



Newsletter No. 25 Spring 2019

Dear friends,

Last time we wrote to you we were preparing for '**Hethne Kathmandu**' - a gathering of Interserve partners & others who share a heart for 'Hethne' (Hindu ethnic) people. We learned so much from partners from Nepal, India, USA, Netherlands, Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia & UK, who are working in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, UK & Australia! Worshipping & praying together, sharing stories & hearing from Hethne background believers, was a real encouragement; may what we learned continue to inspire us as we return to life with our Farnborough friends.



The importance of recognising faith as a journey, lived in our particular culture, was a central theme. With that in mind, we were really encouraged to join with the first of **Nepali church's 'faith journey' invitation events in Farnborough** at Christmas time. Many friends from English classes came and enjoyed good food, songs, testimonies and a film together. Nepali church (which is based in Aldershot) has decided to make these Farnborough meetings regular events, together with the Church of the Good Shepherd. We're looking forward to the second

meeting this coming Saturday 23rd March – please pray that people will come, be touched by the Holy Spirit through what they see and hear, and begin to share their own spiritual journeys too.

That is also our prayer for the **Community Garden**. We've just re-opened after the winter and the green shoots are beginning to show once again. We continue to pray for a good balance of cultures and that more families will want to get involved – we have a programme of visits planned with our local infant schoolchildren again! The new polytunnel should help us grow more veg, and plans for the outdoor oven we hope will add scope for more community socials. However, we would really love more people to pray with us that the spiritual fruit would be as amazing as the veggie harvest.



There are **new beginnings at St. John's**, where we've just welcomed our new church leader Gemma Foster and her family. She previously ministered at Soul Survivor church, so we are excited about the future. Together with other church members we continue to enjoy the **English conversation clubs** for Nepalese elders that we run, and look forward to sharing the good news of Easter with them.



There has been concern among some of the Nepali elders that their grandchildren only speak English and cannot understand them. So after Helen discovered some lovely dual language story books in Kathmandu, the Reception class at our local infant school agreed to put on an after school '**Story Club**'. The Nepali children have been competing to show their knowledge, along with Urdu, Arabic, Tamil and Irish contributions from classmates & parents! We hope to be able to grow these new relationships with younger families; some have been to the local Messy church too.

English class at the Church of the Good Shepherd is now in its 9th year, and has continued well for almost 3 years since we left. Recently it has needed to recruit some new volunteers, and was happy to receive several offers from sister church St. Peter's – enough, in fact to require someone to come and give them all some orientation and training! That someone has been Helen. It's been great to be part of the re-launch of this much valued ministry as a 'Farnborough Churches together' project.



This comes with our love and prayers for you as we look forward to celebrating the good news of Easter.



Giving thanks for:

- Great encouragements at the 'Hethne Kathmandu' conference
- For interest shown in the good news of Jesus at Christmas events
- For a good response to Nepali fellowship's invitation to Hethne friends to their first 'faith journey' social event in Farnborough

Please pray for:

- Nepali church's second 'Faith journey' invitation event this Saturday 23rd March, and for good plans as it continues bi-monthly
- Growing the team at the Community Garden
- Church of the Good Shepherd English class's new team, and Jeremy as he leads it
- Growing relationships with younger Nepali families in Farnborough
- Opportunities to encourage people on their faith journey, especially this Easter time
- For Revd. Gemma and the new season for St. John's church
- The country of Nepal as believers continue to face opposition
- For the international leadership of Interserve, many of whom are experiencing sickness, visa problems and other significant trials

With our love,

Mike and Helen