

Soulroots Strategic Planning Meeting – 27th February 2019

Over the course of the evening we heard from our Chair, Youth Workers and Line Manager about what is currently happening at Soulroots, and what our vision is for the future; we also spent time praying for Soulroots and all those involved in its work.

Soulroots' purpose

Philippa revisited our charitable aims; we reflected on how our current work fits in with those aims, and how they continue to shape our vision for the future:

- **giving young people access to traditional forms of Christianity**
- **supporting young people pastorally and encouraging young people to explore the claims of Christian faith for themselves**
- **helping churches to understand the spiritual needs of young people and the nature of Christian outreach to young people**

We thank God for all the people involved with Soulroots – for the young people, their parents, the Youth Workers & volunteers, trustees, six churches and all who support us in any way. We pray that God will continue to guide us in our future work and that we can listen and follow faithfully to wherever He calls us.

Schools

Christine shared about JAM, the Christian Union group at King Egbert School. Each Friday lunchtime they meet to play a game together, share food and have a discussion around a faith-based question. The young people who attend are at different stages on their faith journey, and it's great to have the opportunity for conversation about some of life's Big Questions.

We thank God for a steady group of young people attending JAM at King Egbert's and for improving relationships with staff members at the school. We continue to pray for developing connections with school leadership and the opportunity for Soulroots and our youth workers to have more of a presence in school.

Skills Sessions

Mell shared pictures from recent skills sessions, including upcycling furniture and clothes, cooking, light painting (see over the page), and drumming. These weekly sessions on a Tuesday evening are a chance to be creative, and to build relationships in a relaxed and informal context.

We thank God for how the group has grown over the last year, and for the relationships that are formed here. We pray that this will continue to be a place where young people can invite their friends and relationships can grow. We also pray that connections can be built with our congregations, perhaps through skills they can share with this group.

Fresh & Fish.com

Latifah shared with us about the Sunday evening groups Fresh (school years 6-8) and Fish.com (school years 9-13). These groups have been most impacted by the change of venues, and numbers have changed as a result. Recently, we have started having a joint social/games session once or twice a month, which enables relationships to form across the two groups and young people feel more comfortable inviting their friends along.

We thank God for the growing faith amongst the young people at Fresh & Fish.com. We pray that their faith will grow deep roots and they will continue to know God's presence in their lives every day.

Resourcing churches in S17

Jonathan, our line manager, shared his vision for how Soulroots can support the local churches. He asked us all to think about the following questions:

1. What support and training would your church(es) like from Soul Roots in terms of developing their work with Children & Young People?
2. What would you see as the pros and cons of providing joint training and networking sessions amongst the 6 churches?

Final thoughts

We are keen to improve the way we communicate with young people, parents, church congregations and individual supporters, and although we have a number of thoughts on how to do this, we would like to know how you would prefer to hear news from Soulroots. E.g. newsletter, email, via church services, prayer breakfast, or another way?

If you would like to share any thoughts on communication or resourcing our churches, please contact your link trustee or the Chair, Philippa Wilson at philippa@wilsondand.co.uk

