

East Oxford Christian Youth Work Prayer Updates

Autumn 2019



STALDATES



viva
together for children

doorsteps



Headington
Baptist Church

Oxford Spires Academy CU

Years 7 - 9. Run by Ben from Emmanuel Church, Hannah from Doorsteps and Ellie from St Aldates. We've been building community within the group over the past few months. We are currently doing a series on Jesus' genealogy in the run-up to Christmas, and the young people have started a baking rota, which has brought real joy to many! We'd love prayers to find the others who aren't here yet but would benefit.

Hannah Woods

Find Your Fire Project

Year 9 students from Oxford Spires Academy and St Gregory the Great School. This accredited project aims to raise aspirations, self-esteem, and resilience. Run by: Hannah, Helen & Charlotte from Doorsteps, Dave from St Clements, Naomi from St Luke's, Ben from Emmanuel and Sophie from St Gregs.

Prayer Points: This year's cohort started in September and they're going strong! We still have a few spaces we're looking to fill - please pray for the missing ones! We have also got a strong group of five Year 10 young leaders, please pray we can support them in this role in a meaningful way.

Praise God: for an excellent year last year, with some amazing growth in confidence amongst the young people, for a good, strong start to this year, and for an excellent team who create a safe space for young people to come into.

Hannah Woods

**FIND
YOUR
FIRE**

Cheney School CU

Years 7-13. Run by Helen from Doorsteps, Abby from Headington Baptist Church and Dave from St Clement's.

Cheney CU: Last week we had 15 young people along - a new record for our CU in its current format. This is really something to thank God for as this time last year, it was more like 3 or 4. Among the new young people we now have multiple churches represented, so lots of good networking happening. Prayer request would be for guidance on where to take our discussions next, as there's a slight feeling that we're running out of discussion resources.

Dave Burt

'Space' Drop in Session at The Mish

Dave from St Clement's, Ben from Emmanuel, Tom from St Aldates

Space: This group has grown this term, with existing members inviting friends along. We now have quite a lively group, which is always fun (if a little exhausting). We've been grateful that Tom (new intern at St Aldates) has joined our leadership team. I found out last week that one of the new girls used to go to church every week when she was living in the Caribbean, but hasn't been going since arriving in the UK. Obvious opportunity here for her to get plugged into church life again, so prayer that she might feel a willingness to join our main youth group in time would be good.

Dave Burt

Doorsteps

Viva's Doorsteps Initiative launched in 2015. Doorsteps Youth has a range of projects:

TBK: 'To Be Known, and accepted as you are, to know that glorious purpose for which you were made, and the God who made you'. This project creates space for young people to explore the Christian faith, including an after-school small group (Year 7-13). We're working through The Bible Project videos - some of the group didn't know much about the Bible. We're about to start the Old Testament Prophets! We pray together and eat together, and there is so much honesty and support for each other,

Schools Work: Praise God for a strong start to this academic year! Hannah Woods is helping in one Year 7 library lesson, meeting a broad range of Year 7s as they come into Oxford Spires Academy. Hannah is also doing some mentoring on a regular and one-off basis with different young people, including catching up with last year's Find Your Fire cohort.

Stick Club: Year 7, with Year 8 & 10 young leaders. We've opened the group to boys and girls this year, and we have lots of young leaders! Please pray we find a good rhythm with planning. This group has so much potential but is resource-heavy.

Comic Con Club: This new venture is led by Hannah and a Spirees teacher! It's started well and has been a lot of fun.

Boys Book Club: Years 7 - 10. Please pray for us to think of a new project! We've finished our last one and need something new to get our teeth stuck into and give the group a sense of direction and purpose.

Hannah Woods

doorsteps



EMMANUEL CHURCH presents

LIVE
with Philippa Hanna

Friday 6th December

7.30pm, Quarters Collective, 9 Green St, Oxford OX4 1YB

Tickets available on eventbrite or on the door.

£10/£5 concession

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BeSpace



BeSpace is an Oxfordshire-based Christian charity that supports local Christians to facilitate spaces for prayer and reflection in schools and across the wider community.

www.bespace.be

Schools work: We are excited that over 50 prayer and reflection spaces have been booked into schools across Oxfordshire for this academic year including many new schools, particularly in the Witney area. Please continue to pray with us for strong local teams, good relationships with churches and schools and opportunities to reach more schools across the County.

Celebrating 10 years: This year marks 10 years of prayer spaces in schools across Oxfordshire and we are planning events to celebrate in different areas of the County. Please join us at your nearest event in May/ June of 2020 as we celebrate all that has happened in the last 10 years- dates and details to follow.

Job opportunity: We are currently recruiting for a project coordinator to cover maternity leave in the charity. Please do pray with us for finding the right person for this role. Details of the role can be found at www.bespace.be/vacancies.

Mary Phillips

St Gregory the Great School Chaplaincy Work



We thank God for the joy of diversity within our school community, for the many languages spoken, the cultural expressions that give colour and texture to our daily lives in school. We pray for the openness of sharing the richness of different faith expressions that will enable all to understand and experience the love of God.

As we approach Advent we thank God for the joy of Jesus birth and the time of possibilities for reconciliation that can come at this time of year. We remember those families who are divided, for whom the Christmas season is not filled with hope and joy, may they know the peace and love that comes with putting Christ at the centre of Christmas

We pray for young people who experience the pain of domestic abuse in their homes. For those who stay silent in fear and for those who have the courage to speak out. We pray for parents raising children in such situations that they would have the courage to reach out for support

We pray for all those who work in schools and witness faith. We pray for receptive hearts to hear the message of love. We pray for open doors and willing supporters. May our schools be places where faith has a home and it nurtured and flourishes.

Fran Walsh

Oxford Schools Chaplaincy

www.oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org



Praise for:

Our new director, Paul Sparrey, starts Jan 2020

Continued good relationships with schools

Amazing volunteers and partner churches

Prayer for:

Christmas lessons at Gosford Hill School, Wheatley Park School, and The Oxford Academy

CUs at Gosford Hill, Cheney, Cherwell, Spires, and The Oxford Academy

Strength, energy, and grace for Christian teachers and staff in schools

Josie Garrett

Soulnet

Soulnet is a sociable gathering of Christian youth workers from around Oxfordshire. We meet once a month to eat second breakfast, pray, share what we see happening in youth work, and encourage each other. Please get in touch with Dave.Burt@stclements.org.uk if you'd like to join us!

This could be you! If you know anyone doing collaborative Christian youth work in East Oxford who'd like to be part of this prayer letter, please let them know Hannah Woods would love to hear from them - h.woods@viva.org.



Expanding HORIZONS

TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER

VIVA OFFICE, OXFORD | 7 - 9PM

DISCOVER THE POWER OF MENTORING
HEARING STORIES OF
CHILDREN'S LIVES TRANSFORMED
AROUND THE WORLD

viva together for children