



Annual Report

2018

Anthony Delaney Ivy Church Leader

What are we doing?

We just celebrated again that Jesus relocated from the place of ultimate privilege and power in heaven and came to earth. He paid the highest price to live in poverty and face opposition and criticism from the very people he came to shed his blood and die for. In John 20:21 he says, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." We are here because Jesus has sent us. We go to the world because he sends us.

How are we doing?

In every place there are people he longs to forgive, save, befriend, change and be with forever (Rev. 21:1-4). He is interceding for us, because the only way it will happen is through the church - imperfect people, perfectly loved, on the way to a perfect new life.

A yearly report can only scratch the surface of what counts in eternity. I thank God for all the great ministry I read about here through Ivy and its people. I am glad he called our family here ten years ago. The measure of ministry for me now is not what people think or say about us, but whether we faithfully declare and demonstrate that everyone can connect to Jesus, receive his love and live for his mission.

Why are we doing it?

The 'What' comes out of the 'Why.' I want to remind you why we exist as a church. Why do we encourage everyone to not just come to church but live out a full devotion call to servant hearted discipleship? Why do we call and train leaders? Plant multiple churches? Give sacrificially? Why buy a cricket and lacrosse club where non church people go, rather than a nice church building with a cross on top to invite them to?

It's because the Bible tells us in 2 Peter 3:9 that the Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. That's why. God wants everybody in his family, and because God cares, we must. The way we show our gratitude for the grace of God is by making our own lives count, living a life of extravagant generosity, and telling as many people as we can about the Good News.

How are you doing?

This is the most important item for review for you in this annual report. Last year God's call on Ivy was for a year of Prayer. Can I ask, how did you do with that?

I know how I did with that. God does too. Public ministry measures differently, but the Father sees what is done in the secret place. I still have so much growth to come, but by his grace I had the unspeakable joy of growing closer and deeper in prayer in 2018. I learned to pray more the hard way - on my knees in times when I would rather have quit - but he kept me going. I learned again that he is always faithful and that he answers when I call out to him for my needs and yours. I learned that spending more time with him is most important for how more people will spend eternity with him. I learned again not to lean on my own understanding.

So I know we usually just review us, but you are us. "If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged." (1 Cor 11:31)

Can I ask - how fervently did you pray for your city? How faithfully did you pray for your church? How regularly did you pray for your leaders? For your own mission? For the places we are in already and are going to go in a year of hope? When did you last hear him for yourself? What did you do with that? Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? Overflowing? What sin did you lay down? Did you have the courage to do what he said, whatever others said? How intimate and passionate was your worship today?

Such things don't make the annual report because we have to measure different outcomes - but what counts for heaven, where the incense bowls are filled up with the prayer of the saints? How much did you and I put in those bowls?

2019 is full of opportunity. Hope does not disappoint us. My biggest hope? To see the gospel flourish. We'll never stop knowing, growing and going - no matter what - until Christ returns, so rather than leave behind a year of prayer we need to carry it with us and go even further and deeper. I urge you to pray for us. I plead with you, whatever else you do at Ivy (and I am so grateful for so many) - lift its leaders and mission and people to the throne of grace. Every day. Alone and with others. Pray for our unity. Pray for miracles and breakthroughs and healing. Pray that we will preach boldly as we should because

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only the cross can take away sin. Because Jesus is alive. Because people don't need to go to hell, because heaven's gates are open. Because our friends and family and neighbours can still be connected to the life, love and power of God. Because, as John Wesley said, 'Prayer is where the action is.'

Elder's Annual Message

Andy Lee

On behalf of the Ivy Eldership: Adam Firth, Jane Edwards, Anthony Delaney, Rebecca Cheung, Robert Jackson, Robert Varnam, Sarah Small

Of all the ways God could've chosen, He chose prayer as the way to mark the start of our relationship with Jesus. It's almost as if God was saying start as you mean to go on. A deep and disciplined prayer life keeps us focused, fixing our gaze on the One who is doing and can do immeasurably more. Our lives are transformed from the inside out through prayer, empowering us to courageously put our faith into action. Through prayer, we get to see beyond the earthly realm, tapping into the unlimited resources of God who always has the eternal perspective.

What's true of an individual Christian is also true of the bigger church family. The church is built to last when it's built on a foundation of prayer. Prayer cultivates unity and harmony because through it we are inviting God to renew our hearts and minds and to align our thoughts with His.

