



Nexus News

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"Leadership is the process of keeping your vision & values before you and aligning your life to be congruent with them"
Stephen Covey

When Nehemiah and the people finished building the wall, they began their quest to rebuild the nation. It took much more than sending out excited invitations for people to return to the freshly constructed city. It required the leaders, priests and prophets to engage in a process of reformation where they once again became the representation of the living God on the earth.

It is interesting to follow the story and make note of the values that Ezra and Nehemiah worked so hard to build into the people. There was an emphasis on the hearing and understanding of God's Word, remembering God's interactions with them in the past, celebrating His goodness, establishing the priority of worship, being set apart from the influence of the world around them, being unified in their vision and having a commitment before God to live the way He has asked.

As we see some of our big projects come to completion (Accreditation; Second Year Programme expansion; Staff Qualifications) and see some just beginning (video conversion of all courses; Media Dept development; expanding outside the EU), we are following the same patterns that we see in Nehemiah. Since the New Year we have returned again to building deeper foundations -- rewriting our core values to gain a greater sense of team ownership and underpinning all of our ways with a bedrock of scripture that we desire to see incarnated in all we do.

One of our values is building godly community. In this newsletter we will be highlighting many of the areas where we have fleshed this out in the last year and will be looking forward to our annual Ragweek activities where we hope to see new connection formed and relationships deepened.

We thank you for your ongoing interest and support for God's work here at Nexus.



NEXUS RAGWEEK

there but I didn't guess that serving Rolf and Michelle would be the most rewarding and significant thing. It encouraged me to remember day by day what it means to be faithful in the little things. They are a brilliant example of being committed to Christ and inspired me to follow this verse: "Love wisdom like a sister; make insight a beloved member of your family." Prov. 7:4 *Aline Tripet, Third Year Intern*

Student Intreat

This is the second year we have held an 'Intreat' at Nexus. We took four days out of our normal timetable to share testimony, hear teaching, build relationships and worship together. It really exceeded my already high expectations. I think one of the most amazing things about Nexus is our commitment to building into what God has spoken to us as a community; even if that means abandoning our timetable for a time so that we can grow together as a community.

During the Intreat, I saw students push through barriers that had been holding them back from Christ and build with one another in a way that we hadn't yet experienced with this group of students. Our guest speaker, Scott Lenke, came and spoke about our identity in Christ and it was wonderful to see everyone respond to that. I grew in relationships with students that I hadn't previously known very well because we intentionally split everyone up into different small groups at the beginning of the week.

As staff, we were able to serve the first years in a very practical way. On the Saturday night we threw the students a banquet, being their waiters and waitresses for the night. The hall was decorated beautifully and the evening was a great success. After the banquet we had a time of encouragement which was a wonderful time of being able to speak blessing into one another's lives and craft a culture at Nexus of building one another up and holding each other before the Lord as a gift and blessing. I find, as we see each other's hearts more clearly, we are able to love each other better and grow in our understanding of how to support one another more accurately. The Intreat was a brilliant time to be able to grow in these areas and I think we are so blessed to be part of a community that will purposefully take time out to do just that.

Heather Flynn, Staff

"The Intreat was not only a time of being challenged by God but also a time of building into and furthering relationships with students and staff. It was great to see how God had His hand on the whole week, shaping it, and moving people's hearts into position to allow them to respond to what He wanted to speak to people. One of the things I loved about the Intreat was being put into small groups with people that you



didn't really know for the week to get to know them. It's amazing what good, strong relationships can be formed through this opportunity. Another favourite part of the week was getting the opportunity to serve my small group on the Saturday when the staff cooked for and served the students. It was great fun and a good opportunity to strengthen my relationships with the students and just have a good laugh with them at the same time."

Pete McVey, Staff

"Having experienced last year's amazing Intreat, I set my expectations extremely high for this year. There were a couple of things I really wanted to see over this time. One being people engaging with God in ways that they hadn't ever before, whether this be giving themselves totally in sung worship, or delving deeper into the Word and prayer in their own time. I knew this time would be great for bonding with people you may not have known that well. Nexus can be so busy with bands, discovery groups and music that you won't always find time to get to know everyone as well as you may like, and so having set times over the Intreat for this purpose was ideal. Lastly the Nexus Staff showed incredible servant-heartedness in throwing all the students a banquet on the last night, serving us with fresh salads, creamy spaghetti bolognese, & delicious homemade cakes. Who could argue it wasn't a success?!"

