

And the chippy?

You may have seen us last year on the One Show for our 2 minutes of fame! It was a rocky and cold start. The beast from the east was blowing in, and after a week the new fryer left! That was then, but now we've been open for a year, staff have settled in, chips are good and costs are being covered. For this stage of the social enterprise, that is enough for us!



Prayer please

For our Easter services, especially Good Friday when we will go on a Blessing Walk around the area and the baptisms on Easter morning.

For the planned Angel Season and additional work on the community centre.

For the unfolding vision here and that people will continue to be drawn to God.

Thank you for your prayers and support and blessings to you.

Chelmsley Wood Baptist Church

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Dear Friends

It's been a year since our last update but here we are! A lot has happened, people, projects, chip shops and God moving in the usual mysterious and surprising ways.

Spiritual streams within community life

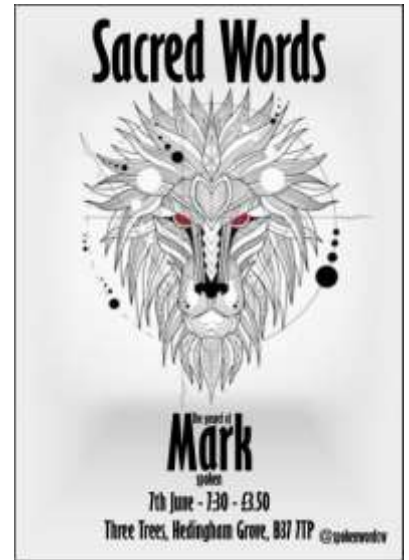
We still follow the four-fold pattern of Sundays through the month and have been blessed by these different approaches to worship. One of the main areas has been in contemplation and we have been working on reflection and quiet as part of our spirituality.

We ran a season of the Spoken word over the autumn which included calligraphy workshops, tales of the Brummie canals, poetry, international storytelling and a complete telling of the Gospel of Mark. This was probably the highlight of the season and the most popular event we ran.

This year we want to continue to offer streams of spirituality and faith into life at Three Trees and have begun planning an Angel season to start around Michaelmas. We are thinking of films, lectures on angelology, art exhibitions and angelic concerts! So watch this space (or the website).

The Link

April 2019



As part of this stream we have begun Soul Clinic, which is the 'heart' version of our SHEDtalks. On the Soul Clinic nights we have a time of what is probably called 'immersive worship'. We are using this as an opportunity to invite people into God's presence, particularly those for whom the Sunday morning thing might not work. We're hoping it will also provide refreshment for those in the church who are looking for a different approach to worship.

We've also begun to run Journey, a discussion group on Monday afternoons, after the Monday Meditation. We have been seeing God stirring people up a bit over the last few months and feel that God is moving us along in our ministry and outreach here. One of these signs has been in our latest purchase...

You may remember we covered the baptistry over a few years back in order to create the chapel and rejig the main hall. We're delighted to let you know we've bought our own portable baptistry and will be using it on Easter Sunday! We have four people currently attending a baptism group and will be having a big celebration at our Easter service!



3 Trees team: Emily, Neil, Jay, Michelle, Lauren

And the Centre?



As usual, things have been changing and growing at three Trees. We have seen staff changes, with a new Co-Ordinator starting last summer, and now going off on maternity leave! The part-time administrator, is picking up the hours and we will be getting temporary cover to fill the hours.

In terms of the building it has been a tremendous relief to have over a year off from fundraising and building work, we haven't known what to do with ourselves. On the other hand however...

There have been a few odds and ends to finish off, we've decorated and furnished the remaining rooms and been sorting the garden (again!).

We've also seen new people move into the building. Urban Heard are a youth specialist group that now have an office with us. Black Train Music have a base of activity here including concerts, music listening projects and a clutch of choirs. Alongside all our regular and established groups the place has certainly been lively over the year!

We want to keep things moving and have begun looking at putting in a stained glass screen onto the extension. This is partly to discourage the local yoofs hanging around smoking fags in the doorway, but also to bring a splash of colour and soul to the front corner.



The Birch room used for youth work



Entrance to the Grove extension

Alongside this, the Artshack is starting to reach the end of its life and are looking at the possibility of siting a few containers down the side of the building to run more youth activities and workshop space. We're waiting on the planners to see if they would consider allowing this kind of development.