



# The Smithers



## Winter Newsletter 2020/2021

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### THE RIGHT MOVE

We moved to Cheetham Hill in Manchester at the end of July. Since then, Manchester has gone into enhanced lockdown and the rest of the UK went into second lockdown in November. However, it's been the right time to move. We are enjoying settling into a new city.



### DAVE

We've seen many answers to prayer since arriving in Manchester and feel that it's God confirming this move. I have managed to get a part time role coaching football and other sports activities at a local community sports club, starting in September.



There was another young Pakistani man in his 20's who started helping at the same time and we've had some good chats about faith, and he even said he'd like to come to church to see what it's like. Hopefully he'll come along soon!

I had to stop coaching during the 2nd lockdown, so was instead gardening and painting fences in the park. Outdoor football sessions restarted in December and we hope to continue throughout the winter.

I've also enjoyed getting involved with our new church and getting alongside young people within the church, trying to encourage and help during these difficult times.

### HELEN



Going to the local park for a run or a walk has been a great way for me to get to know women in the local area.

I've been running in the park a few mornings a week with a lady from South Asia. The cold and dark mornings make it more difficult but I've found other ways to keep in touch with her. She has 6 children ranging in ages from 2 to 14. We've given them some clothes and toys that Daniel and Amy have grown out of. She has been extremely grateful for these. Her husband is looking for work and their landlord is wanting them out of their house because he wants to sell. Please pray with us for alternative accommodation for them at this time.

### HOUSE UPDATE

Things are continuing to move forward on the house that we're buying, but it's a slow process with solicitors. We're still hopeful to get the keys in January 2021. We're looking forward to owning our own home and start putting down roots in a community after many moves.



Please continue to pray for the final stages in this process. We have now had 4 potential house purchases fall through. But we continue to trust in God's timing and provision. This particular house looks like it could be nice for us as a family and is in a great location for the work we are doing.

### HOW TO SUPPORT US:

<https://www.sim.co.uk/give>

<http://www.sim.co.uk/pray/become-prayer-partner>

## REFLECTIONS ON 2020

None of us imagined a pandemic being part of our plans for 2020!

### What have you learned in 2020?

**Helen:** Still learning it....PATIENCE has been a huge part of this year. House hunting, home schooling etc.

**Dave:** Be flexible! Things are constantly changing, so don't worry if plans don't work out, there's always something else you can do!

### Challenges in 2020...

**Dave:** Plans not working out. Sometimes even Plan B's or C's don't work. I'm sure lots of people feel like this right now!

**Helen:** So many challenges! Moving to a new city, trying to buy a house, home schooling and not seeing family for a long time...

### Choose a highlight from 2020...

**Helen:** Spending more quality time as a family. More time outside. Watching the kids grow and learn.



**Dave:** Lighting pumpkins on our front wall for Halloween. Daniel gave out Christian tracts and sweets to the neighbours, telling them about God. I got a lesson from my six year old son on how to share my faith!

### What do you look forward to in 2021?

**Dave:** Having more flexibility to do more outreach and engage better with our neighbours.

**Helen:** Stability, a home and engaging with the local community.

Maybe you could answer these questions about your own challenges and highlights of 2020! Feel free to email us your answers!

## DANIEL'S DIARY

I love dressing up. My favourite is pretending to be a magician and doing tricks for my family. I also like drawing houses and am excited about having our own house some day. I like reading and enjoy telling other people about Jesus with mummy and daddy! I have some friends at school, including a girl who I asked to marry me! She said yes.



## AMY'S ADVENTURES

I may look cute, but I'm tough! I love jumping on the sofa and wrestling with mummy and daddy. I also enjoy making dens with Daniel and dressing up. He wants me to dress up as a princess but sometimes I want to dress up as a dragon!

## PRAISE POINTS

- For God's provision in a year with so much change and difficulty.
- For the house that we're in the process of buying.
- For friends and getting to know people in church and the local community.

## PRAYER POINTS

- For the house buying process to continue smoothly.
- For creative ways to meet up with people outside during the Winter time.
- For Dave and the sports club and developing relationships with young people and their families in the community.
- For wisdom in knowing the right things to get involved in during this time.
- For all of us as we continue to adapt to life in Manchester.

# SIM

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Thank you so much for your support. Have a great Christmas! Love from

*Dave, Helen, Daniel and Amy*