

MARCH/APRIL 2020 PRAYER

From Dom, Hannah, Jonny, Emily, Becky, Stephen and James

SHAKEN WORLD, CONSTANT GOD

Well 2020 has taken a turn none of us expected! The world is upended but life in Cheetham Hill carries on. The past couple months have been something of a sobering time for us but in that, a joy in the persistence of God's kingdom and his unchanged commitment to his people.

Challenge in Cheetham Hill:

Just before the Coronavirus hit the UK, a couple of incidents reminded us of the lostness of this place. Jonny, walking home from the tram station was punched in the head by an unknown stranger and barely a couple weeks later Dom was assaulted coming home from work by some thieves who stole the Palmers' car.

Praise God for his protection over us. These could have been a lot worse, but we see his hand at work in the timing and severity and his presence is with us. Jonny is well, Dom's black eye healed quickly, and the police caught the thieves stalling the car up the road. However, these incidents are indicative of a deeper brokenness and lostness in this city. Please pray.

Coronavirus:

One year in and we've had to drastically change our church format and consider a name change: we are now affectionately known as the Upper "Zoom" Church!

For the past of couple weeks, we have gathered as a community digitally, continuing our teaching, sung worship and community life over the internet. We have also started some small groups of 4-5 people to facilitate eating "together", prayer, support and encouragement.

In the rest of life, we've transitioned to working from home -a particular challenge for Dom and Becky as teachers and Jonny and Hannah have been put on "furlough". Cheetham Hill, somewhat unsurprisingly, has mixed reactions, some people expressing fear and shying away from contact, others seeming to adapt little. There are still quite a few restaurants in operation... We're excited to see how God will use Covid-19 for his work!

What's coming up?
and how you can join us in prayer...

Pray for God's kingdom to come, to drive back the darkness, the violence and evil in Cheetham Hill.

Please continue to pray for Dom and Hannah as they step up as church leaders - particularly as they lead the church response to Covid-19

Pray for God's presence in our digital gatherings

Pray for those in church who live alone, have lost jobs or aren't digitally literate -and for wisdom for us in supporting them.

Praise God for the opportunity we have to live here and for his protection. Pray for boldness!

Pray for us to have creativity and opportunities in serving and reaching out. That we might still be visible light. In particular:
-Online outreach through Facebook using videos
-Creating videos of the prophet stories as English teaching

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden"
(Matt 5:14) - our prayer is for God's light to shine in Cheetham Hill

