

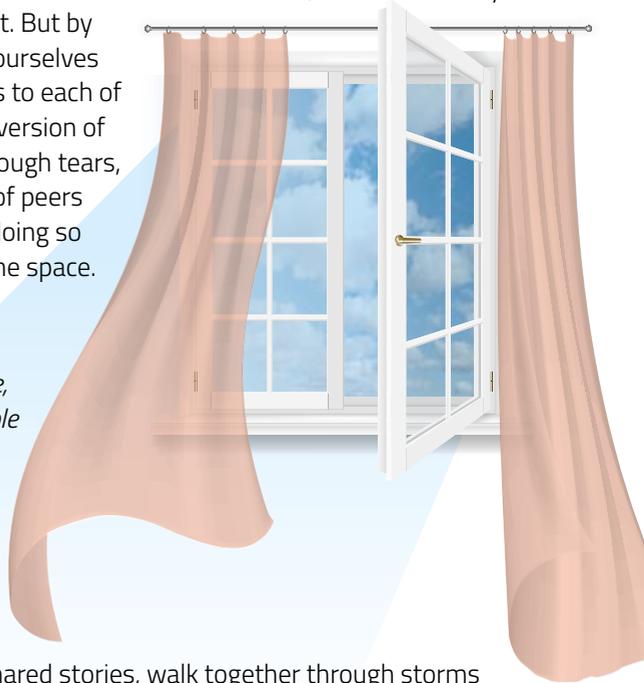
Mike writes...

Last week we gathered a bunch of young people and leaders for a discussion around some of the big questions of life. It was an incredible time and I'm so thankful for the OCCA (Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics) team who navigated and beautifully articulated possible answers to some huge questions. But what has stayed with me was the moment when we 'opened the floor' to additional questions and a young girl spoke. She shared how she was wrestling about how her faith had been a struggle, whereas her sister, who was continually unwell, seemed to lean into her faith in a more natural way. Not only was she so honouring of her family, but also she was so real and honest. The answer given is for this young girl to discern and contemplate. But what stuck out for me was that this girl's courage gave permission for others to share, and ask, and question and wrestle out a messy, complicated faith story. From that moment on it was as though we all realised neat, perfect answers do not exist, in the same way a neat perfect faith doesn't exist. But by sharing our story, but allowing ourselves to be vulnerable, we open doors to each of us sharing a deeper, more real, version of who we are. This young girl, through tears, shared herself in the company of peers totally unknown to her, but by doing so brought a life-giving light into the space.

I continue to be inspired by the Marianne Williamson quote;
"And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

My hope is that 267 continues to resource, encourage and pursue spaces where we can share stories, walk together through storms and also be deeply real with one another.

Less fear. More light. More hope.



Thanks...

- Claire is doing some amazing ministry with St Albans Diocese. Claire has been involved in the 'Launchpad' course which resources churches to start youth ministry. It is an incredible initiative and Claire is supporting it with her coaching skills and all-round generally awesome experience.
- We had a brilliant time with Ali Campbell at our recent Tribe Breakfast Plus. We ate very well, as usual, then had a workshop on 'self-care in ministry'. It was so helpful, and we look forward to our next Tribe Breakfast Plus.



- Last Friday was our Illuminate Big Questions Day. We started in Townsend School with year 12's, then gathered youth leaders for a discussion about tackling big questions with our youth groups. Finally in the evening we had 80 young people and leaders for a big questions session with the team from OCCA (Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics). It was, as one of our team shared, "one of the best bits of youth ministry I've been involved with in 24 years!"
- We are so thankful for some unexpected donations that have come in over the past month. We are feeling incredibly blessed by these. We also received another grant from our work with Chell Perkins. To develop and grow our vision of gathering people we need increased funds to enable this to happen. Thank you for all your support but please keep praying for additional finance to create a space for 267 to thrive in its vision.
- We are so thankful that St Paul's St Albans have appointed a new youth pastor. Welcome Graham. We pray God will use you powerfully in the youth ministry across our area.
- We are hugely thankful for some great collaboration between 'St Albans Churches Together' and STEP, 267, YoungLife and The Haven. We are hoping these wider conversations about youth ministry will prove incredibly fruitful.
- We had another superb time at our second 'BOOM!' event. This time St Luke's St Albans hosted us and we had 16 kids and 7 leaders for a time of games, food and exploring the story of the prodigal son.

Please...

