



# McClure Mumblings

Steve & Debs serving with The Navigators in Southampton and beyond

Dec 2017 Edition



## Celebrating what God has done...

*"...Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world." Isaiah 12:4-5*

We look forward with excitement to the anniversary event to mark 50 years of the Navigator student ministry in Southampton (see flier). We are working with a "Back to the Future" theme whereby we will celebrate all that God has done in our midst whilst also being inspired for all that God still has in store for us in the years ahead. With that in mind we have been hugely encouraged by all that God has been doing this term. God has not always been doing what we expected but it has been abundantly clear that God has been at work. In this letter we want to give you a glimpse of what has been happening and then give you some food for thought and prayer as we look forward to some of what 2018 promises to have in store for us.

At the beginning of term one of our key prayer requests was for new people to join the student ministry. We spent a day pitching to students at the Clubs and Societies Bunfight and Tim Peters and I have continued to chat with students on campus one morning a week. Both were good opportunities but it has been interesting to see how God has brought students to us from a variety of more relational sources. The group has really benefited from this injection of new people, some of whom are internationals. What a joy to have people from many nations joining us week on week to learn together of all that God has done for us. Our series on "An Adventure of a Lifetime" which has focused on encounters with Jesus has been a huge encouragement. We have tried to make it very accessible for new people whatever their background and it has been very well received. It has also been fun to see our student team growing in faith and having a great time delivering quite a few of the sessions. As ever you can listen online at [www.sotonnavs.org/audio](http://www.sotonnavs.org/audio). The team also wanted to bring a new fun dimension to our evening meetings and so there has regularly been students playing board games at our house into the late hours! The vision we have as Navigators is very much generational and we have been so encouraged to see a bunch of young leaders stepping up to the plate and enjoying serving Jesus in the midst of this ministry. As we get older (big year coming up for Steve next year) it becomes increasingly important to minister through others as we continue to work with students. Please join us in giving thanks for the team of Sarah, Tim, Stephen, Tom, Naomi & Jane.

# Inspiration for the future...



Looking forward there are quite a few opportunities on the horizon in what is a slightly shorter than normal spring term. In the ministry we are going to be focussing on the theme of "Experiencing Freedom" as we contrast the notion of freedom that the world craves with the true freedom that we have in Christ.

Steve has had a number of invitations to participate and/or contribute to various student conferences and opportunities. This will see him travel a bit more this term to places such as Bergen, Blackpool and Bratislava. Throw in Term 2 of Formation School, Southampton Uni CU Events week, regular local & national responsibilities and the daily routines of family life and this term promises to be quite full once more. Please continue to pray for a healthy balance between family, work and rest.

Family wise the kids are doing great! They love school/preschool and their various clubs and church groups. Each one is developing fast, making friends and we trust beginning to encounter Jesus for themselves too. What a privilege (well most of the time) to parent such inspiring young people. They love the opportunities that life brings them to interact with the students each week and to go away with them to places like the New Forest and Norway.

## Winter Prayer Points:

- Please give thanks for all that God has been doing this term to bring along new people and see each of them growing in their faith.
- Please pray for 2 Malaysian students who have been doing Christianity Explored with us this term (led by the two of us). We also expect two from Japan to join this group in the New Year. All are eager to learn about Jesus!
- Please continue to pray for own family and especially the faith journey that our children are on. We would love to see them make decisions to follow Jesus themselves.
- Please pray for the opportunities of next term, that we would make the most of them and that God would be glorified through our lives.

*To God be the Glory,*

*Steve, Debs, Benjamin, Naomi, Samuel, Jacob & Aaron*

## Spring Key Dates:

**Wed 17-Thur 18 Jan:** Training in Understanding Ourselves (Debs)

**Fri 26-28 Jan:** 'Timeout' Student Weekend in Bergen (Steve)

**Mon 12-Fri 16 Feb:** 'Relevant' CU Events Week 2018 (Steve)

**Fri 23-Sun 25 Feb:** BIG Weekend in Blackpool (Steve)

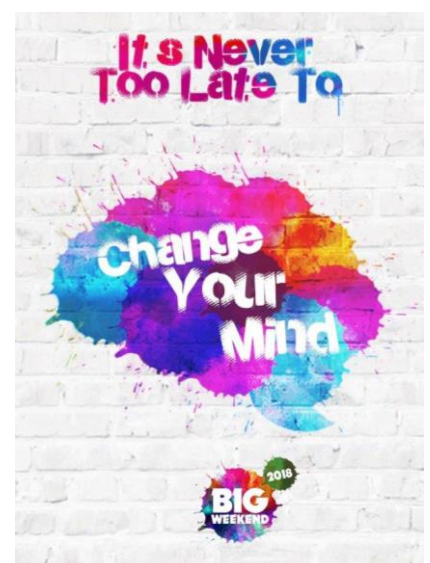
**Wed 21-Sun 25 Mar:** European NAVS Conf in Bratislava (Steve)

**Sat 31 Mar to Sat 7 Apr:** Family Holiday in the Lakes

## Advanced Dates:

**Sat 28 April:** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day conference for Soton NAVS

**Tues 24-Tues 31 July:** Discipleship Week in Skjolden



Our Address: 53 Harefield Road, Southampton, UK, SO17 3TG

Home Tel: 02380-677557, Steve Mobile: 07852-233960, Debs Mobile: 07767-145012

Email: [steveanddebs@the-mcclures.co.uk](mailto:steveanddebs@the-mcclures.co.uk) Skype: steve.debs.mcclure, Twitter: mcclure1978 / mcclure1980

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