

FFWPU UK: Our UK Community at Work - North of Thames

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North of the Thames community strengthened its foundations, expanded outreach, and grew online. Inspiring events, engagement, and faith continue to thrive.

Over the past year, the North of the Thames community has consolidated many of its organisational frameworks, building on strengths and making necessary changes. Following the success of the second "Community Connections" (ComCon) event last November, which showcased a range of projects and provided an opportunity for new proposals, a third event was held in November. This time, presentations were kept concise, allowing ample time for discussions amidst a variety of displays of existing activities.

In October, the community held its AGM, framed as a "Community Development Day." This event aimed to gather ideas to help the community progress towards its goals. After brief reports from the chair and treasurer, small groups discussed various topics over pizza and refreshments. One lively discussion focused on inviting the HTG team to North Thames, which was later presented at the ComCon event, discussed at the Community Council, and consulted with the wider community. This inclusive process ensured that decisions were made with broad community involvement.

Many activities highlighted in photographs received public recognition and often funding, involving a wider scope of the community than in the past. The newsletter has been an excellent medium for sharing

reports, expressing through personal stories how God is working in members' lives.

Engagement with neighbouring communities has also increased, evident in initiatives like the Young Achievers' Podcast, the Young Women's Speech Contest, interfaith activities in Watford and Milton Keynes, and connections with communities in Africa.



At the core of these efforts has been the community's internal life of worship and fellowship, fostering faith, family, and community energy. A retreat held in Ipswich in February, initiated by the ELEA community leaders, provided a valuable start to the year. The pastor's investment and wisdom have elevated the standard of sermons and services, gradually increasing attendance.

The community's online presence has also grown, thanks to regular postings of sermons and talks on YouTube. A young lady from France, initially thought to be a second-generation member of a French blessed family, discovered the community online and made significant efforts to attend services. Similarly, a lady joined the Monday morning prayers after finding the link through an internet search. These instances highlight the importance of maintaining an active online presence and keeping all doors open.

The North of the Thames community looks forward to continuing its journey of growth and connection, inspired by the progress made over the past year.