and recruit volunteers through their church.

So, I approached another Church in the area and suggested that we work together to create another youth space that would act as a second building that young people can choose to go to on the night that is best suited to them and their friends.

This increases our young people reach by another 30 young people therefore meeting the needs of 60 young people across the area every Friday evening if the church agreed.

Thankfully, the Church agreed and so we are in the process of DBS checking, interviewing and training a new team of volunteers using the mycn.org.uk resource I mentioned in my last newsletter. Have a look at this as it is the pioneer youth resource adopted by much of the youth work done within Church Army.

Hopefully, by early next year, we will have a new team and a new youth expression learning the values and ethos of the Christ community.

I'm really excited by all that is happening in this work, and it is so good to see the Spirit moving in so many areas of the youth community at large. I personally feel so blessed to be counted as amongst those who are bearing witness to God's moving in Ipswich and beyond.

6th Form College

You may remember that I was working with the 6th form college last year; running lunch clubs and taking young people on residential weekends led by the diocesan youth officer at Sizewell Hall. This work drew a conclusion shortly after the trip to Sizewell Hall as the college changed the structure of education leaving it very difficult for me to work in the way that I had done previously. After much conversation it seemed right to step back from this work and pursue work in the other 6th form college in town. This



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has a very well-established chaplaincy presence already which means I can get involved in what's already happening there and hopefully find meaningful ways of contributing to this team, more on this when I start - probably in the new year.

I still see some of the young people from the college as they are Becky's age (daughter) but unfortunately, I no longer work with them in the way I used to.

Conclusion

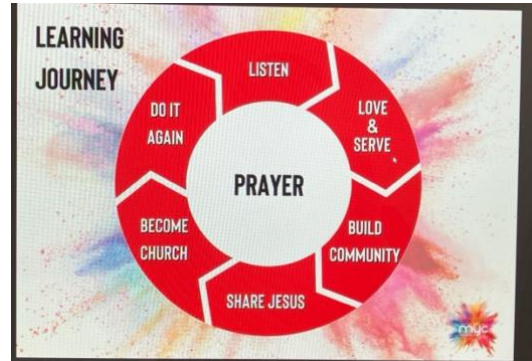
My work in Chantry is building up. We are coming up to our first year with the youth group on Friday nights. We are beginning to see more opportunities to listen, love & serve and build community with the young people there.

I am very much a part of the school now too with a growing trust and responsibilities to care for the young people across all year groups.

I am beginning to share the methodology of my work more broadly too with other churches in the area who are seeking to reach out in similar ways using mentoring and coaching practices from the mycn.org.uk resources.

Thank you for taking the time to read, pray and financially support the work of Church Army. I feel so blessed to know you are all behind us as a family and also me personally as I seek to bring Christ into the midst of this budding new community.

God Bless you all.



Prayers

Please pray for...

1. **Laura, Sam, Becky, Lauren and James**, that, as a family, we will live out our faith with passion and enthusiasm. For wisdom to make the right choices for our personal life as well as for our ministry.
2. **Suffolk New** For a great new start in a new college and that the young people will come to know Jesus Christ through their connection with both me and the Chaplaincy team.
3. **Volunteers** That together we will be great vision holders for a new worshipping community and feel drawn to embrace this new way of life for ourselves.
4. **St Mark's Church** That this new partnership will be fruitful in expanding our work across more churches and that the Spirit would guide our vision. And that the doors of the other churches in the area will open too so that we can begin to build a more "together" community for the sake of these young people with Christ in the centre of all we do.
5. **Sprites Primary Academy** That the young people may grow in love with Jesus and his vision for the community we seek to develop.
6. **Training & Support** That the Suffolk Centre of Mission would become a supportive place of encouragement, friendship and challenge. Equipping pioneers across the diocese.
7. **Greenfinch Youth Community** That the young people will respond positively to the Jesus we invite them to know.

As I read this list, I can see that some of these prayers are really beginning to be answered! Thank you for your faithfulness to prayer for us all.

Financial Support

Thank you

Thank you, for the support you give to us through prayer, financial giving and your wisdom when I feel the need to bounce thoughts and ideas around. God Bless you.

If you would like to financially support the work I am involved in please complete and return the form below or visit churcharmy.org/donate

Or if you prefer, you can set up a Standing Order directly using the details below:

Acc. 80255491 Sort Code. 20-49-81 Reference No. 1194 / 2005JHA Please use this reference number so that your contribution is directed to the Suffolk Centre of Mission

We don't take your support for granted, so thank you so much for standing with us. I want to pray for you so please let ME know how I can, by emailing james.hawksworth@churcharmy.org

Thank you!

James, Laura & Family



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