In the bible, James calls us to draw near to God, and by God's incredible mercy and grace He promises to draw near to us. The past year has offered up an abundance of opportunities for prayer, not that we ever need a reason to spend time talking with God. Having a direct line to God is in and of itself a miracle made possible by Jesus' sacrifice.

When someone attends Ivy for the the first time, we pray for them to have a life-altering encounter with God. When illness or suffering strikes, we pray for the healing power of God to take over. During financial setbacks and career uncertainty we pray for peace and clarity to recognise God's voice amidst all the noise. Where there has been tension and confusion, we pray for patient, clear and loving communication so we can model Jesus' love in every situation. Whenever a brother or sister is in need of support, we pray that they can experience the kind of outrageous generosity and kindness that is taught in the bible.

When venues run out of space we pray thanksgiving and gratitude over what God is building. When members of the community receive a platform to have greater influence we pray for God to use them mightily to reach those that are lost and alone. Whenever we step out of our comfort zone to plant seeds of love and share the Gospel, we look to God for exactly the words to say that will stir their spirit. When new land is claimed for Kingdom purposes we pray for vision and provision to multiply its impact.

Of the many lessons this past year has taught me about the Christian faith, a significant one is without prayer to align ourselves to God's perspective, we'd be fumbling around in the dark, relying on our own limited resources trying to navigate this broken and fallen world. Even when we do pray, as is certainly the case for me, we don't always get the answers at the time we would like and in the way we would like. This shouldn't speak to a lack of faith in us or to a God who doesn't listen. Indeed, no believing prayer is ever offered up to God in vain. No, the fact that our prayers are answered in ways we may never have expected merely affirms the importance of seeking God through prayer in the first place.

Let us continue to be connected and bonded together through Jesus. Let us continue to pray with, for, and into all we do so we aren't walking around in the dark, but are instead confidently walking in the light.

As we move into the Year of Hope, may we also bring into it our commitment to continue to pray without ceasing.

Academy

Tim Burr & Olli Davis

Knowing

In 2018 we celebrated the first full year meeting on campus, in the Academy venues at the University of Manchester. In fact, including the Ivy Church Altogether services, we have worshipped, prayed and shared the good news of Jesus in every Academy venue (Academy 1,2,3 and Club Academy).

We prioritised ministry time in our Sunday gatherings where we invited God to move, encounter and speak to people. The church hugely engaged with this, praying and prophesying over one another regularly. We saw healings and transformation through these times.

Our Sunday gatherings have grown from around 50 to over 70.

We are so excited that we have 8 people from Academy who are currently studying theology with WTC, who come from a variety of backgrounds and professions including those in employed ministry.

We began a process of encouraging every member of the church to be in a 1-on-1 mentoring and discipling relationship. We continued to meet every Tuesday morning from 7am-8am to pray for our church, our universities and our city.

Growing

We had an amazing weekend away in November where 55 of us went to the Pioneer Centre in Kidderminster to worship, pray together, listen to fantastic teaching on discipleship from Nick Crawley (Crossnet Church Bristol and bibleforlife.co.uk) and have lots of fun!

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Our Grow Groups have grown in number as an invitational culture has become embedded among many of the groups, and we are currently planning to multiply a number of the groups.

We had 3 Academy weddings, and 2 Academy babies last year!

Going

We have seen students who came to faith last year become disciples that are making disciples of others!

We have continued outreach on the Owens Park halls of residence. We had the Eden bus back there as well as doing bottle drops during freshers week, and had a full band singing carols in the courtyard just before Christmas.

A new team has also started going to pray with students and share the gospel on the Campus on Wednesday afternoons. The team has drawn members from other churches and the University of Manchester CU.

The Jewels team that reach out to vulnerable women in Fallowfield have also had a significant influence across Manchester, as the team leader Rosie Hall has been gathering churches from across the city to develop a unified approach to prayer and outreach.

We continue to pray that God will use us to equip others to reach the 40,000 students at Manchester University and the 90,000 students in the city of Manchester, many of whom do not yet know Jesus.

Further, our passion is that through a culture of discipleship every member of Ivy Church Academy would be envisioned, equipped and empowered to make disciples in their homes, families and places of study and work.

CAP Gail Jackson

35 people struggling with debt were offered free help, invited to church and accepted prayer in 2018.

10 people/families have become debt-free this year including an 86 yr old lady who had been re-paying her debts with CAP for 6 years, and a single mum with 5 children.

