

Christmas 2024 Newsletter

Sorry we haven't been in touch for a while. So much has been happening in 2024, but we are excited to share everything with you as we look back over the year and as we celebrate the birth of our saviour this Christmas.

Our New Children's Ministry Resource Centre

When I look back on this time last year, it was unclear where Pathway would be moving our office premises to. From the beginning, we saw the need to relocate as an opportunity to re-energise our vision to resource children's ministry in churches. We would like to do this by sharing the equipment that we have and making it more accessible, so that churches can visit to view and borrow props, costumes and puppets for their children's ministry.

Since the previous edition of our newsletter, a new opportunity came up to use the former 'Botany Bay Chapel' (Gospel Hall) on East Lodge Lane in Enfield. Though its location is towards the edge of Enfield, it offers a good space, a car park and low costs. In recent years it has been improved by Restore Community Church and used as a retreat and prayer centre, but they kindly invited Pathway to try out the space to see if it could work for us.

Pathway moved in on 23 July and it was a huge task. We are thankful to a large team of volunteers who helped us pack and transport our equipment to the new place. The move did demand a lot of our time and attention and it took a while to get things back in order, meaning that the Autumn term got off to a slow start. However our prayer is that this could develop into a way of helping churches to share resources with one another too.

- **Share your time** - Could you help us with the process of sorting, cataloguing and organising our new space and loading photos onto the resource database?
- **Share your resources** – Do you have props that you would like to be shared with others?

- **Share the cost** – Could you increase your giving to Pathway to help develop this Resource Centre, or encourage your church to become a Pathway Partner?

If the answer is yes, we'd love to hear from you.



Welcoming New Staff

In our last newsletter we asked you to pray for the grant applications we had made. We're so thankful to announce that we received a generous grant that enabled us to appoint two new Area Workers for Haringey to work alongside our Area Workers for Enfield (Julia and Miriam).

Maria Loucas (left) and Jennai Eyland (right) joined our team on 1 September, sharing the advertised full-time role, after having served as volunteers with Pathway. They are charged with helping to deliver the clubs and assemblies in Haringey, and to develop partnerships with the local churches. Please pray for them as they continue to settle into their roles.



The Shepherd's area in our pop-up Christmas Experience

Family Fun Day

Our 'Greatest Treasure' Family Fun Day on Saturday 18 May 2024 at Christ Church Cockfosters arose from a desire to find new ways to connect with the families that we serve through schools and churches. The day included a treasure trail around Trent Country Park, carnival style game stalls like 'hook-a-boat', a coconut shy and 'sponge the pirate', as well as a pirate-themed show that taught how Jesus is the greatest treasure of all. Though the attendance and money raised was modest, we believe that it helped us with our 'friend raising', by introducing Pathway to families who didn't previously know much about us. This is something we'll definitely consider doing again in partnership with a local church.



Highlights of 2024 - Quiz Night

2024 began with a Quiz Fundraiser at Enfield Baptist church in January. It was a great evening where we were both able to raise funds and share the vision for the year ahead.



Easter and Christmas Experiences

These have become an annual fixture in the Pathway calendar. In 2024 the Easter Experience was expanded to run in three venues and visits to the Christmas Experience hit record numbers, with well over 2000 visitors. Indeed, we had to add two extra days at one location to accommodate demand. In addition, we ran 'pop-up' Christmas and Easter workshops at Camrose Baptist Church and at Capel Manor School.

Church Retreats

Pathway were pleased to be invited by Restore Community Church in March and New River Church in June to run the children's ministry at their church retreats. It was wonderful to spend time with their church families and strengthen our partnerships.



'It's Your Move' Workshop

In late June, our team went to Latymer All Saints CE School to help the 90 Year 6 students prepare for the transition to secondary school. Miriam, Julia, Ashley and Jennai went to deliver this all day workshop, consisting of three one hour lessons, an assembly, a games session and prayer (reflection) stations. The children engaged really well with the material, and we received some encouraging feedback from the teachers and children. Every child received a copy of the Scripture Union 'It's your Move' booklet. One Year 6 pupil said the *It's your move* booklet "helped me understand more about secondary school and the way it functions. The day gave me more confidence on being ready by explaining how it goes and what we might be doing there, giving me confidence and courage for a new beginning." Another pupil commented: "I remember the Bible verses we learnt about." What I found helpful is that God will be with me during Secondary [School]."



