



Mission giving update

Dear Whitefriars,

Thank you so much for the donations from the Whitefriars annual mission giving towards Illuminate. Whitefriars very generously committed to two donations towards the Illuminate mission and follow up, one in 2023 and one in 2024.

The donation during 2023 was a huge help to enable the Christian bands LZ7 and Saintz to come to five secondary Schools during the week of March 8th 2024. During the week the band members shared the good news of Jesus in five secondary schools seeing over 4,000 young people. The buzz around Schools was incredible and the feedback from teachers and pupils was hugely positive. At the end of the week we held two concerts at Park Road Baptist Church which were attended by 587 young people (maximum capacity 600) and we held parent areas for both concerts attended by just over 60 parents. In the main concert venue there were over 300 hands raised to suggest young people had made a decision to put Jesus at the driving seat of their lives and after the concert over 400 sessions had been completed by the end of the first week on initial stages of faith resources on the AAA app.

Your kind donation for 2024 is helping the follow up strategy. With so many lives changed and so many seeds sown it is important to nurture young people's relationship with Jesus. Three Illuminate Youth Nights, meeting in Raunds, Rushden and Sharnbrook have started, the groups are using materials designed by Youth For Christ specifically for young people starting their faith journey and who are new to Church or Youth Groups. It is hoped that working with Youth for Christ and other youth organisations such as the Gen 2 team a number of new youth groups will develop across the area equipped to nurture young believers.

The social media presence of LZ7 and Saintz and the credibility gained during the Schools week enables engagement with young people outside of Church networks. On April 19th we held the first Illuminate Live concerts featuring LZ7 and Jon Jackal which was attended by 122 young people with 91!! young people with no previous known connection to Church or Youth groups. There were 45 hands raised to suggest a commitment to a relationship with Jesus.

Please pray for the ongoing discipleship, importantly that many lives are changed through relationship with Jesus. Illuminate has been organised by a delivery group of the Rushden and Higham Council of Churches and we are working with the Council of Churches and Church leaders across the town to pray through and develop the next steps. The three Illuminate Live youth groups were originally planned for 12 weeks but there is a suggestion to explore extending these a bit longer. We are also hoping to integrate young people into existing youth groups such as Ignite. There is another Illuminate Live event planned for July 19th featuring Saintz and Ben Jax (DJ worship) which is anticipated to reach more young people with the good news of Jesus, many who are new to Church.

Thank you to everyone in Whitefriars who has been involved.

Thank you
Illuminate team