



## Goodbye!

As you've probably guessed by the title, we have come to the end of our time with BMS. It has been a roller coaster ride of a year with high and low points throughout. We've completed our last four weeks of tour, met our last four churches and now we're back at IMC where it all started. We wanted to start off by saying a massive thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout our year, prayed for us and welcomed us into their lives and homes.

Now this is what we've been doing for the last four weeks:

### Swansea

We started off at Pantygydr Baptist Church in what was our third week in Wales- at least this week we didn't have to worry about everyone speaking Welsh around us. Whilst we were there we had a kids slot in the morning service which included Kirsty running a bush tucker trial involving rice (frog spawn and ants), spaghetti (wiggly worms) and jelly (swamp water). The children took up the challenge and managed to pass all of the trials in order to win the special prizes- chocolates and sweets of course. It was also really good getting the chance to talk to house groups and to have a more open Q&A. On our day off we decided to act like children and spend our time on water slides and even having a go on the surfing machine. The most important thing is that we actually managed to spot a tuktuk in Swansea although it didn't look like you would be able to move it anywhere.



*Tuktuk spotted in Swansea*

## Eastbourne

In Eastbourne we spent a week with Victoria Baptist Church which was the biggest church that we attended. It was great getting the chance to be involved in such a wide range of youth activities from doing six primary school assemblies over two days; attending toddler groups; joining in with a BBQ Youth event and running Girls' Brigade. At Girls' Brigade we were discussing the things which people follow in life and how they can get in the way of the time we spend with God. We did this through posters that showed celebrities, fashion, make up and food as just a few examples of the ways in which people put material objects and people ahead of a relationship with God. We also managed to find the time to put our feet in the sea although Kirsty wasn't really interested (what do you expect from someone from Portsmouth).



*What things do you follow?*



*Oh I do like to be beside the seaside!*

## Hull

Hull was probably our busiest week as we spent it with Grace's church, Anlaby Park Methodist Church and also its sister church, Selby Street mission. At Selby Street a lot of the work involves getting alongside people who are homeless, suffer with drug addictions or are on the margins of society. We had a great time getting to do a number of activities such as a lunch club, art work and a bible study (where we got asked how we would solve the problem of poverty and the government). If anyone has an answer please to this please let us know.

*Art at Selby Street*



Our work at Anlaby Park included everything from mums and tots to youth groups as well as the evening service. We also visited Grace's old primary school.

Whilst in Hull we also attended an event called the Feeding of the Five Thousand which was an evangelistic event organised by *believe in hull* (which is an organisation where churches all over hull come together). People were fed free fish, there were crafts and different stalls all with the aim of spreading the love of God to others.



*The Feeding of the 5,000*



*Fish time!*

## **Birmingham**

Our last week of tour was spent in Birmingham at Longbridge Baptist Church (my church). Despite how tired we were we enjoyed our last week and even got to spend our day off in a hot tub relaxing. It wasn't all just relaxing we also led Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade which included decorating an elephant and using pillows and blankets to get them to understand what it would be like to live in a house made from materials which you could find around them. We also spent the morning at an Arts and Crafts group where we got to go round and tell them about our experiences. Although the thing we all most enjoyed was looking at all the talent which was being showcased.

One of our favourite moments of the week was spent at the National Institute of Conductive Education (they work with children and adults with motor disabilities) where we did a lesson with the early years and school group. We really loved doing action songs, listening to Bollywood music, trying on kurta's, eating Indian snacks and even decorating their own kurta's.



*Designing their own kurta's*

The other fun aspect of the week was the cultural evening which was actually our last event on tour. Which as you can tell from the pictures below included making an authentic curry, having Hindi writing lessons,

telling stories through pictures and even teaching the basics of traditional Indian dance.



*Telling stories*



*It's curry time again*



*The attempts at traditional dance*

We also got to meet up with Ruth and Paul our friends from India while they were on home assignment which was really great and it was really good to see how they are getting on.



*Ruth and Paul*

### **What's next...**

**Kirsty:** In September is going to Edge Hill University to do a PGCE in Early Years Education (teacher training for 3-7 year olds)

**Sara:** In September is going to the University of Chester to study Early Childhood Studies

**Grace:** Is going to do some volunteering with her church whilst she works out a long term plan

**Helen:** Is looking for a job and working out what her plan for the future will be



*Kirsty's helpful advice*

## **Prayer Points**

- For our future plans and that God gives us guidance in our lives
- For all the churches that we attended on tour and that they're inspired about mission both abroad but also locally within their communities
- For all the people at Anusaran and the work that is going on there

Goodbye for the last time

Team Delhi