new ground

LATEST



Healed from inoperable cancer!

Online church: exciting start, exciting plans

Issue 02 October 2015

A S H B U R N H A M D O W N L O A D S



Whether you were at Ashburnham 2015 and want to listen again or you couldn't make the event and want to know what you missed out on... recordings from the main sessions and seminars and videos from the main sessions are available on the New Ground website now.

WWW.NEWGROUNDCHURCHES.ORG

TELL US YOUR STORY



We want to know what God's doing in your life! Big or small, miraculous or everyday, please drop us a line to share a story (or two!) about God's goodness to you or your church.

COMMS@NEWGROUNDCHURCHES.ORG

Welcome to the second edition of Latest. We hope this magazine will inform you about some of the things going on in our New Ground family of churches, but also encourage you, stir your faith and draw you closer to God as you read about some of things He is doing among us.

If you were at Together @ Ashburnham 2015, we trust you enjoyed it! We are so grateful for the many ways in which God spoke to people, touched our lives and even made the sun shine! It was great to see people from different churches and even different nations spending time together, encouraging one another and just having fun.

In this edition of *Latest*, you can read all about Dave Holden's reflections on Ashburnham, the launch of 'online church', the **New Ground** Academy, youth, Impact and an incredible story of God's supernatural healing power.

We'd love to hear stories of what God is doing in your life and in your church. Why don't you drop us a line to tell us how you're taking *new ground* in your workplace, neighbourhood, family and city, so we can celebrate with you and give glory to God?

Editor. Latest

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FRUIT THAT REMAINS

by Dave Holden, Leader, New Ground

@DavidEHolden

It can sound like a cliché to say after an event that there were too many highlights to count, but it's genuinely true of Together @ Ashburnham 2015.
I loved the weekend for so many reasons, from people becoming Christians to every aspect of our meetings pointing to our corporate mission.

Although Ashburnham 2015 was clearly a great, fun, family event, those who came could hardly miss the purpose of the weekend: even if you never leave your home country to visit another European nation, you will have come away with a compassion to reach your neighbours and your town or city with the gospel.

It was so encouraging to hold
24 hours of prayer during the
weekend. It was great to see
many folk on site visiting the
Prayer Centre – sometimes at very
inconvenient times to pray for nations
they may never visit – to seek God in one-hour
blocks for all the nations of Europe. Surely God
hears every prayer.

God's plan to reach the whole world can seem a daunting task, so I loved that throughout all of the

INTERVIEW WITH DALE BARLOW

Q. Where are you from and where have you lived?

D: I grew up in Battersea then moved outwards through South London, before joining Sussex Police and living in East Grinstead, and finally moving to Oxted about 12 years ago.

Q. Tell us a little bit about your family...

D: I've been married to Jayne for the last 23 years and we have three daughters, Paige (21), Charleigh (20) and Jordan (16).

Q. Where are you based now?

D: I have been the lead elder at King's Church in Oxted, Surrey, for the last decade. Oxted is a great place to live... big enough for a Caffè Nero but smal

enough to feel
like a village and
that you know lots
of people, so it is a
really good place to lead

Q. What's your current role with New Ground?

D: Currently I have a few roles: I am part of Dave's core team, running the Board and Management Teams and also line managing Kevin Rose (Operations Director) and Natalie Williams (Communications Director). I also gather a number of New Ground church leaders on a monthly basis to encourage, share, pray and eat cake!

teaching there was a mixture of faith for what God can do through us and a consistent honesty about our weakness.

We came away in no doubt of our utter dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit as we each play our part wherever we live.

I've been told that the Italians, Romanians, French, Dutch, Swiss, Germans and others who were there in great numbers really felt at home at Ashburnham and did not feel as though they were just attending a UK conference for British people. It's a joy to hear this. The atmosphere on site was remarkable and the diversity of ages, languages and cultures was a huge factor in this.

The huge generosity expressed through the offering of £143,000 was totally overwhelming! Our hope is that in the coming weeks and months, this will go a long way, as will the lasting fruit of Ashburnham that will still be on display through individuals and local churches. Our hope is that those who responded to 'go' will do just that, and that this conference was a beginning for many and never an end in itself.

Finally, the greatest joy of all was hearing of the adults, youth and children who became Christians, who had fresh encounters with God, were baptised in the Holy Spirit, were physically healed and those who were reminded that they have a key part to play, however small, in God's purposes. May we all have fruit that remains.

Q. What's your favourite place in the world?

D: I don't have one - anywhere that includes

Jayne, ice cream and a bit of sun is pretty good

- but if I could only re-visit one place in the
world it would be Antelope Park in Zimbabwe.