I have been so bowled over by the generosity of our church. As a result, we have been able to bless so many people we meet who are in really difficult situations. Through that generosity, we have bought numerous emergency food shops, paid for transport to CAP holidays, donated an oven, befrienders have taken clients for coffees or lunch, we have put gas and electricity on meters when people had none, bought a phone, flowers and cards for debt free clients, paid for a birthday cake for a client's daughter etc. One lady said "I am overwhelmed by the kindness of the church and hope one day that I can do the same for others".

Amongst numerous people who went on a free CAP holiday last year, a family of 6 had their first ever family holiday. They had a wonderful time and were really blessed by the care they were shown.

20 hampers were made by Ivy Grow Groups and delivered around South Manchester. One Mum sent this message "Oh my goodness I have just received the gift Gail, and I can't thank you enough. Thank you ever so much to you and Ivy church for helping make my Christmas a little bit more enjoyable."

50 people enjoyed the CAP Christmas party held at Ivy. The food was great, the atmosphere was lovely and people went home full and happy. 2 people recommitted their life to Jesus after hearing the gospel presented.

6 new people have come out on CAP visits as befrienders and others have offered admin time or support in other ways.

3 people have recently re-committed their life to Jesus and are getting into grow groups and settling into Ivy. A lady who made a first time commitment is coming to Ivy every week, meeting lots of new friends and getting great support!

Creative Arts Andy Smith

Worship

Thank you to all the teams in all the churches who continue to create a space where people can encounter God in worship. It's no small thing. Our friends and family have served in around 300 services over the last year. The Altogethers have seen new leaders being raised up and an opportunity to worship and celebrate together as a whole church community. Special thanks to Hannah Smikle who led the choirs at Easter and Christmas.

We provided a 'Worship School' on a Thursday night with four streams of training.

- Theology of Worship
- Musical Development
- Coaching on leading 'open worship'
- Songwriting

We have written and recorded songs from across the Ivy Church community. As a team we have learned about recording, mixing and mastering, and are really excited about the songs coming out of the church. Pete Trebble has particularly helped to enable us to operate at a 'conference level' of worship as we have represented Ivy at national conferences and events.

The vast majority of the work to build worship teams, the administration of rotas and the local expression of worship has been achieved by local team builders and teams. This has enabled us to position the church for exponential growth and has created a family environment where more people, across generations, can serve by creating a space for worship.

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We can't thank people enough for the way they have served with love and creativity.

Creative

The Creative team, comprised of Dan Reeves and Samuel Bloomfield, are such a blessing to Ivy Church. They continue to produce an excellent level of design, embodying the life of the church in every pixel and vector. From branding to series themes, they create the visual cues that help people find their way back to God through digital design, web, social media and print.

These guys also host and develop our web presence. They have managed the ongoing maintenance, the out of hours crises, and the future development of our websites. We are consistently grateful to them for their heart, creativity, professionalism and servant attitude. We like them a lot!

Tech

The tech teams are some of the greatest unsung heroes of Ivy Church. Without them, you literally wouldn't see or hear anything! The local teams are often just a couple of faithful people serving faithfully. It would be amazing to see more people be part of the team.

Pete Bonnebaigt has helped us to push our tech forward and we now have the facilities to record to a high standard. Pete has delivered training, helped to grow the confidence in our teams and advised us, alongside Dave Lamberth on how to develop our technical resources over the last year.

Thanks you to all our engineers, visual teams, production managers, lighting and video teams.

Didsbury Matt Round

Wow, what a year 2018 was! No surprise that within Ivy's year of Prayer - we saw prayers answered! For Ivy Church Didsbury 2018 was certainly a year of growth, growth & more growth!

This time last year we were averaging around 130 adults attending one Sunday service - throw in the children and youth and we were pushing over 200 attendees most Sundays! We were full and had no room to grow.

Throughout the year, the leadership team, along with members of the congregation, were dedicated to seeking God and praying for vision and wisdom as to how we best Help More People Find Their Way Back To God. This led to us having 3 Vision & Prayer evenings - which saw over 40 members gathering together to pray - specifically for the growth of our church.

This led to... October 2018 when we launched our growth strategy. Craving the space for future growth, we decided to double our output on a Sunday morning and transitioned into what is now our current 2 service model (9.30am & 11.15am).

