

St George's Dagenham

December 2020

Thanks for your partnership with us in gospel work. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please email shona.hannant@virgin.net or write to 99a Oxlow Lane, Dagenham, RM9 5XD

Update on St George's

Thanks for praying for us particularly through this time without a minister. We are hugely grateful for ministers from other churches who have been bringing God's Word to us on Sundays. Sadly, we were unable to appoint when we interviewed in September. We re-advertised and have shortlisted and are pleased to be interviewing 3 candidates on December 11th.

Praise God that lockdown has lifted and interviews can be held in person

Praise God for Bishop Rod who has been so supportive and for unity on the panel

Please pray for godly wisdom for the panel interviewing and that we'll trust God for the right man at the right time

TGI's/SOUND

This term, Friday evenings at TGI/SOUND have been a bit different. One obvious downside of meeting online is the loss of several non-church young people who don't choose to join in via zoom. This term our talks have been from the letter to the Romans. It's been challenging, but the teaching has been consistent and clear. The youth have engaged well with the talks and most have been keen to answer questions and discuss what they've learned. We are grateful to remember the Lord is sovereign and for the opportunity of serving together as a team.

Praise God for the gospel being clearly presented and the fun we've had together and for Ed one of our young leaders giving his first Bible talk

Please pray as we meet in person again more youth will return

Sunday club

What a joy to see the children again in September. We have been encouraging people to come to the building alternate weeks and have split the regular Sunday club children into 2 groups so each Sunday has a viable group. We've been using the Bible overview material 'the King the Snake and the Promise' to help the children grasp the BIG story of the Bible. For the last 4 weeks we've done Sunday club on zoom before the service. It's been encouraging to re-connect with some children who we hadn't seen since March.

Thank God for A and M joining on zoom Sunday club

Please pray for children to be wowed by the BIG story of the Bible.

Little fishes (4-7s) and Wednesday Club (7-11s)

It was with great excitement that we managed to gather again physically for clubs in September. We arranged to use less of the building and to keep socially distanced. We've been hearing from the book of Genesis firstly learning from the life of Jacob and now Joseph. It's been great to see children beginning to grasp ways in which Joseph points to Jesus. Since the beginning of November we've been back on zoom. Sadly, fewer children join us, one Mum of 5 said 'it just doesn't work to allow 1 of them on a device'. On the plus side we're aware that some parents and other family members are listening in to Bible talks and hearing much more than their children would ever relay to them after club.

Thank God for parents of C and D who have been listening in over the last 4 weeks

Please pray for fruitful conversations with these parents when we see them over the next few weeks

Please pray the story of Joseph will help these children to trust in God's sovereignty especially in hard times

Christmas

St George's ADVENT-ure trail. This year we have displayed 24 advent windows within walking distance of the church that tell of God's promises in the Old Testament fulfilled in the Christmas story. There is a map to help families locate the windows and presents for those who find all 24 titles for the windows.

Praise God for many from St George's getting involved in this new initiative

Please pray for gospel conversations with neighbours, that these windows will cause people to talk about Jesus

Drive-in-carols. We heard about this idea from Faith in Kids and formed a planning group with other gospel churches in Dagenham. In many ways this sort of event is beyond us. Remarkably the leader of the council got on board and has provided a Council owned carpark as a venue and help from the council events team. There's still a lot to do.

Praise God for our local partnership churches, for this amazing opportunity and the provision of a venue

Please pray we will be able to finalise details, that many people will come on Dec 20th, that the gospel will be clearly proclaimed and this will be a way of reaching people who wouldn't usually set foot inside a church building

Schools

Shona has been in contact with both the local schools but so far hasn't been invited back in.

Thank God for the opportunities we've had over many years, to go into local schools and teach the Bible

Please pray our links with local schools to be maintained and freedom to visit will resume soon