

McClure Mumblings

Steve & Debs serving with The Navigators in Southampton and beyond...



Sep 09



Above: Benjamin sitting on the summit of High Raise (762m) in the Lake District on our recent family holiday

Building for the future...

'Building for the future' was the theme for our recent National Student Forum and it seemed an apt title for a newsletter reaching you at the beginning of yet another academic year and as we see our little baby rapidly growing into a proper little boy! Benjamin is becoming increasingly vocal, worryingly adept at moving around the house and very eager to start walking too. As a family we have all had a great summer which started with our 5 week mission trip to Norway and Latvia (see enclosed report) and ended with a couple of weeks walking in the Lake District. For our wider family it has been a challenging summer with Debs Granddad Bylett (aged 89) and Steve's Auntie Ivy (aged 73) passing away.

We have now been back in Southampton a month and find ourselves knee-deep in planning, preparation, publicity and prayer before the start of a new term. The autumn term is always the hardest, busiest and most challenging term of the year but it has already been evident that God is with us and is working among us.

Last week we spent time with some of our student team talking about disciple making. We were thinking about building for the future; what we wanted to be intentional about in helping both the students and our team of young graduates. The four things we talked about were; (1) building upon the 'foundation of Jesus Christ' (1 Cor 3:10-11), (2) building others up in 'faith, hope and love' (1 Cor 13:13), (3) building for 'maturity' (Col 1:28-29) and (4) building for 'works of service' across the body of Christ (Eph 4:11-13).

We are thankful for a great bunch of returning students and we are very excited about helping them become wholehearted disciples of Jesus Christ this year. We also have a committed team of twelve graduates who are labouring with us amongst the group this year. It is such a privilege to be involved with people at such a crucial stage of their lives; we are so thankful to others who have invested in us over the years and we want to pass that on to others.

Over the summer we were busy with some much needed fund-raising to reduce a monthly shortfall of approx £700 per month and increased expenditure of approx £100 per month (esp. Steve studying for FFM and more frequent trips to Riga). We are grateful to God for already providing around 35% of this target and are trusting God for the remainder.

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Above: Southampton University braces itself for the onslaught of students

New people and new opportunities...

God has been so good to us again this year in giving us a great team of people working alongside us. We have welcomed 3 new Connect workers; Kate Marshall from Cardiff (part of the group for the past 3 years), Kashimana Tsumba from Nigeria (part of the group this past year) and Patrick Noonan from Maine, USA (who has served with us in Norway and Latvia for the past 3 summers). Each have a great story of how God led them to do the Connect programme with us in Southampton this year.

We have two new Associate Reps (Steve Price and Jane Mitchell) who have so faithfully served and invested their spare time in people from the group for a number of years now. We are also grateful for a few new faces on our Leadership team, Jim Pritchard (PhD in Engineering), Adam Collett (4th year Acoustic Engineer) and Holly Price (working with Damaris).

We will be continuing our weekly prayer breakfasts and Thursday night ministry evenings; we will be working our way through Jesus' parables as recorded in Luke's gospel. We are aiming to draw the friends of people connected to the group into our midst and praying that some of these 'not-yet Christians' will go on to join our Monday night discussion groups which we are re-launching in October. Martin Cooper will be speaking to the group on our Weekend away (Isle of Wight) and we finish term with our annual evangelistic Christmas meal. Very busy but so exciting!!

Planner – Autumn

Mon 28 Sep – Fri 2 Oct

Soton Uni Fresher's Week

Sat 3 – Sun 4 Oct

Start of Foundations for Ministry (FFM) in Birmingham (Steve)

Sat 10 Oct

Wedding of Tim Peters and Lowri Webb in Bournemouth

Fri 6 – Sun 8 Nov

NAVS weekend away on IOW and 3-4 Latvian friends visiting Soton from 1st to 11 Nov

Wed 11 – Thurs 12 Nov

National Student Leadership Community in Glasgow (Steve)

Sat 21 Nov

National Group Leaders' Day in Loughborough

Sat 28 – Sun 29 Nov

FFM in Birmingham (Steve)

Thurs 3 Dec

NAVS Annual Christmas Meal

Weekend in December

Weekend trip to Riga (TBC)

Fri 11 Dec

End of Autumn Term

Partnering with us...Please join us in

Please join with us in praying that God would work *in us* and *through us* this year, especially;

- For our new **Connect workers** (Patrick, Kate and Kashimana) and our wider **graduate team** (Steve & Holly, Tim & Lowri, Lydia, Jim, Adam, Kim & Jane), that this coming year would be inspiring, transforming and preparative for a lifetime serving our King
- For **returning students**, that this coming year would see much fruit in and through their lives as they live and disciple amongst the lost here on the campus of Southampton Uni
- For a **new influx of students** to join us in NAVS this year following the inevitable annual graduation / moving away of a number of last year's group
- For all of the **not-yet Christians** connected with people in the group, that we would find ways to encourage them to participate in aspects of the group, that they would feel able to do so and that some of them would also join our new Monday night discussion evenings
- For our **friends in Latvia**, some of whom are visiting us for an extended stay around the time of our weekend away on the Isle of Wight
- For Debs as she leads a **Discipleship Explored** Group with other mums at church
- For **us as a family**, that we would be able make quality time for each other and for God, that God Himself would sustain us and stretch us in faith, hope and love

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