I can't praise my team highly enough for how they have embraced this new season with positivity, patience and servant heartedness. Going to 2 services has required us all to step up into leadership and greater responsibility; which has been a beautiful thing to witness - God growing His people. Not only are we creating space for growth numerically but this new season has created space for growth spiritually; going deeper, quicker on a Sunday morning.

In order to step into this growth we have been raising up more people to serve on teams. We have seen growth in the numbers of volunteers serving in the Ivy Kids, Welcome and Youth teams, as well as Service Hosting and Hospitality. We are now seeing, on average across the 2 services, 150 adults regularly attending - with kids and youth pushing us closer to the 250 mark. Our Core Team has almost doubled - going from 4 to 7.

Throughout 2018 God spoke 3 key words to us as a church site: Generational / Invitational / Hospitable - which are being lived out day by day. Community and growing in community plays a massive part in the life of Ivy Church Didsbury. 30+ members lead midweek Grow Groups - and many others attend. There have been 6 Community Sundays - including prayer walks, community invitation & picnics in the park.

On a Sunday we experience real depth in worship, vulnerability in teaching and increase in the prophetic. We also had the privilege of sending out 10 individuals on overseas mission throughout the year!

Fuse Pete Dawson

This year we celebrated 2 years of Ivy Fuse.

We have gone from having around 35 regular members to now over 100 including children! Going hand in hand with our growth is an ever increasing sense of community and family.

We have a good number of our young people who serve and lead as part of our worship team and we have an extremely strong and gifted team of service hosts and speakers - 8 speakers and 7 service hosts.

Around 90% of Fuse members serve on a team on a regular basis.

We've celebrated 4 new babies being born.

Our children's ministry continues to grow and thrive; and almost doubled in 2018. We are now planning to create a third age category so that we can best serve the ever increasing number of children. We have also been encouraged with testimony from our children who have been sharing the love of Jesus with, and praying for, their friends and teachers.

We had our first Fuse baptism service where we saw 5 people get baptised.

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Over the past 6 months we have been on an exciting journey in our worship in which we have encountered the presence of God on a much deeper level – this has given way for an increase of the prophetic, of healing and of people sharing incredible testimony of all that God has been doing. We have seen people healed of depression, physical healing and financial provision.

Pete continues to meet regularly with the other Partington Church leaders and it has been encouraging to see an increased sense of unity amongst the Churches. At Easter the Fuse hosted a ‘Stations of the Cross event’ at which we had people from all of the Churches in the local community attend, along with people from across all the Ivy sites.

We have continued to have monthly community Sundays (first Sunday the month). On these days we turn our focus outwards to the surrounding community. The whole Ivy Fuse community seeks to go out into the local community to be a blessing, to meet local needs, to pray with people and share the gospel.

The Ivy Fuse women raised money for a child who was being bullied at school, which gave them an entire new wardrobe of clothes!

One of our core values at the Fuse is hospitality. Hospitality means ‘love of the stranger’ and is far more than just entertaining people over a dinner party. In light of this we felt led to explore an outward expression of hospitality that would have its purpose firmly fixed in Helping people find their way back to God. As a result, in October, we launched a bi-monthly ‘Community Meal.’ The idea is to engage with families and individuals in the local and wider community and make space to build relationships with people over a meal. It is an easy opportunity to invite people who are new to, or on the fringes of, Church. We can get alongside people, create and build friendships, journey with people, introduce them to church community and also share the gospel. We have had between 75-90 people at our first 3 meals.

Kids

Katy Herrera & Chris Jackson

We had a successful Messy Easter with over 90 families and a messy and fun Glow Party this year! Many of the children stood up to say they wanted to follow Jesus!

The new mums’ ministry is thriving with lots of new babies! We’ve visited over 20 new mums this year and prayed over their babies.

Toddlers remains busy and in order to relieve pressure on the volunteer team we have dropped a session this year. The staff team have been helping out each week to support and it has been a great opportunity to see the integration of the staff with the community midweek. If you’d like to get involved please get in touch.

Ivy Kids is going well at all of our sites, with children encountering Jesus each week and being equipped and empowered in their relationship with Him. Sharston and Didsbury have both multiplied their groups in the 5-11s to accommodate the growing numbers. Fuse will also be multiplying their group to 5-7s and 8-11s in March.