- Haven is beginning to run some pilot courses for Haven Primary. Claire and the team are going to be in 3 different primary schools over the next term. Pray for great conversations, and for wisdom as they translate the Haven course for a younger group.
- In May Mike is speaking at the OnLife Leadership Gathering. This is an amazing opportunity for Mike to encourage youth leaders as he speaks on the topic of 'staying in youth ministry for the long haul!'
- After our phenomenal time at Illuminate Cathedral, we are planning another area-wide youth gathering. We are hoping to have an Illuminate Summer Party in July, (date and venue almost confirmed!). Pray for The Collective as we plan, and for wisdom to know the best activities to put in the day. Our hope is to 'take over' Westminster Lodge Sports Centre and have a whole bunch of different activities happening.
- Every month we host our 'Tribe Breakfasts' where we feed and encourage all those involved in youth, kids, and school's ministry. These are essential bacon-filled times of affirmation. But this year we are also hosting 'Tribe Breakfast Plus' where we offer a workshop following food. We have already hosted 'self-care in ministry' and in June our topic is 'Neurodiversity in Youth Ministry'. Pray for Mark from Urban Saints who will be leading this time.
- Our team is growing, not only do we now have Jane in Haven Operations, but we also appointed Tacha as our 'Social Media and Communications Lead'. Tacha is going to be working for both The Haven and the wider 267 ministry to help us share more creatively about all we are doing. Pray for her as she starts later this month and no doubt you will hear, and see, more of what we are doing because of her role. 😊
- Wednesday 19th June is our annual fundraising golf day at Porters Park Golf Club. There are still spaces available if you would like to join. But pray for great conversations, great favour, lush weather and for generous support.
- At the end of June we have our 678 weekend away to Burwell House in Cambridge. Pray for a group of about 50 young people and leaders who will be going.



Some scripture that is encouraging us at the moment:

"Listen! Listen to the roar of his voice, to the rumbling that comes from his mouth. He unleashes his lightning beneath the whole heaven and sends it to the ends of the earth. After that comes the sound of his roar; he thunders with his majestic voice. When his voice resounds, he holds nothing back. God's voice thunders in marvellous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding."

Job 37:2-5 NIVUK



Diary

Some important upcoming dates to pray for...

● Wednesday 1st May - Claire and Jane in Townsend running The Haven Course

● Friday 3rd/Saturday 4th May - St Mark's Colney Heath church 24 hours together

● Tuesday 7th May - Tribe Breakfast hosted by Verso Vineyard and STEP. 9.30am at Verso Church, Brick Knoll Park.

● Wednesday 8th May - Claire and Jane in Townsend running The Haven Course

● Wednesday 8th May - Haven Local drop-in at High St Methodist Harpenden.

● Sunday 12th - Claire is running part of the Haven course with St Paul's youth group

● Monday 13th May - Youthscape Lecture at St Mellitus. Claire and a few others are attending.

● Tuesday 14th May - Mike is running two seminars at the OneLife Youth Leaders Gathering at St Paul's Hammersmith.

Wednesday 15th May - Claire and Jane in Townsend running The Haven Course

● Sunday 19th May - FUEL is at YWAM Harpenden and the YWAM team is lead the whole evening. 6pm - 8pm at The Chapel on the Oval.

● Monday 20th May - Haven Primary pilot week 1 - this is running in three schools during the week!

● Tuesday 21st May - Churches together 'What Youth Want' planning meeting.

● Wednesday 22nd May - Claire and Jane in Townsend running The Haven Course

● Wednesday 22nd May - 267 Trustees meet

● Monday 3rd June - Haven Primary pilot week 2 - this is running in three schools during the week!

● Wednesday 5th June - Tribe Breakfast followed by 'Neurodiversity in Youth Ministry' workshop. This is taking place at St Paul's St Albans. 9.30am for breakfast, 11.30 for the workshop.

● Monday 10th June - Haven Primary pilot week 3 - this is running in three schools during the week!

● Wednesday 12th/Thursday 13th - Youth Prayer Summit at YWAM Harpenden.

● Wednesday 12th June - Haven Local drop-in at High St Methodist Harpenden.

● Friday 14th June - 267 Trustees meet

● Monday 17th June - Haven Primary pilot week 4 - this is running in three schools during the week!

● Wednesday 19th June - 267 Fundraising Golf Day at Porters Park.

● Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd - 678 Weekend Away at Burwell House Cambridge.

● Monday 24th June - Haven Primary pilot week 5 - this is running in three schools during the week!

● Sunday 30th June - FUEL summer BBQ at YWAM Harpenden.

Big day!

Date for your diary - Monday 8th July
267 Ministry & Vision Update.
7pm at St Marks Colney Heath.



If you would like to volunteer with the267project then drop us an email – director@the267project.com or pa@the267project.com

Thanks



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