

## Mission Partner of the Month November 2022



**"God is on the move, like living water and flames of fire. He's flowing through the work of Upcott and the young people involved in it. He cannot be contained – all we can do is embrace Him and everything He is doing with our whole hearts."**



The statement above is on the front of our Autumn mailing, reflecting what we have seen God do in and through us over the last year. We hope it is encouraging to read below how God has used what we have done to outwork His Kingdom in the work of Upcott.

### **Vision and direction**

Earlier this year, God spoke to us about various parts of the Christian journey and this has influenced what Upcott has done and taught on this year. The first aspect was contemplating and participating in the glory of God. We were challenged by the definition that 'God's glory is the nature and acts of God in self-manifestation, particularly in Jesus Christ'. As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3, we have made it our aim to contemplate His glory and be transformed into His image. Upcott has always had a strong emphasis on intimacy with Jesus but this shifting of focus has brought greater depth and understanding to our relationship with Him. Contemplating and choosing to participate in the glory of God impacted our teaching as well as worship on the Summer Weeks.

### **Young Leader Development Programme**

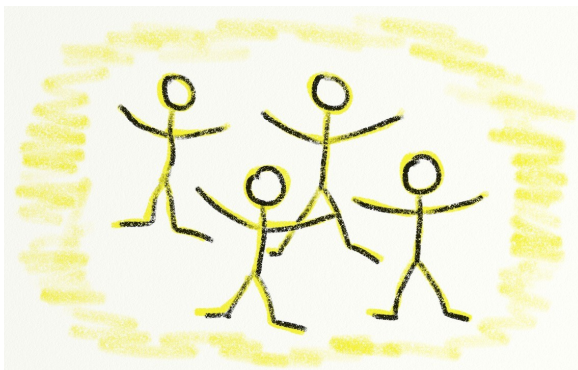
It was this time last year that we launched our Young Leader Development Programme and we have seen exciting fruit from it. One of the most significant topics we have read about, discussed and practiced has been culture. We have seen the Holy Spirit creating the culture of the Kingdom of God in Upcott as we walk with Him. Someone on the leadership programme challenged us about the unity that Jesus prays for in John 17 and this led us to pursue unity in all we do. On Ignite (Age 16-20s Summer Week) we made unity a priority with 'no-one left behind' and saw increased healings, spiritual development and fellowship.



Those currently on the Young Leader Programme have just started their second year.

## Summer 2022

One of the main things we wanted to see on the summer weeks was the Body of Christ operating in the way Jesus intended; a family of competent ministers (2 Cor. 3:4), each one releasing life to the whole. One of the best examples of this on the Summer Weeks was morning prayer. Instead of just the leaders praying together about the day, we involved everyone including the youngest ages of 9-12 years old. At the breakfast table we broke into groups of 3 or 4 and listened to the Lord. Each group gathered what they felt the Holy Spirit was saying to them and it was written up on a whiteboard. We then went back into the groups to process what we felt the Holy Spirit was saying. Often there were key themes, direction for the day, pictures for individuals, or specific actions. On some days we didn't do the talk because the talk was on the board! Everyone was involved in this process; it was a powerful example of the Body operating together, everyone playing their part. The picture shown above was used with the young people to represent the Body functioning in the glory of God.



## Mentoring

We have seen the young people who have been mentored grow significantly in their walk with Jesus. We recognise the benefit of this being provided in the local church context but are aware that not every church has the resources to do this. Following the summer we have seen a significant uptake in demand, therefore we want to make this available to as many young people as possible. The purpose of our mentoring is summed up by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians: *My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...* (4:19). So often people have an encounter with the Holy Spirit, but the truth that He is revealing doesn't get established in people's lives, so they become discouraged and the pattern repeats. From a foundation of the love of God, the role of the mentor is to encourage and support until that truth is working. Most of the mentoring sessions Upcott run are through Zoom and most of the mentors are also on the Young Leader Development Programme.

## Team



Andrew continues to lead the work, while Fiona finished working for the Trust in January 2022 after 21 years.

Hannah has now joined the team which she does for two days a week alongside other jobs. She is based in Dorset but often travels to work in person for the Trust too. Hannah has been involved with the work of Upcott since she was a young person attending Upcott weeks, being part of the extended team and helping as an adult. She enjoys being involved in developing the vision of how God is shaping Upcott's ministry. She brings insight in how God is leading her and the wider church to the work of Upcott.



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

### Prayer Pointers

- For the ongoing work of the Young Leader Development Programme
- The expansion of the work with individual churches
- For the young people, that their relationship with Jesus would continue to grow
- For the development of the mentoring work

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