LAUNCH 2018: HERO MAKER

Emma Jeffery

LAUNCH 2017 was incredible, but God exceed our expectations again with our 2018 event; here is some feedback from church leaders and planters from around the world about our third LAUNCH event:

“LAUNCH is the most inspirational and practical conference that I have been to. The team that came this year returned charged up and ready to multiply. We drove back with hurting heads and burning hearts; filled with great and practical teaching, inspired and equipped to lead into the next season.”

Stephen Walker Williams - Gold Hill Baptist Church, Bucks

“The theme was spot on, the speakers were incredible and the team of volunteers were the best. I have never been to a conference with such a friendly team of organisers.”

Rob McGibbon - Youth For Christ

“It’s a total breath of fresh air to be amongst other church leaders who are seeking to see the Kingdom advance, and committing time and finance to learn from others and one another. This year I was particularly struck by the life giving way in which you affirmed women, and made issue about the issue without it being the issue!”

Vicky Thompson – Darlington Baptist Church

“The teaching at LAUNCH has been so deep and challenging to our thinking in terms of how we do church that we are planning to bring even more people next year than the 30 we brought with us this time.”

Stuart Hassard - Restore Community Church, London

- 550 church leaders, network leaders and church planters gathered from 18 countries from around the world at The Edge in Wigan in November 2018. We had one group of 60 leaders from around the Liverpool Diocese and were thrilled to also be joined by the 35 Eden Network team leaders from around the country.
- The incredible line up of main stage speakers included Dave Ferguson, Alan & Deb Hirsch, Danielle Strickland, Pete Greig, Lucy Peppiatt, Tobias Teichen and Ness Wilson who challenged us to be Hero Maker leaders – investing in others first to see multiplication happen and fruit grow on other people’s trees. ▶

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- We also held 20 seminars, focusing on multiplication discipleship in every sphere of ministry; growing more Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds and Teachers for the kingdom.
- A fantastic team of 50; including the Ivy staff team and 15 Ivy members volunteered their time and went above & beyond to create an incredible environment for the leaders attending.
- LAUNCH 2019: GO VIRAL is booked for November 11th-13th, again at The Edge in Wigan.
- The 2019 theme will focus on how movements go viral and invade every sphere of culture for the kingdom. We will cap this year's LAUNCH at 750 leaders, and are excited to announce that 265 of those seats were claimed during the first week of ticket sales!

Merseybank Steve Small

Knowing

This year has been our toughest year yet and also one of the most rewarding. This year we have lost much loved friends, we've felt spikes in crime and tried to bring peace in community fall outs and relationship breakdowns. Life is messy!

Through all this and much more we have continued to press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus. We've seen lives turned around, new Christians come to life, baptisms, forgiveness, healing, countless answers to prayer and the whole atmosphere and fabric of the estate continue to turn more and more towards Jesus as his Kingdom stretches across Merseybank and onto other estates.

Growing

We have been working closely with No Place Left, especially Nick Duffy and Michael Ossai, having adventures in simply praying for neighbours and sharing the gospel. We've seen 5 people locally give their lives to Jesus and get baptised over the summer!

Cat ran our first ever summer holiday club with over 40 children taking part - having lots of fun and exploring what faith in Jesus means and how He is the ultimate hero.

The Den cafe has continued to be a hub for people to meet, for parties, Early Essentials, community gardening, for nights of prayer and fasting - seeing people coming off the streets to join in and receive healing and prayer. The youth milkshake nights continue to be an important fixture in the lives of young people on the estate who are learning more about Jesus through these times. One young man came in unwell and ended up asking Jesus into his life there and then as we prayed together! A mum was helped to get her own business off the ground, impromptu bible study and prayer often breaks out and a children's Christmas craft club happened each weekend over December.

Going

Things are changing for Ivy and Eden Merseybank. Sarah is going out as she takes on the role of leading the Eden Network in the UK and Steve is stepping down from leading Ivy Merseybank to support Sarah and look after their kids. We don't know what is next but God does! We have some big dreams and we're excited for where He takes us as a church on mission next.

In terms of our core Eden team, Heather was released from the café and often goes house to house to meet with neighbours, pray and impart God's word. Laighton has begun a new role helping manage the Embassy bus as well as developing Sunday gatherings and discipleship here. Cat & Will continue to serve families and individuals tirelessly in their home and across the estate and Annie's love for this community and Jesus seeps into every corner.

NewThing Anthony Delaney

Ivy is the catalyst church for NewThing in western Europe and 2018 was a great year, as we saw the network grow across western Europe. NewThing is founded on 4 R's:

RELATIONSHIPS: We believe we can do more together than we could ever do on our own.

