



Us

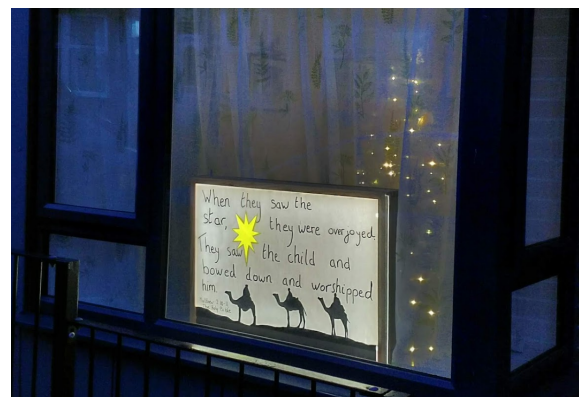
It's been a wonderful year as a family of three, spending time with each other and engaging with others together too. We have continued with Nightstop, and one guest who stayed with us when Petra was younger was baptised in the summer. Becky has not returned to work for now, in order to take care of Petra and invest in other opportunities around us. For example, we are currently exploring ways we could work with the council to provide quality and affordable housing to those in need.

There have been quite a few things competing for our attention recently, which has sadly meant we have had to stop leading the Upper Room as of this month. The process of us deciding this and then actioning it is part of the reason for a delay in this prayer letter. As much as we have enjoyed leading, we hope that stepping back will give us more headspace to enjoy being together, to pray together, and to talk and dream about other areas of our lives including a calling overseas.

Church: "The Upper Room"

It has been a big blessing being part of the small family that is the Upper Room and a privilege learning to lead it. God has used this to grow and develop us. A particular highlight has been the mid-week times at our house, sharing food, friendship and then discussing the teachings of Jesus. Recently in an answer to prayer, we've seen a local Muslim friend of a church member coming along and joining us, as well as connections with other Muslims, leading to some very diverse nights.

Following us stepping back from leading, the church is in a transition period led by the network. Different people have stepped up to help lead different areas with a view to us gathering to re-explore vision and seek God together in the new year. The longer term plan is still very uncertain, so please do be praying with us for the church.



The Christmas light box in our front window

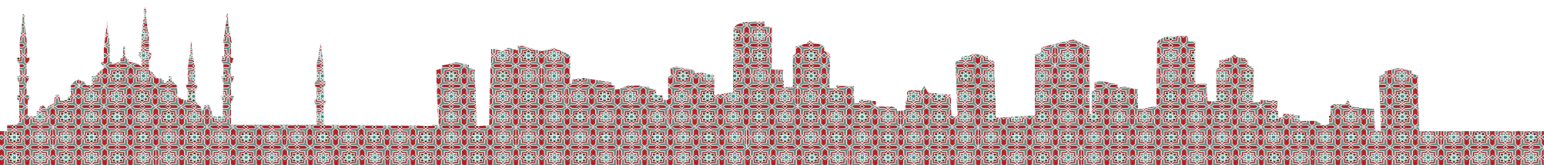
Overseas

As autumn has come around, we've started thinking again about our calling to the nations, which has been a little on the backburner since having Petra. We've asked a local couple with overseas experience to be our mentors, as we seek God and ask more specific questions about the what/where/how. As part of this, we have developed a rough timeline for the next couple of years with Frontiers, which includes training weekends, and connecting with different teams.

Prayer

-Please pray with us for the future of the Upper Room, particularly long term leadership. Cheetham Hill is a spiritually difficult area to be a witness in, and we do long to see the church grow and thrive here.

-We are excited to focus on praying together as a couple over the next couple of months. We will also be visiting the city Stephen grew up in together in January. Please pray for us in what feels like a significant time.



Hebrews 11:10 - For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.