Q. Who has most influenced you?

D: Tricky.... not sure I could single out one person as lots of people have and continue to be hugely influential in my life... different people in different seasons, and each as important as the others.

Q. What do you like to do for fun?

be high up on the list... don't get too much sun in England! Playing golf - but I usually get to the end of the year and think I never played enough - and having meals with friends.

Q. What are you most passionate about?

D: Jesus, Jayne, my girls, King's Church Oxted, church.... and giving the notices at Ashburnham

Q. What are your hopes for the next year personally?

D: Keep close to God, stay faithful as a husband and father and church leader, be more intentional in personal evangelism and see God move more through personal prayer.

Q. What are your hopes for the next year for **New Ground?**

D: That our existing churches will flourish, that our existing church plants will strengthen and that new churches will be planted in Europe... please God!

For more info about the **New Ground** core team visit: newgroundchurches.org/about

CHURCH PROFILES

A CHURCH PLANT WITH A DIFFERENCE

It can't have escaped your notice that, by and large, the world isn't at church. When push comes to shove, many unbelievers won't even come to church if they are cajoled by a friend.

But the world is online and online a lot. That's why we've recently launched a new church plant with a Sunday 20 September 2015.

difference. Everyday Church Online was launched on



EVERYDAY CHURCH ONLINE

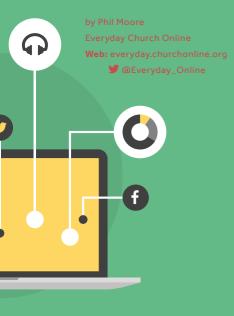
We'd like to pretend that we are master strategists who spotted the enormous potential of the internet to take church to the world, but the truth is that we didn't. Like most things at Everyday Church, we felt God speak to

us as elders, we resisted him for a while with all our reasons why it was a bad idea, then we finally said yes. It was only after saying yes to God that we began to see the genius of God's idea.

On our launch Sunday we saw lights come on to indicate that people had joined us from four continents. One of the people we had an opportunity to live-pray with was a lady in hospital who thanked us for being with her at her bedside. We worshipped God, we drew attention to a Syrian refugee appeal, we preached from Proverbs, and we made our first faltering steps towards gathering an online congregation: starting with 100-350 initial attendees. But don't settle for a second-hand description of our new church plant. Come and join us yourself any Sunday at 4.30pm or 6pm at everyday.churchonline.org



And when you do, why not invite your friends to join you? You know, the ones who would never have come to church with you had you not brought church to them.





SOME THINGS YOU MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN ABOUT OXTED

Church: King's Church Oxted, England Web: newgroundchurches.org/oxted



KNITTING TOGETHER FAR-FLUNG HEARTS

Church: King's Church Edinburgh, Scotland Web: newgroundchurches.org/scotland



CHURCH PLANTING IN FRANCE? THE PRIVILEGES & CHALLENGES

Video: Lumière des Nations, Lyon, France Web: newgroundchurches.org/france

CROYDON

Everyday Church Croydon launched in September with a bang as we preached through John 4 showing we're everyday people with an extraordinary God. We closed the service praying with an alcoholic man celebrating the end of a 15-year prison sentence for murder - he had wandered in and responded for prayer.

SUTTON

After a journey of four years to acquire it and a further seven months to refurbish it, Sutton Family Church finally moved in to their own building. They celebrated with a packed out open day on 6 September. Please pray that the community is mightily impacted through this God-given resource.

HARROW

King's Church Harrow began a
Romanian-speaking meeting at the
start of this year, with up to 15 adults
attending. We expect this meeting
will continue to grow. Please join us
in praying it can be a fruitful model
for welcoming and discipling groups
from other nations in the future.

ST HILAIRE DU HARCOUËT

The church plant is advancing slowly, but surely: an increasingly solid and committed core, a leadership team growing in stature, and a clear desire for expansion. Although we've seen some new people from St Hilaire itself, we're looking to develop an effective outreach strategy for the town and the surrounding villages.



CLAPHAM We're just a few days away from launching Everyday Clapham. We've already experienced some highs and lows but we know that God is with us. The team is raring to go and passionate about seeing Clapham changed by the gospel. Please continue to pray that God brings all the practicalities together in time. THE HAGUE Redeemer International celebrated its five year anniversary and has seen the church grow to approx. 250 adults on a Sunday, meeting in a beautiful city centre church building. We are excited about the call that God has placed on us to plant churches both locally and internationally. In 2016 we hope to plant out for the first time; pray with us for God to make the way and for a great team to form! REACHING EUROPE

STORIES

INOPERABLE CANCER CURED

by Julie Hewett, age 53 Hope Church, Sevenoaks



In September 2014 we found a lump in my right breast. For a few days we prayed that it would go away. It didn't, and I was referred to a breast cancer team. Before any diagnosis, Father God told my husband that I had cancer. When going for results of tests, we both had peace and confidence in God; He had prepared us.