End of Year BBQ

The academic year ended with our annual get-together and was an opportunity to give thanks to God for all that has happened this year. This time it was kindly hosted by St Cuthbert's church, Wolves Lane, Wood Green, after many years of it being hosted at the home of Chris Pickering, who is one of our volunteers. At the BBQ we said farewell to our interns Jule and Juliane who have returned home to Germany to pursue their studies, and to Bel who is stepping back from her role on the staff but plans to stay involved with the work of Pathway by becoming a volunteer. We will greatly miss her passion for sharing the gospel with children and her great eye for design.

Holiday Clubs

Over the summer holidays, many of the staff are involved in church holiday clubs. One of the newer opportunities this summer was supporting Highgate International

Church's Holiday Club on 24-26 July, using our Beach Rescue themed resources. The church is keen to strengthen connections made through its popular toddler group, in particular to invite families to something in the holidays.



Back to School Concert

On Saturday 28 September, we were treated to top quality musical performances at St James Muswell Hill. Our special guest artistes included Michael Andrews (conductor of All Souls Music) along with an orchestra, West End Has Faith and a massed children's choir. They all gave fantastic renditions of sing-along songs you might recall from your school days like 'This little light of mine' and 'Who put the colours in the rainbow'. Our aim was to raise funds and attract new supporters, as well as to connect with some of the families that we minister to through our work in schools and churches. We are so grateful that so many people gave freely of their time to make this happen!



Performers from West End Has Faith lift the roof off!



The children's choir sings 'The Building Song'

Light Parties

We were pleased to have been invited to speak at a 'Light Party' service at Christ Church Crouch End in

October, where we had fun with science experiments all about 'light' and taught from John's Gospel about Jesus as the Light of the World.



Clubs

We launched a new lunchtime club at St Michaels CE School, Enfield, on Thursdays, run in partnership with a team from Chase Family Church. This forms part of our commitment to launch 5 new clubs in Enfield since appointing an Area Worker for the borough and brings the number of clubs we run or support to eleven.



Linda teaching at our St John's Crews Hill club

Assemblies

We completed the 'Meals with Jesus' assembly series in the summer and in September we began a new series called 'Splashtastic Stories', looking at watery Bible stories that teach aspects of Christian baptism. Over 2024, we delivered well over 200 assemblies and added new schools to our roster, with the help of all our wonderful volunteers.



The final assembly of our 'Meals with Jesus' series

Speaking Engagements

In 2024 we have been able to speak at church services at Gospel Centre Wightman Road, Christ Church Crouch End, Mill Hill East Church, Christ Church North Finchley, Saint James Muswell Hill, Muswell Hill Baptist Church, St Pauls Finchley, Highgate International Church and Totteridge Road Baptist. We would love to come and visit your church. Please get in touch if you'd like to arrange this with us.

Goals for 2025

One of the needs we are praying about as we go into 2025 is for 10 churches in Enfield to increase their giving to £250 a month to sustain the cost of our Area Workers for Enfield when the grant money comes to an end. Since we gained this funding, we have been able to start five new clubs in schools and churches and form several new church connections as well as strengthen existing ones. As you've seen above, the work of Pathway has continued to expand beyond our core work of assemblies and clubs, to include supporting churches to reach children in their communities. However, this is just the tip of the iceberg. We have an ambitious vision to do so much more with your support.

Our Charity Number and bank accounts are changing

Pathway has decided to move from being an unincorporated charity to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) from 2025. This will mean Pathway becoming a legal entity in its own right and will put us in a stronger position to receive funding as we seek to grow. In practice, this means closing the current charity and associated bank accounts and transferring everything to a CIO with a new Charity number and new bank accounts. However, our operations will remain unchanged, and our current Trustees will become directors of the new CIO. We will be contacting all our supporters and donors in the new year with more information, including confirmation of the date of the change, and what if anything you will need to do.

Pathway Children's Ministry Resource Centre
Gospel Hall
East Lodge Lane
Enfield
EN2 8AS

www.pathwayonline.co.uk