

# infocus

the news and prayer letter from CCM



Easter 2019

## A New Beginning

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah 43:18-19



Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash

A year ago, on Easter Sunday, I had the honour of baptising my 11-year-old daughter. As she slipped under the water her old body died and as she rose back up out of the water a new creation was born. It was a moment of great celebration and joy. It would be easy to stop there, she was after all a new creation. But as we know, we all develop and grow every day of our lives. She is still that new creation today, but we can see how she and her faith have grown over the last year. She has stepped into the light of the resurrection and lives as a daughter of Christ.

Around the same time last year, we, at the Mission, took a step of faith and with £4,000 and faith in God we started to rip the Mission's roof apart. A day later we were overwhelmed when a legacy arrived that

enabled us to continue the refurbishments. Around the same time, work started on building 70+ new homes on land to three sides of the Mission. A year on, the roof is finished and looks beautiful (Hallelujah!) and we are just weeks away from welcoming a whole new community to the area. It is an exciting time!

It would be easy to stop there, we have a new roof! But we know there is still more to do to make the Mission the building we would like it to be. We are really excited about the year to come and the opportunities it brings. We have plans for new projects (a couple are mentioned below) and want to strengthen and further develop the ones we already run.

Like new buildings and a new roof, we too need to give thanks for what is past and celebrate that new creation that God gives us through the cross at Easter. Jesus sacrificial offering of himself in our place on the cross changed everything and allowed a new relationship to form between each of us and our Father. A new covenant that we are still celebrating today. It's time to step out of the darkness into the light of the resurrection.

Hopefully as you read this letter you will get a glimpse of the way that God is blessing our clients and customers and the opportunities he gives us, as well as the blessings He showers upon us (staff, volunteers and trustees) as we seek to do His work in this place. Thank you for all the different ways you support the work we do.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Easter and encourage us all to step forward and live in the light of His resurrection.

Blessings



Darren



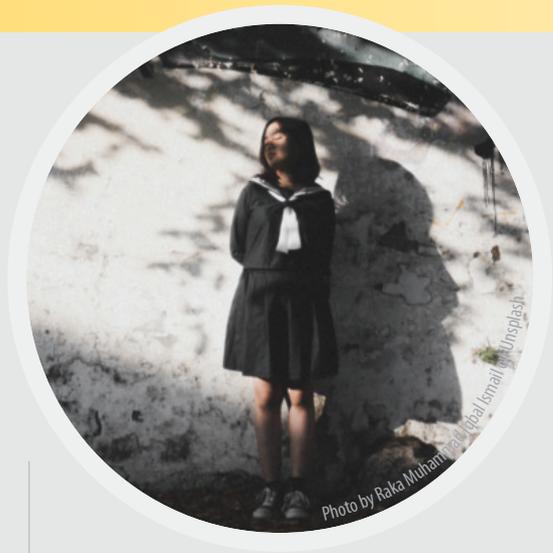
# Period Poverty

As the father of two young girls it breaks my heart to know that we live in a time where women and girls are struggling to afford essential hygiene products to help them through their monthly period.

For some youngsters this may mean they miss time at school or for adult women they may have to stay in the house or take other action to get through what is a very natural and normal event.

I am pleased to see that action is now being taken to support girls in secondary schools, but we still face daily situations where someone comes to get a food parcel or to access some of our other projects and is in need of some of the most basics of life (toilet paper, toiletries and sanitary products) it is just not right.

As it is a difficult thing to discuss (we don't want our clients to feel



embarrassed or ashamed) I have decided to create a 'Dignity Box' which will contain a selection of sanitary items that our clients can go and utilise without having to ask. We will have a sign in reception alerting them to the project and hopefully clients can simply go in to the ladies loo and take a packet or two of whatever products they use without being questioned or embarrassed.

We are grateful to foodbank for providing an initial stock of products to fill the box, but if you would like to donate items to this project, items can either be dropped off at the Mission, or if you know a church/group that donate food to us at CCM they could be dropped off there.

# CRAFT IN THE CAFÉ!

We are excited to have started a new craft group in the café on a Thursday afternoon, (12.30 - 2pm term time only). This came out of a conversation at *Building Blocks* where a few people were talking about wanting to learn crochet, as well as a timely donation of a huge ball of wool! Everyone is welcome to join us and people are learning to crochet together, colouring in, bringing their own crafts and activities, or just coming along for a chat! We hope to make some baby blankets that we can give away with the baby boxes we give out at *Building Blocks* as a way of linking the groups together. We've already had 11 adults coming along before we've even advertised it! They have been crocheting, French knitting, doing cross stitch and more, while others just chat and watch. Please pray for the group to continue to be well attended, for donations of wool and supplies, for us to develop together and for us to welcome all who come along. Thank you!

## More tea Vicar?

At the end of June I am planning a special event and need around 100 china tea cups, saucers and tea plates. If you have any sets (that you no longer need) and would like to donate them to the Mission it would be much appreciated. Unfortunately, we cannot promise to return them, so it would need to be a donation rather than a loan.



Photo by Joanna Kosinska on Unsplash

# Easter Connect

This year we are taking our Easter 'Connect in the Café' on the road, well just down the road really. We will be meeting at **Potters Green URC Hall**, Woodway Lane on **Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup>** starting around **9.30am**. Our guest speaker will be Terry Osborne from Allesley Park Evangelical Church. The event will last around an hour and will end with Hot Cross buns and a drink. This will be a great opportunity to come together and look towards the cross as we lead up to Easter.



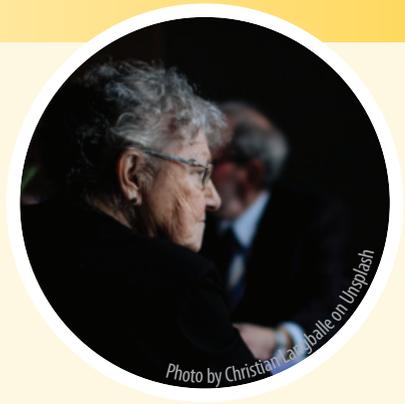
## TEA & TALK – ONE YEAR ON!

In the lead up to Lent 2018, I was arguing with God about His desire for us to run a Lent course at the Mission and my recollection as to how little response we had for that sort of thing in the past. Safe to say God won that debate and I offered, without expectation, a Lent course to run on a Tuesday afternoon. I was thrilled and humbled when around a dozen people turned up on week one and stuck with us throughout the course.

We had such a good time together that we have now been meeting for over a year and have just completed our second Lent course. Over that year we have used various film clips and online resources to develop our understanding of God and the Christian Faith and look forward to getting back together after the Easter break.

We meet for an hour from 2.15pm on a Tuesday afternoon (from the 16<sup>th</sup> April) in the café at the Mission. The group is very friendly and is suitable for those with a faith, or those exploring or on a journey. You would be most welcome to pop in and join us.

# Senior Lunch Club



The lunch club has faced many challenges this last year. Major illness and poor mobility have affected both volunteers and visitors. This has resulted in slightly less outside speakers/performers being invited. Our group of men continues to grow and occasionally takes over another table. We have seen some new members especially more recently but attendance can be quite irregular. This can lead to interesting meetings when we pray the food will go round as six people turn up unexpectedly.

Those who come enjoy activities as diverse as flower arranging, films, Bible study/Service, line dancing, skittles and more recently sports on the Wii. A sense of friendship, fun and laughter is enjoyed by all. We are putting more publicity into the community and working with other local groups/churches to invite more people to come. We would also welcome more volunteers to help with lunch club, visiting those in the community and our holiday at home program.



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