The results showed that I had cancer that had spread into the lymph system. I found myself asking "Why me?" and then "Why not me?" before concluding: "I don't need to know why, or what will happen, I simply need to know that my Father in heaven loves me."

Throughout this time we knew the reality of God's peace, with God speaking in extraordinary and timely ways – even through email headers. I found worship very precious.

The cancer had spread to the lymph nodes on the left side of my neck. Being close to the jugular vein, they were inoperable. There were also unhealthy changes in my left breast and a nodule in my left lung. The medical team were keen to begin chemotherapy.

Hope Church wrapped their big loving arms around us; their love was humbling. An amazing sequence of prophetic words and scriptures expressed Father's love and involvement in it all.

During November and December the church held several prayer meetings, crying out to God for my healing. The tumour on my neck was seen as a bridgehead like the Normandy landings in the Second World War. During this time someone believed they saw



Father's hand come and remove the tumour. Other churches in Sevenoaks and internationally joined us in prayer.

The first sessions of chemotherapy had started with only mild side-effects – a real answer to prayer.

After Christmas I was due to start a stronger phase of chemotherapy. Our son Reuben had a picture of me in a canoe on a still river surrounded by beautiful scenery having already gone through the rapids. He felt God say that we were to rest and enjoy the scenery while we could. Chemo was then postponed due to low blood haemoglobin and platelet levels. This was repeated throughout treatment – yet we'd been warned of the slowness and extended period of this phase. The pressure was off; His presence and peace remained so I enjoyed the scenery. Surprisingly I felt better through this phase of chemo than I did the first, much to the surprise of my oncologist who warned me that I would feel dreadful.

Late March brought more scans. Following chemo, the lymph nodes in my neck now looked like black holes. However, the cancerous node had gone; not even scar tissue was left! "The place where the tumour was does not exist anymore," the radiographer told us; an amazing moment. We later learnt that cancerous lymph nodes are not normally

affected by chemotherapy. This became evident after surgery with cancer still in several of the lymph nodes under my arm.

More scans came before 28 days of radiotherapy. The doctors feared that the cancer might have spread to my backbone. Again, God was close and peace filled our hearts. They later decided it was just 'wear and tear'. Throughout radiotherapy Father kept me from the worst of the side effects.

Now, a year on from initial diagnosis, I am deemed cancer free – praise God! My strength is returning quickly and I am feeling healthier than I have for a couple of years.

There have been a number of miracles throughout this adventure: the disappearance of the cancerous neck lymph node, the minimisation of side effects, the reality of God's presence and peace, the many prophetic words and scriptures, and the amazing love and kindness of the Hope Church family and the wider body of Christ.

This has been an unwanted journey, but one which has proved Father's faithfulness and deep love towards me. This has not been the dark and fearful walk it could have been; God with us has proven to be everything we need.



The **New Ground Academy** has now entered its second year with more students, more locations and more churches involved. The original vision for the Academy was to have 30 students. God then spoke and increased that vision, and the first year was completed by 120 students across two geographical bases. Now, as we enter the second year of the Academy, there are 200 students across four bases.

The Academy is a training community for church leaders and church shapers. It is designed to equip its students with a good understanding of how to read and apply the Bible well, how to partner with the Holy Spirit in mission and how to be the kind of leader God is looking for.

Each Academy base meets for two full days of training a month for 10 months of the year, and each student completes two years on the Academy.

Last year the Academy got off to a great start with 120 students across the London and Guernsey bases. Speakers included Phil Moore, Andrew Wilson, Livy Gibbs, Terry Virgo, and James and Hannah Silley, looking at topics such as preaching, fighting to build a charismatic church, prophecy, making real followers of Jesus, the story of the Church so far and many more.

Each day of training combines teaching with breakout sessions designed to help understanding and application through discussion, activities and Q&A. The evening sessions offer an opportunity to worship together and respond to the day's teaching, as well as providing coaching from experienced leaders. One Academy student, Rich Holme from East End Church London, said, "It's covering so many of the fundamentals in a fresh way, while always keeping leadership and ministry in mind."

The start of the second year of the Academy has seen a number of new students join the existing bases and new bases launch in Edinburgh and The Hague. Teaching is recorded at one base and then used in the others so that students in each location have access to the

exceptional level of teaching being offered.
Already we are seeing much fruit from the
Academy. Church plants this autumn in
Croydon, Clapham and online are all being led
by Academy students. Many are applying what
they are learning at the Academy in leadership
positions in their churches and workplaces.
Most excitingly, 200 men and women are
committing to growing in their relationship
with God, their understanding of the Bible and
their leadership gifting.

