

# Mission Pastor's Report 2018

This report provides a brief summary of my role in supporting the outreach projects, activities and events carried out by The Point over the last 12 months. The Mission Pastor is responsible for organising events, supporting mission partners and the leaders of all our mission and outreach projects, and coordinating our volunteer teams. Our mission and evangelistic work this year has focussed on eight main areas, that you will find below.



15 February 2018

# Willow Way

Willow Way is an area of significant need at the northern end of the village of Hurstpierpoint. The Point has been active in this area for a number of years doing evangelism, supporting families, and serving the community. The only community building on the estate, The Ex-Servicemen's and Social Club, has provided the venue for much of our activity including The Melting Pot Café, The Youth Drop-In and the Hurst Food Bank. We have also run a children's holiday club and regular community fun days. All these activities are in cooperation with other local churches.

In the Summer of 2017 the Ex-Servicemen's Club effectively went bankrupt and was closed. This has meant that a number of our projects have had to be suspended. However, our volunteers are still meeting twice a month to pray for the area and walk around while we pray to chat with local people. This is proving a helpful time to review what we do and seek God as to the best way forward. Mid Sussex District Council are committed to reopening the Club as a Community Centre and approached The Point requesting that we partner with them to make this happen. Hurstpierpoint Parish Council are in the process of taking on the lease for the building and we are working together to form a strategic plan for the full refurbishment and reopening of the Club. This is an amazing opportunity and will be an exciting and challenging project which we believe will enable a permanent Christian presence to be established in the Willow Way area for the first time. Even though we don't have the building at the moment we will still run our annual Good Friday event this year, holding a BBQ, football tournament, bouncy castle etc. As well as doing our tip run for those who are unable to make it to the tip. We felt it was important to let the area know we haven't forgotten them and we are still here.



# Local Outreaches

We run regular outreach projects and events throughout Mid Sussex with the intention of encouraging every church member to get involved. In November 2017, we did “Out There Sunday” with a theme of ‘Hospitality’. People from all over the area invited their neighbours over or went to their neighbours to give them a treat. This led to people building new relationship with neighbours and to several people attending our next “Church in a Pub” event (now running 6 times a year).

We also did a “Picnic in the Park” outreach in St Johns Park, Burgess Hill. Everyone in the park was invited to join us for bouncy castle, face painting and garden games. We were able to make several great connections through that time.

“The Great Pancake Giveaway” outreach to Burgess Hill happened on Shrove Tuesday this year. We received about 100 guests and gave out many invitations to our Mothering Sunday Service and other events. We also were able to connect one family in need of support with an elderly relative to our mission partner Befriended.

Mid Sussex District Council have invited us with other local churches to hold a special event to launch the Burgess Hill Town Festival in June 2018 in St Johns Park. We are planning an open-air evangelistic event with live music, guest speaker, food, bouncy castles and activities for children and families.



## Sanctuary (Parent toddler group)

The Sanctuary has grown considerably and there are now approaching 100 local families attending on Monday mornings, the vast majority of whom have no church connections. The group is run by our Children's Pastor, Liz Styles. Liz has introduced more Christian content to the group especially in songs and story time. A number of Sanctuary families have attended special events at church and an Alpha Course is planned. Liz also visits local primary schools to do assemblies and lessons.



## Schools & YouthWork

We are really excited about the opportunities for schools work that have developed this year. Our Youth Pastors Ben Leighton and Pete Hall are involved with "The Hub", a network of youth leaders in Mid Sussex. The Hub is currently involved regularly in several local schools including Burgess Hill Academy (running two lunchtime clubs for years 7-9, with an average attendance of 130 students), and St Paul's Catholic College, (where a lunchtime club reaches about 40 student every week, and they are also running a Youth Alpha course). Pete has also initiated a new groups called "Wild Fire" which is designed to help equip young people in sharing their faith with their peers. Wild Fire runs 'equipping' sessions for our young people and also outreach events that they can invite their friends to, all as a part of building a missional culture among our young people.



# Alpha

I have led three successful Alpha courses over the last 12 months. It has been a great joy to see a number of people meeting Jesus, joining the church and getting baptised. We are now running a number of courses and groups to help people grow in their faith, discover their gifts and find their place in the Body of Christ.



# Church in a Pub

Church in a Pub (CIAP) has been running 3 or 4 times a year for 5 years now. The WoolPack (where we hold CIAP) has really loved us being there and approached us to start running it more. We have a great opportunity to start running CIAP every other month, which we will start in March. We have found many people who would not normally want to come to a church start coming to CIAP. We have also had people join Alpha after coming to CIAP.



# Further afield outreaches

Teams/members from The Point have been on mission trips to Albania, Haiti, Thailand, Tanzania, London and Brighton this year and a trip to visit our mission partners in Kenya is planned for April 2018. Mission trips are a real passion of mine! It has been great to see many more people getting involved in short term mission this year. These teams have been stretched, challenged, used by God and grown massively in their faith through the experience. They have returned home fired up and better equipped to be evangelists here in Mid Sussex.



# Mission Partners

- Befriended, a new charity working with older people/lonely and isolated people.
- Hope, supporting vulnerable families in Mid-Sussex
- Off the Fence, working with homeless and vulnerable people in Brighton and Hove.
- Hope House Haiti, an orphanage and a school for over 900 children in Haiti.
- The Centre for Urban Mission in Kibera Slum, Nairobi, Kenya, providing educational support and youth clubs for poor young people living in the slum.



Centre for Urban Mission, Kenya

I meet and communicate regularly with the leaders of our Mission Partners, to encourage them and to see how we can get more involved in their work. I have established a new Mission Links for each Mission Partner who liaise with them, receive prayer requests and keep the church family up to date with their work. In February 2018 we held our first “Mission Partners Lunch” after a Sunday service where each Mission Partner had the opportunity to give an update of their work and invite people to get involved. We hope this will become a regular event.

I have also been supporting members of The Point who have been/or are still on mission trips this year: these include Sam Leighton (Germany and Nepal); Abi Barnes (Korea); Gregory Allen (Cyprus, Israel and Ethiopia); Kelly Blamire (South Africa); Sam Warner (Morocco), Michael Holt (Mexico), Rosie Leach (Costa Rica), Alice Whitman (South America), Tom Holt (Australia)

# Next

As you have seen we have much that is happening. Here is a summary of all that will be taking place this next year.

- Good Friday, we will continue on with our tradition of reaching out to the Willow Way area during Good Friday by providing a Fun Day as well as providing services to run to the tip for those in need.
- We are continuing in partnership with the local council to help start a community centre from the old Ex-Servicemens building and are in communication with the councils and various other interested parties as they plan activities for the youth.
- We will go to Kenya to work with our Mission Partner, Centre for Urban Mission. Hopefully we will see how we can continue to work with them and possibly provide more outreaches.
- The local churches in Burgess Hill are working in conjunction to have an open air event happening in St. Johns park on the 3rd of June. We will have music, speaking, food, kids activities and much more.
- We will run another Alpha course in the spring/summer time. Looking at the different possibilities of working with it in Ditchling and possibly running one for the Caregivers who go to Sanctuary.
- We are looking at going to Germany for an extended weekend to provide mission opportunities for those who are interested.
- Out There Sunday, we will continue to run these events to reach out to our communities.

There are many more things that we will do, including our Christmas events, and various other events that people can bring friend and families to.

Thank you for all of your support and willingness to be a part of what God wants to do in Mid-Sussex and in the nations.

Erin Butler

Point Mission Pastor

15 February 2018