



# Supporter's Newsletter

*Winter 2016*

Christmas Message | Baptisms | Job Club Story

## Merry Christmas!

If there was one word to describe the year for Junction 42 it would be expansion. It has been an absolute privilege to see our work spread to new prisons and new communities across the North East. At Christmas we celebrate Jesus becoming incarnate among us, in the Bible we read of the extent of the celebration with Maji, shepherds and angelic hosts. In this newsletter we celebrate the divine, the miraculous and the transformation of seeing God's work in the region. We celebrate that we have seen more people come to faith than ever before, leaders raised up and communities transformed.

Yet we are all too aware of the vulnerability of the Christmas story, the humble and lowly birth of our Saviour being born to a teenage mum in a stable followed by a genocide of infants. Amongst the divine and amazing stories of God's kingdom coming, we work in the reality of injustice, poverty, sickness and death. Yet we believe the light shines even brighter in the darkness. This Christmas and in this newsletter we choose to celebrate the light incarnate and the goodness in the North East.

## Baptisms

We are continuing to see amazing growth and change in the men and women who engage in our faith provision through the prison Chaplaincy departments. In HMYOI Wetherby there were recently 10 young men baptised who came from groups run by the Chaplaincy. In HMP Northumberland a group of men that we work with on the drug free wing have gained permission to be unlocked from their cells early each morning to run their own worship session and Bible study!

HMP/YOI Low Newton and HMP Durham are both running Alpha courses and have seen those in the groups responding to the gospel and bringing their friends along to the groups. The prison Outreach Workers are currently seeing a real hunger for God in the men and women that they work with.

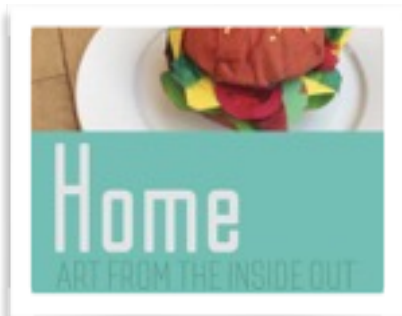


## Job Club Story

Our Job Club runs in partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) who offer amazing opportunities to clients who are part of their programs. One of these is the chance for clients to have a weekend away, all expenses paid in a luxurious hotel. Last month we were able to send seven of our Job Club clients on this weekend trip, who were all extremely blessed to be given this gift.

Billy and Chloe were nominated and selected, they had got married earlier this year and not been able to afford a honeymoon nor did they know when they would be able to. They had prayed about this situation so were thrilled when we contacted them to say that they had been given this weekend away as a gift and that they would finally have their honeymoon trip!

## 'Home' Exhibition | 12 Days of Christmas | Connect Weekend Away | Office Move



### 'Home' Art Exhibition

In November we launched our second art exhibition, this time in partnership with ARC Arts Centre in Stockton-on-Tees. The art work exhibited was all created by women in prison and explored the theme of 'home' and what this means to the individuals who took part. The launch event was a fantastic evening with a woman who had taken part in the project and has now been released from prison talking about her experiences:

"Prison was a long, hard road but it taught me who I am and encouraged me to express myself. I went on to do an NCFE in art and I'm looking at doing a degree in art and art therapy. It's

thanks to this exhibition that I found a part of me that I would of never known existed. For this I am eternally grateful."

### 12 Days of Christmas at Connect Newcastle

The Connect group in Newcastle have developed a '12 days of Christmas' where they have sought out events in the city centre that are happening over Christmas in order to signpost members of the Connect community to these. This program of events will ensure that those spending some or all of the Christmas period without family or friends do not need to spend it alone but have something that they can attend each day. A huge thank you to Peter and Rosie for opening up Wallsend Hall on Christmas Day and making Christmas lunch for anyone who wishes to go!



### Connect Weekend Away

As part of the Connect Network, we took 82 lads and lasses from the Connect groups in Newcastle, Durham and Sunderland for a weekend away in the Scottish Borders. This was a transformational time for many where they left their everyday surroundings and had the chance to meet with God through sung worship, playing sports, hearing inspirational talks

and building friendships. The weekend closed with a whole group of people getting baptised in the swimming pool! A huge thanks to all who were involved in the weekend and to Simon and Jane Sullivan who travelled from the North West to speak on the book of James.



### Office Move

And lastly, we have moved offices! We are now based right in Newcastle city centre with larger offices giving us room for expansion. Hopefully you have already received our new details but, just in case you haven't, here they are:

Post: Junction 42, Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle, NE1 7BJ.

Telephone: 0191 261 2684

**Thank you so much for your support! All of the team we wish you a Merry Christmas and we look forward to updating you on our work next year.**

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