66

A training community for church leaders and church shapers.

Who knows how many churches, towns and countries across Europe will be changed by the Academy in the months and years to come?





THE HAGUE SATELLITE

This September we've started a satellite of the **New Ground** Academy in The Hague. We prayed for 20 people and had 26 by the time we launched. We are so excited to see this group come together and can only imagine the impact that it is going to make in the years to come.

EDINBURGH ACADEMY

In Edinburgh, 42 people are enrolled on the Academy. This number includes a small group who attended the first year in London and a few people from churches in other Newfrontiers spheres ChristCentral and Relational Mission. Marrieds and singles, men and women, and students and non-students are all well represented.

THE GUERNSEY BASE

We're in our second year as the **New Ground**Academy satellite in Guernsey. We had 14
enrolled for the first year 12 months ago, and
have just welcomed five more joining us for
their first year. We are already seeing signs of
a growth in confidence in our newly emerging
young leaders. Exciting days!

YOUTH TO TAKE EUROPE BY STORM

by Pete Benton, Youth Leader

"Do we have to wait until Ashburnham 2017 to meet up again?" That's a question some of the New Ground youth have asked since our Ashburnham 2015 weekend away together, where the youth groups from our churches met morning and evening to encounter God.

We had a significant time with God seeing numbers of youth aged 11-18 respond to the gospel for the first time, as well as recommitments. Across a total of six sessions the **New Ground** youth were engaged, challenged and taught by some excellent speakers and ministered to by the Holy Spirit. The call to reach the nations of Europe was heard loud and clear.

Now we'd like to build on the solid foundation God put in place at Ashburnham. How are we going to do this? Firstly, we're going to hold three events for our youth over the next few months. What is different about these youth celebrations, and why should youth and youth leaders come?

Well firstly, a number of you requested them! We want to intentionally catch this generation of young people up into the apostolic vision of **New Ground**. At these youth celebrations, our young people will take *new ground* in the Word and in the Spirit, but also actively in our communities and the nations.

We will be hosting some additional outreach training and projects in the afternoons. We'll be working with the local church to serve local communities. Young people can receive training on how to love those outside of the churches walls.

The question "Has God forgotten Europe?" was fired out a lot at our Ashburnham youth meetings, and was met every time with a strong answer: "NO!" A significant number of teenagers responded to a call to other nations and European ones specifically.

Our young people will take New Ground in the Word and in the Spirit, but also actively in our communities and

the nations.

So what is the next step for these young people? We encouraged them to work this out within their local church setting. But we also want to help! One of the ways we hope to do this is by running some cross-cultural mission and discipleship trips. We'll be using the youth celebrations to share updates and information about these trips, so make sure you're there to find out more.

We'd love to see as many of our youth as possible at these celebrations, which take place on Saturday 31 October (Crawley), Saturday 20 February (Sidcup) and Saturday 4 June (Hastings).

For more info, visit: newgroundchurches.org/events

GALVANISED FOR IMPACT

by Jez Field, Impact Leader

Where can you study hermeneutics with Andrew Wilson one day, be prophesied over by Livy Gibbs another, and then be exhorted by Dave Holden to pursue intimacy with God? On week one of Impact training, that's where!

This year we have 22 students from the UK, Romania, Bulgaria and the USA, aged from 18 to 31, based in churches mainly in the south-east of England.



It is a huge privilege to be

involved with this Impact group - I love it!

Some spend the year focusing on children's or youth work, others will spend their time growing as worship leaders and musicians, and many will get stuck in with everything in church life.

The training blocks take place every other month and are an opportunity to learn from some fantastic leaders. In September, one of the highlights was Livy Gibbs bringing a team of eight from Emmanuel Church in Greenwich to teach on the prophetic and walking in the supernatural. It was an amazing time with some very specific words that really galvanised the Impacters.

We also had two days on the doctrine of God, a morning on leadership, and it was great to have Dave Holden, who leads **New Ground**, come to speak about our pursuit of the Father being the most important thing.

As well as the teaching, we run authenticity groups where we encourage honest conversations about what we need prayer for. These really help to forge a discipleship environment.

It's great to have Flavius from Romania with us as an intern too. He's spending the year with Crawley Community Church but is also helping to disciple some of the Impacters, coordinating the catering and delivering some of the teaching, so it's great leadership experience for him too.

It is a huge privilege to be involved with this Impact group – I love it!

If you're interested in doing an Impact year or finding out more, visit: newgroundchurches.org/impact





Has God forgotten Europe?

Join us in persistent prayer over the next 12 months for each of the countries in Europe

For updating information go to: **NEWGROUNDCHURCHES.ORG**

