

Mike writes...

Have you ever been overwhelmed? The words means: 'bury or drown beneath a huge mass of something' – sounds quite hard work doesn't it? Sometimes I get frustrated about the 'big' things; fixing the world, changing the church, stopping a war, reaching a community – I know it's madness! But within the world of youthwork I sometimes feel like the task is too big. What God has been teaching and showing me in this season is to focus on each piece. A friend told me these wise words recently: "nothings happens globally that hasn't been birthed locally" – I like these words. The big may be looking over me and I may feel helpless to make any change, but that's because I was trying to change the big thing. My task should start small, simple, with one-at-a-time type behaviour.

Jesus speaks about mustard seed, though a small and seemingly insignificant seed, it will grow to a size that is big enough to support the lives and homes of birds. Our role is to maybe plant seeds, nurture seeds and protect seeds, God will take care of the growth and fruit. I am committed to planting seeds and not getting overwhelmed about how I'm going to plant a forest!



Thanks...

● We give thanks for 'BOOM!' That happened in October. A great time, 14 kids, fun and games, a carousel of competitions and great chats over food. Such a wonderful bit of collaboration and partnership between 3 churches.



● FUEL at Vineyard continues to a wonderful time of gathering. It's quite an energetic time as many of those that come are in the 11-13's age group (and boys!). We know that FUEL is serving the smaller groups and giving them a safe place to build relationships and explore faith



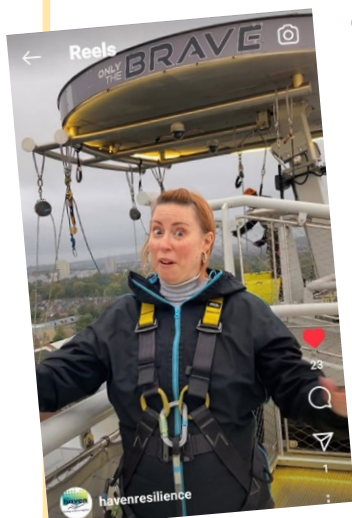
● I've loved partnering with Youthscape on their Essentials training course. There has been some amazingly deep conversations and a sense of a real shared journey together. So many leaders (around 45) coming from all across the area.

● Haven has had a term of fundraising to be able to support and grow their ministry. We had a stunning (sold out) afternoon tea in September. Then in October Claire 'faced her fears' and abseiled off the top of the Tottenham Stadium. Go Claire! Also 'facing their fears' and fundraising, Ben and Lizzy, and also lovely Ellie C shaved her head for The Haven!!! Between all of them we think they have raised over £6000 (including some match funding) for The Haven this term. Wow. So thankful.

● Mike led a retreat time for the team from Souster Youth. They work in the Peterborough area and have a similar ministry to STEP.

● My 'Tedx St Albans' journey reached its most significant step last week as I gave my talk in front of 150 people. I have loved the last 7 months of coaching, training, team building and crafting my story to share with people. The Tedx team has been so supportive and I know God will use all that I have learnt as well as the opportunity to share our vision with a wider audience when the recorded video is released later this month. Watch our for a link to Mike's talk, we'd love you to watch it and share with your friends and network.

● Mike got to spend 24 hours with 60 church leaders from across the whole Church of England, his two talks were on 'why young people matter' and 'how to reach young people'. Pray for further conversations and for leaders to choose to make youth ministry a higher priority than it has been.



Claire 'stepping up to the plate' (in fact, stepping over it!!)

Please...

- FUEL has been an amazing time of gathering but we are exploring where to go with it in 2024. We are sending maybe a deeper link to the Illuminate ministry and offer new spaces to explore gifts and leadership, and also have opportunities for more discipleship conversations. Please pray as we consider where God may be leading us
- Houseparty hasn't filled up as much as previous years, this would reflect some of the challenges youth ministry is facing across the area. We are going to still run an event but slightly shorter time away and in a different location from what we had planned. Whatever happens would our time away with young people be a deep time of joy and blessing.
- Illuminate has a big couple of months; we are heading to Ninja Warrior again in December and then we are running an event in St Albans Cathedral. We are really excited to see how God is growing this work and allowing young people to connect. We need a whole bunch of additional volunteers for the Cathedral event, so if you are free on Saturday 13th January, drop Mike an email. We also would love some extra funding so we can make the event truly memorable.
- In the last half term we said goodbye to Maddie, Ellie and Lizzy. They are all leaving to go onto other things and we hope we haven't upset any of them! We are so thankful for all the life, creativity and joy they brought to 267 and The Haven. This leaves us with the smallest team for around 8 years and presents a challenge in running all the ministry we feel called to. The Haven hopes to reappoint shortly, so do share the job description when it comes live. Pray for Mike, Liz and Claire as we navigate this new season and have to choose which ministry to pour into.
- This month we are almost ready for Chell Perkins to start applying for grants on our behalf. They have spent a few weeks building a picture of our ministry and also where the need is. We are praying God will bless their effort and we will find favour with all the trusts and philanthropists they reach out to.
- We are also looking for a part time 'Social Media and Communications Lead'. We are aware we need to spend energy and finance helping raise the profile of 267 and The Haven, but also to improve how we connect with those that support us, and those that we want to support. If you know of anyone with appropriate skills and experience who would like to work with us for 15 hours a week then drop Mike an email. :)



TRIBE Breakfast

Some scripture that is encouraging us at the moment:

"He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.'"

Matthew 13:31-32



Diary

Some important upcoming dates to pray for...

- Thursday 2nd November -
Youthscape Essentials planning group
- Thursday 2nd November - visiting potential weekend away venue
- Friday 3rd November -
Supporting the Younglife Bonfire Night
- Monday 6th November - Mike visiting STEP to talk about Illuminate Cathedral event
- Wednesday 8th November -
Tribe Breakfast at YWAM Harpenden
- Wednesday 8th November -
Haven Local at High St Methodist
- Monday 13th November -
The Collective meets at Vineyard
- Tuesday 14th November - Youthscape Essentials Training Evening at Bute Mills
- Monday 20th November - 267 Trustees meet
- Friday 24th - Sunday 26th November -
National Youth Ministry Weekend
- Sunday 26th November -
FUEL at Vineyard St Albans
- Saturday 2nd December - 267 Fundraising Christmas Quiz Night at Townsend School
Tickets available here:
www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/267-quiz-night
- Sunday 3rd December - Illuminate at Ninja Warrior Watford
Tickets available here:
www.illuminateyouth.co.uk
- Tuesday 12th December - Youthscape Essentials Training Evening at Bute Mills
- Wednesday 13th December -
Haven Local at High St Methodist
- Wednesday 13th December -
267 Trustees meet
- Saturday 30th December -
New Years Houseparty

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

Thanks



Upcoming Dates!

Saturday 13th January 2024 - Illuminate in St Albans Cathedral - 6pm-10pm

Saturday 10th Feb 2024 - 267 Fundraising Wine Tasting Evening - Porters Park Golf Club.



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