We are now connected through NewThing western Europe with over twenty churches across England, three churches in Scotland, one in Wales, two in France and one in Greece. We host monthly online calls where these church planters and leaders can share where they are at and what they feel God is calling them into next.

REPRODUCING: We are committed to helping churches reproduce at every level of ministry.

We ask our connected churches to sign agreements to reproduce their churches in every area, and this includes our own Ivy site leaders who have been looking at how they continue to multiply disciples, leaders and churches.

RESOURCES: Providing valuable resources to equip and empower churches to thrive and reproduce.

LAUNCH is a consistently important resource for our NewThing leaders, as well as online webinars and monthly connect calls. In 2019 we are also starting our first UK hosted 'Catalyst Community' where we will be joined by NewThing Co-Founder Jon Ferguson, and Director Patrick O'Connell who are coming from the US to invest to see churches reproduce across the continent. We are also running our first 'Leading A Reproducing Network' in partnership with Alan Hirsch's 100M. LARN is a learning community which gathers influential church and network leaders to turn inspiration into practical, trackable plans for multiplication.

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RESIDENCY: Fueling the mission of reproducing churches by training future church planters through Leadership Residencies. We continue to run a thriving Residency Programme at Ivy, led by Tim Burr. Last summer saw the graduation of the Class of 2018 Residents; Maral Assadzadeh, Sam Duquemin, Lucy Smith and Lughton Walters. This year we have two full time residents (Aoife Quinn and John Carlow) and four part-time leadership residents (Becky Burr, Luke Anthony, Elle Johnston and Paul Kirby). The programme has been expanded to include training from each of the Ivy ministry leaders and we are excited to see how each Resident will continue to be formed as followers of Jesus and grow in their calling to pioneering leadership.

- We have had board games after the service, a great way to have people come together and hangout!
- We held a worship night for Ivy Sharston at Ivy. It was a powerful night, with many speaking prophetically, seeing visions and believing for more.
- Ivy Women Speakers met for the fifth and final time of 2018, with special guest Lynn Swart.
- We gave to our Christmas Day Meal for anyone alone or wanting to be with others, Embassy Bus, Open Arms and the Newton-Smiths!

Sharston Hannah Bettany

There are so many highlights this year for Ivy Sharston - here are some of them:

- A Party and sports day to thank Lucy for all her incredible leadership as she handed back to Hannah.
- A Baptism service with 8 people getting baptized!
- Alpha at The Oaks. 8 people came and found Jesus through it.
- A Sharston Women's night out where we got to know each other better and had a lot of fun!
- We prayed for : HEALING, FREEDOM, RESTORATION, FUTURE, DEDICATIONS, SALVATION and we saw it happening!
- Our Women's Bible Study started back up, meeting every Friday morning.
- We connected with other Churches, such as Jubilee Church Manchester, to have a worship and prayer night.
- We picnicked in the park, built community and had football fun with our World Cup event.
- Teams met, encouraged one another, dreamt big - and ate Krispy Kremes!
- Many from Ivy Church Sharston were hugely grown through being a part of Limitless Voices and the coaching of Hannah Smikle
- We held BRAVE Sunday where we honored everyone starting school, secondary, Uni or beyond!
- A Team Builders Day where we walked and talked.
- Ivy Church Sharston AWAY DAY! This was loads of fun - 100 people came and it was incredible. There was community, family, games, walks, animals, bible, testimony, prayer, glitter, glow sticks, food, party, dancing. Ivy Sharston Men's Breakfast was the first of more to come, around 25 men came to eat, share, support each other and build each other up.

Sport Matt Round

2018 was a much quieter year for Ivy Sport, due to various job role and responsibility changes. However, sports ministry still took place in various forms, providing some great connection points.

The beginning of 2018 saw the annual Sports Quiz return, which was a fantastic event, held at the Northern Tennis Club with the help of Christians In Sport. Over 40 competitors took part, making up around 10 teams - of which 25% were not regular church goers.

It seems 2018 was the year of golf, with 4 Golf Days taking place throughout the year. The golf days provided a great space for relationship building alongside the sport - with 30% of attendees being non-christians. The Ivy Sport Golf Days will be sure to return in 2019.