Roald Macaskill, 2nd Year

Crich Mission

Every year we send a team of around 10 first year students to a place called Crich near Derby. The team are sent to help in a local church that we have had an ongoing relationship with for many years and to do some music and RE workshops in schools. In March the 'Crich Team' were sent out with a brief to communicate the message of 'Love and Grace'. The team truly enjoyed their time there and we have heard great reports of how God was working in many different ways throughout the week.

Here's what some of the students have said about their time:

"It was a huge eye-opener as to how, when moved out of my comfortable environment and challenged by the work I was doing, I found my relationship with God deepen and saw God work in ways that I'd never seen before."

Isabel Muncaster (1st Year Keys Student)

"It was a privilege to share my new understanding of music and God with the church and school. Because of this I found myself relying on God in completely new ways on a daily basis."

Nathan Jarvis (1st Year Vocals Student)



staff concert

On 26th and 27th March, there was the first ever Staff Concert at Nexus. Having run numerous student concerts through the years we felt it was time to do one ourselves! With everyone having picked songs for individual taste and preference the concerts contained a whole host of different styles including rock, jazz, blues, prog, RnB, and that all time favourite, pop! Rehearsals started back in January and with only three months to prepare we certainly felt the pressure but rose to the challenge. As we squeezed practices in between teaching classes throughout the week and held late night sessions all of us felt a distinct strengthening of friendship which definitely enhanced the final experience.

The Saturday concert provided the entertainment for a student reunion. This was held for previous staff and alumni. The turnout was fantastic as we had students from almost every year group in attendance. It was a great time of reconnecting and fellowship.

I know I speak for all the staff when I say that the support we received from the public and alumni was phenomenal. It gave us real drive to keep moving Nexus above and beyond what is normally expected. I doubt this will be the last staff performance! More photos will be available in the media section online.



Liane carroll

Following on from an amazingly successful day last year, Jazz singer and pianist Liane Carroll returned to Nexus on the 26th February to once again wow audiences. Backed up by drummer Mark Fletcher and bassist Roger Carey the trio worked with students in the afternoon teaching a master-class in band communication followed by a performance in the evening. As always the trio captivated the audience and demonstrated what it is to be masters of your instrument. We are excited to be pursuing a closer relationship with Liane in the future and look forward to having her visit again.

Nexus Official World Record

It's official. Eleven Nexus drummers succeeded in setting a new world record for 'Longest Marathon Drumming by a Team' with an astonishing 66 hours of drumming at last year's Ragweek event. The framed certificate is proudly displayed in the Drum Room on the Nexus premises.



Farewell charlotte

Charlotte Maytum, who has been the Nexus fundraiser for the past 4 years, has decided not to return to work following her maternity leave. She wanted to share the following: 'I am sad to be leaving Nexus, as it has been a unique privilege working in an environment where spiritual growth is the highest priority. I have valued time spent building relationships with students and staff, and have some fantastic memories of clear answers to prayer, school worship times & Ragweek adventures! I will continue to partner with Nexus over the years to come.'



Bon Voyage Flynns

After 3 years with us Trevor and Heather Flynn are going back to USA in order to sort out their work visas, hopefully with the view to returning to work in the UK.

If you've ever phoned up Nexus you may have spoken to Heather, who is one of our administrators and has played a part in helping to develop the student and staff community through various events and activities. If you've ever been to a Nexus event, you probably noticed Trevor (Live Sound Tutor) running the sound desk, videos or lights; or proudly standing by watching his trained 'soundies' run the show. We will miss them loads.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Rag Week - 10-14 May
- ◆ Nexus Motown Musical - 14 May
- ◆ Gospel concert - 28 May
- ◆ Graduation - 8-10 July
- ◆ Open Days - 19 May & 23 June

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