

The Sawl family's Canterbury Tale

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Tucked away in the garden of England, the Sawl family opened up their home on Sunday evening to welcome brothers and sisters from around Kent and the Bromley community. Students from the historical city of Canterbury live nearby, although their 15 minute pilgrimage to the rustic warmth of the Sawl's home paled in comparison to the 60+ minutes journeyed by some families from Maidstone, Gillingham and (even further away, from) Lewisham.



Singing led by the young adults

As the sun set, early on this deeply autumnal evening, we substituted for its heat and light by beginning our afternoon worship service, singing with impromptu musical accompaniment from some of the talented local students. While children played in the adjacent rooms, the grown-ups sat in the tightly packed living room to enjoy receiving God's love & truth. Despite the humble location, a powerful spirit was burning in our hearts!



Some of the young mothers raising the next generation

Following the service the Sawl family treated everyone to a plethora of home-made cooking & baking, so everyone could enjoy fellowship with each other on a full stomach. Indeed I hope that both spiritual and physical appetites were satisfied by this beautiful experience together, especially allowing young families who don't always get the chance to spend time together foster deeper friendship & intimacy.

The Bromley Community of the UK Unification Movement has a number of affiliated families who live quite far away from the south-east London boroughs, especially a large community in the mid-Kent region consisting of Gillingham and Maidstone. While many of these especially young families are not originally from the UK, they have migrated to the UK and have settled into our community. This year we have organised three separate worship services in Maidstone on a Sunday afternoon, in addition to the morning worship service that we regularly host in Livingstone House, in order to allow those families, for whom it is challenging to visit Chislehurst every Sunday morning, an opportunity to worship and fellowship together. This was the first occasion on which we ventured outside of Maidstone, going even further towards the East of Kent to the small town of Wingham, near Canterbury. We intend to continue hosting regular worship services in Kent, and my hope is that autonomous communities in these regions may evolve as the families grow and as we witness to new members there. Already there is a strong

evangelical effort being made by some of the families in the region.



2nd and 3rd generation blessed children playing together

I'm very hopeful that a great spiritual revival will take place in Kent, especially in Canterbury, a place with such significant religious history.