A constant regular on the Ivy Sport Calendar is Ivy Sport Basketball - a non-competitive basketball session for adults of all abilities. This regular connection point has already proven to be successful in Helping People Find Their Way Back To God, and with over 100 different people connecting in I'm excited for what God continues to do in and through this ministry throughout 2019.

In the summer, Ivy Sport was represented at a number of events. Firstly, at an invitation Sunday - to watch the England v Panama World Cup fixture, where over 200 individuals attended! Secondly at the 3 Peaks Challenge - where a group of 20 men took on the challenge. Thirdly at Church in the Park - a gathering of all Ivy sites - with over 150 attendees.

Ivy Cosmos FC is into its 8th season!! And 2018 saw a growth in squad to 25 members - with connections to those both in church and out of church.

Arguably the most exciting highlight of 2018 was the purchase of Ladybridge Sports Club. Although Ivy Sport is yet to make its mark on the place, the potential opportunities are HUGE! We are in anticipation for what God is going to do in and through this new venture!

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Students

Sam Duquemin

Knowing

We have had 5 1-on-1 bible studies start up in september this academic year. We have seen students coming to faith off the back of these bible studies. We have seen a developing culture of mentorship forming among students, with nearly all regular student attenders of Academy being mentored by someone their senior.

Growing

In 2018 we have seen a growth in the number of students in our community, from 8 regulars to just over 25 who are coming to church, engaging in a mid week activity and being discipled; with many more exploring.

Back in May we had a weekend away with a core 14 students who had been serving all year in mission which was an amazing time of discipleship and celebration.

We have a growing culture of invitation with more and more students leading their housemates or coursemates to faith and bringing them to church. We have even seen a couple of girls who became Christians starting an alpha, so their mates could explore faith at their own pace.

Going

We have run an international cafe in conjunction with 3 other churches for students to find community, study the bible and explore faith. We now have a network of 30+ students who we have met and shared with. We were able to do outreach on several campuses including two different halls of residence complexes. During last summer we had a team from Texas come and do outreach with us for a week.

Over the course of the year, we have had the opportunity to share the gospel over 100 times and prayed for close to 700 students. We also collaborated with YWAM and 2 other churches in the city to create an art exhibition based around the theme of hope, getting students to tell their stories and then creating a gallery in The Anchor Coffee House to showcase them.

We have had the opportunity to pray with and train other churches in how to share the gospel with students on campus, alongside building relationship with the staff and organisations in the University

We have bottle drops every wednesday (Handing out tea, coffee and water during a night out) and weekly outreach on campuses that serve to disciple students and extend the invitation to be part of a church community to 1000's of students.

We also started to do a form of outreach that involves preparing a meal for our students and their non-christian housemates, and then offering to pray and explore questions about faith with them. Two students became christians off the back of that

WTC

Pete Edwards

The WTC Hub continues to thrive with 36 students this academic year, meeting at the Message on Monday nights to study Kingdom Theology in a lively, worshipping community.

Each student has an amazing story of the journey God is taking them on. Some say that despite their minimal prior education, they are finding that studying a subject that really matters to them is releasing potential they didn't know they had. One student said:

"Studying Theology at WTC Manchester hub has enabled me to understand the Bible in context, therefore understanding God more."

Some are using the course to equip them for work in church/ ministry. Others are finding it transforms their work in the business world.

"I have grown immensely both in my faith and in my understanding of mission. My life focus has shifted and God is equipping me for a purpose through all of the learning within WTC and the Hub."

We even have students that travel great distances, coming from Nottingham and Glasgow each Monday night because they want to be equipped for what God is calling them to.

During the last year, we also invited some of our lecturers to teach in events that anyone could participate in. We are planning more for this year as we want to see theology made accessible for everyone in the church. WTC highly values the partnership with Ivy. We currently have 16 students from across the Ivy sites, Anthony teaches on our courses and we are the largest Hub in WTC. We are grateful for a really strong 2-way relationship. We are open for applications for Sept 2019 when we are also launching 2 exciting new courses focussing on "Student Ministry" and "Church Planting and Leadership".

Youth

Emma Gaze & Luke Anthony

Luke took on the running of Monday Youth, and Mondays are a solid part of our young people's walk with God with over 50 young people involved regularly. We have Youth at Fuse, Sharston, Didsbury 9:30 and 11:15 services, and these have been going well, with around 40 young people across the sites. We have an incredible youth team to help reach and disciple these young people.

