

FUTURE|hope Update for the community of Churches in Hertford and Ware June 2018

Past Four Months

It has been a busy few months for us, having refurbished the bus. We managed to do it all ourselves and are so happy with the result. The young people are also enjoying the new style. One said *'I really like the new bus layout and the atmosphere that it brings'*. We did take a short break from Friday nights whilst the refurbishment took place but now we are back out every Friday night in Hertford or Ware. If you would like to see the all new interior, then please don't hesitate to get in touch! Also, we are now parking the bus at All Nations, which is a much nicer home for it than the farm yard!

Our mentoring waiting list grew quite substantially at the start of the year, rising to 11 young people. Thankfully, this has now lowered to 4 but we do need more volunteers to come and get alongside these young people who want support. We are currently working with 10 young people and have finished with 4 over the past few months. We continue to see young people for a variety of reasons and also receive referrals from schools, doctors and word of mouth.

Our schools work has been rather quiet over the past few months. Primarily due to the bus refurbishment we haven't taken it in on a school lunch break. We also find that most of our education sessions get booked in July or in the Autumn/Spring Term.

Next Four Months

Now the bus refurbishment is complete we can start running our group work sessions on the estates around Hertford and Ware. We are really looking forward to running these sessions. The first few we are planning to do will be around drug/alcohol awareness, smoking cessation, emotional resilience and money management.

The bus will continue to go out on Friday night. Over the Winter period we opened

and closed an hour earlier than normal but for the Summer period we are considering going back to normal hours, 9-11pm. As we lead into the Summer Holidays we will be considering what we will do with the bus. Historically we have run special extended bus sessions and included some workshops, such as healthy eating, circus skills etc. We are planning to do something along the same lines but we want to do something bigger than previous years!

We have school sessions booked in at Presdales and Chauncy (in July and for the Autumn term). So far these are drugs/alcohol awareness sessions including one for parents. We are also starting to take the bus back into school for the drop in at lunch time session. These sessions have been great in the past and we are excited to be doing them again.

We have booked ourselves in for some training with Care For The Family to equip us more in our Parents Work. We are really excited for this and look forward to partnering with local churches/organisations in providing support for Parents.

We have just started running some volunteer training. We are in need of more volunteers. If you or someone you know might be interested, then please get in touch.

Lastly, in September we will be holding our 15 Year Celebration! We are finalising all the details and will keep you up to date. We want to get young people, supporters and the local community together and give thanks for all that God has done over the past 15 years.

Prayer Requests

As always, please continue to pray for the young people we work with. We are seeing young people grow in who they are and realise their ambitions. Please pray especially for those doing exams, as sometimes it makes it difficult for us to keep regular sessions.