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UPDATE

January
February
2025

Mike writes...

So 2024 has gone and 2025 is here, and I think I am thankful for that! Not that I want to wish time away but 2024 was hard work in the world of youth ministry. So as 2025 begins I am focusing on the areas that seemed to thrive last year, and that was time with leaders. Our monthly 'Tribe' breakfasts and workshops were incredibly well attended and all of them had an amazing atmosphere of unity, joy and collaboration. Linked to this was the amount of one-to-one time I spent with leaders, often over brunch!

These times of listening, encouragement, sharing stories has been life-giving. Now be pouring energy into the Illuminate events, exploring what a new monthly 'Fuel/Illuminate' hybrid event might look like and I am going on a 'church tour' to hear from youth and kids leaders. But I also want to continue to spend lots of time with leaders, cheering them on, listening to their stories and doing what I can to enable them, and their ministry, to thrive.

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267 is also going to
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Thanks...

- It was great for the whole team to have some time off over Christmas. For the first time we properly 'closed' the 267 office so everyone could take a break.
- We give thanks to The Haven being chosen by the Harpenden Round Table and their 'Santas Sleigh' event. This meant that all donations for one of the Christmas weeks will be going to The Haven, we think this will be over £4000!!
- We continue to give thanks for the provision of Tacha who is heading up our comms and social media. She has been producing some great content for both 267 and The Haven. We are so blessed by her and also excited for how she will help both ministries to thrive in 2025.
- At the start of the term Mike got to spend time with the whole staff of St George's School Harpenden as part of their inset day. Mike was encouraging them to 'play' and find creative ways to build relationships with their students. Mike was using some of the games from his games book with them. Note to self; teachers are VERY competitive!!

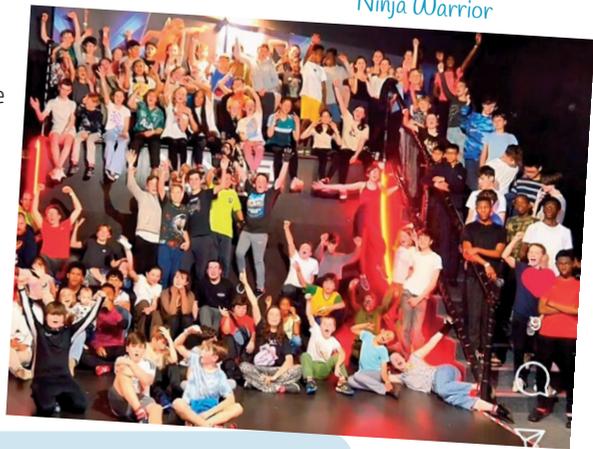


Youthscape Team at NYMW

- Back in November Claire and Mike were part of the team that went to the National Youth Ministry Weekend. This year was particularly difficult due to a good friend to Youthscape and many others in the youth ministry world who passed away the day the conference began. We felt privileged to be able to serve and support the team as they hosted the conference. God was incredibly kind and the conference was impactful in so many ways.
- We had a lot of fun at our 267 Christmas Quiz Night. Thanks to everyone who came and thanks to St Marks Colney Heath for hosting us.
- Even though there were some big challenges in 2024, one of the highlights and areas of growth was our monthly Tribe gatherings. So many leaders are joining us for breakfast and for the new Tribe workshops. We are excited for all these gatherings in 2025. The first ones are Jan 14th, Feb 12th and March 6th. Drop Liz an email if you'd like to join: pa@the267project.com

Please...

- It was really hard not running Houseparty this year and we are still lamenting the fact that it was the first year we missed (not including 2020) since 2012. Please pray for wisdom for the future of all our residentials. We are praying how to gather groups again and also we are still seeking an appropriate new venue to hire.
- Linked to this gathering heart of ours, we are still seeking a venue to be able to create and grow a '267 ministry cafe/hub/venue'. We are looking for spaces to develop over a few years and are happy to be tenants or explore taking on a run down venue. Please do keep your eyes open on our behalf as we have yet to find anywhere appropriate.
- Mike is joining with YoungLife to launch a new youth group into St Albans. This group will be aimed primarily at young people not currently connected to a church and so we are partnering with STEP as well. Pray for more leaders, for all the training and planning meetings we are having and pray for the time away in February with other YoungLife groups from across the country. This endeavour is so exciting as it is so outreach focused, we pray lots of churches will want to get involved. Get in touch with Mike for more info.
- Pray for Claire and Jane as they continue to develop Haven Primary. This term they hope to complete the new material and also film some of the content. Pray for favour and for schools and churches to get excited about this new life-giving resource from The Haven.
- The Collective is meeting soon to embark on more detailed planning for our Illuminate Cathedral event on March 15th. The event in 2024 was such a joy and blessing and we want to offer another great space to gather young people, have some serious fun and also build relationships between groups. Pray that we will find additional funding to be able to make this event happen just as we hope.
- After taking a break from running Fuel last term, we are having a think about what a Fuel/Illuminate regular event might look like this year. I'd love to explore some more discipleship and leadership times with young people, a bit like the 'Fuel Leadership Adventure' that we successfully ran for a few years. This term I am going to meet with some smaller youth groups to see if something like this might serve them and their young people.



Some scripture that is encouraging us at the moment:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Matthew 11: 28-29



Diary

Some important upcoming dates to pray for...

- Monday 13th January - The Collective meets to plan Illuminate Cathedral!!
- Monday 13th January - 267 Trustees meet
- Tuesday 14th January - 267 Tribe Breakfast at The Amble Inn, 9.30am-11am. All welcome.
- Tuesday 14th January - 6th Form Conference planning with Chris from STEP
- Tuesday 14th January - YoungLife St Albans Team Meeting
- Wednesday 15th January - Haven Primary Reunion Colney Heath
- Monday 20th January - The Haven Board meets
- Tuesday 21st January - Claire meets Charles and Gillian from Youthscape
- Tuesday 21st January - Youthscape Essentials Session 3 at Verso
- Thursday 23rd January - Haven Primary Reunion Wheathampstead
- Thursday 23rd January - Mike speaking about 267 to a church in Northampton.
- Monday 27th January - Tribe Retreat Day at St Marys North Mymms. 10am-3pm
- Thursday 30th January - 267 involved with STEP Leadership Conference at Verso
- Thursday 30th January - Claire speaking to parents at High St Methodist Harpenden about 'the teenage brain'
- Sunday 2nd February - Mike preaching at Markyate Baptist
- Tuesday 4th February - Claire on Cinnamon Network Residential
- Tuesday 4th Feb - Mike off writing for a few days

● **Saturday 8th February - 267 'Gourmet Tasting Evening' at Porters Park.**
For tickets drop Liz an email: pa@the267project.com



- Wednesday 12th February - 267 Tribe Breakfast at St John's Hatfield, 9.30am-11am. All welcome.
- Wednesday 12th February - Haven Local at High St Methodist
- Tuesday 18th February - Youthscape Essentials Session 4 at Verso
- Monday 24th February - The Haven Board meets
- Tuesday 25th February - Claire hosting Youthscape Launchpad Week One
- Friday 28th February - Sunday 2nd March - Mike away with YoungLife for a training weekend, in preparation for the launch of YoungLife St Albans this year!!

Upcoming Dates!

- Saturday 15th March - ILLUMINATE CATHEDRAL. 6.30pm-9.45pm date is Tuesday 17th September, 6.30pm at Verso Vineyard Church.

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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