We took a group to Soul Survivor this year, and every young person had an encounter with God. We partnered with youth groups across the region to put on Love This City, an evangelistic youth event, where we took young people from Merseybank, Parris Wood High school and Monday nights.

6 young people were baptised.

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Ivy's Comings and Goings

We are always so grateful for people who respond to God's call to serve here at Ivy, in various capacities, to help people find their way back to Him. We are entirely reliant on those of you who step up and serve at all our sites and in ministries too numerous to mention. We can't pay everyone for everything, but we know the promise of scripture is true that 'your labour for the Lord is never in vain.' Thank you!

Various people were part of the staff and eldership team at Ivy in 2018 and we thank the Lord for their varied and valuable contributions, paid and unpaid, seen and unseen:

- Lucy Smith left as Sharston Team Leader having provided maternity cover (April 18)
- Laighton Walters, Sam Duquemin, Lucy Smith & Maral Assadzadeh left as residents (June 18)
- Jane Edwards joined as Ivy Elder/Director (June 18 / ongoing)
- Elle Johnston joined as Core Team Intern (July 18 / ongoing)
- Sam Duquemin joined as Student Worker (July 18 / ongoing)
- John Carlow & Aoife Quinn joined as full time residents, with Becky Burr, Luke Anthony, Elle Johnston and Paul Kirby as part time residents (September 18 / ongoing)
- Mariava & Andrew Phillips left as Central Support Manager and Discipleship Leader respectively (September 18)
- Sarah Parkes joined and left as Executive Leader (Jan 18 / Dec 18)
- Katie Levell joined and left as Central Support Manager having provided maternity cover (March 18 / Jan 19)
- Becca Cheung retired as Ivy Elder/Director (February 19)

A Note from Becca Cheung

I write to you, my beloved Ivy family, with a great deal of sadness in my heart. This last 18 months have been some of the hardest our family have had to navigate, bringing with it a seemingly relentless stream of family health issues and loss. In September I spoke with Anthony about the need for me to step back from elders as I felt I had reached the limits of my emotional resilience. I have always envisaged the role of an elder as taking up a position on the battlements. Having sustained 'injury' I appreciated the opportunity to take a sabbatical in order to retreat inside the 'castle' to try and grieve, and process all the loss and trauma we have experienced.

Following a period of prayer and discussions I have come to the difficult conclusion that now, after 6 years of serving as elder, the time has come to step back from this position in order to give sufficient time and space for God to restore my health.

It has been my absolute privilege and joy to serve my most beloved church in this position of leadership and I thank you for your prayers as we pause and seek God's comfort and healing after what has been, and in many ways remains, a difficult time.



Year of Prayer

Testimonies

LAUNCH

"LAUNCH is the most inspirational and practical conference that I have been to. The team that came this year returned charged up and ready to multiply. We drove back with hurting heads and burning hearts; filled with great and practical teaching, inspired and equipped to lead into the next season.

At every level you have embodied hero making and releasing kingdom potential in others through the conference but also through continued relationship. You will probably never hear the full extent of the impact but I have also learnt that your hearts are okay with this. Ivy have also served God's kingdom through LAUNCH, as a church and not just as individual leaders or a team, you are multiplying God's kingdom. A great example to us all."

Stephen WalkerWilliams - Gold Hill Baptist Church, Bucks

ACADEMY

"I think the Tuesday Morning Prayer meeting happening pretty much every week of the year is brilliant! We really believe those times have made such a big difference in what God's been doing in and through Academy."

STUDENTS

"One of our students, Joe prayed daily for his housemates for the whole year and towards the end of the academic term, one gave their life to Christ. Without his faithfulness in prayer she would not be a committed and thriving member of our church community."

SHARSTON

"Personally many of my friends and myself were trying to get pregnant, and God blessed me with a vision for one friend in particular who had been trying for years. Weeks later we found out she was pregnant, closely followed by all the rest and then myself. God has been so incredibly faithful to cluster us all together so that we are all here to support each other, and I am so thankful I get to see that big picture after all of the heartache we had as a group. Grateful isn't big enough for what I feel after this year of prayer."

MERSEYBANK

"We saw healing in the Den cafe for a lady who was brought over in the middle of our prayer night. She was brought by a neighbour who felt she should knock and come over with her. She'd be in pain for months, not able to walk more than over the road, but when prayed for, all of the pain went and she's been free of pain since. Though she's still working out what it looks like for her, she gave her life to Jesus in response to being healed."

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