



Sophie & Josh's Jottings

Sophie Phenix our Trainee Children's and Youth worker and Josh Goldenberg our Trainee Pastor are both very busy people. Every two months they have committed to give us an insight into what they have been doing in previous weeks. Issue 1 March/April 2026



JOSH TELLS US:- Over recent months, I have been very thankful to the Lord for the many opportunities He has given me to grow in both theological study and pastoral ministry. This season of training has been a real encouragement, as the Lord has been using both formal study and the ordinary rhythms of church life to deepen my understanding of His Word and to continue shaping me for pastoral service.

In my studies at Union School of Theology, I am currently working through three modules in New Testament, Old Testament, and Major Theologians in Church History. In New Testament studies, I have been looking at Pauline eschatology and considering the hope of glory that runs through Paul's letters, and the way future hope shapes present Christian living.

Union
School of
Theology

In the Old Testament module, I have been studying the Major Prophets, particularly their diagnosis of idolatry and the Lord's gracious antidote to it in covenant faithfulness and heart renewal. In Church History, I have been greatly helped by studying the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in the theology of John Calvin and seeing the richness and pastoral warmth of his thought. Alongside these studies, I have also benefited in my personal reading and devotions from spending time in George Whitefield's Journals and Preachers and Preaching, both of which have stirred my own affections for Christ and sharpened my understanding of preaching as a God-given means of grace.

Earlier in April, I was also thankful to attend the Rising Lights Conference, where I was especially encouraged by teaching from the Epistle to the Philippians and Song of Songs. It was a joy to sit under faithful ministry, to reflect on the beauty of Christ, and to be refreshed through fellowship with other believers.

Photo at right: shows Josh together with Ben, Gui, Dan and Sophie at the "Rising Lights" Christian Conference in Torquay, Devon in April.



Much of my time has been taken up with the regular privileges of pastoral ministry, which have been among the greatest encouragements in this season. It has been a joy to preach once a month and to continue growing in the work of handling and applying the Scriptures. I have also been enjoying leading our Thursday evening young adults' Bible study through the First Epistle of Peter, where we have been considering what it means to live as pilgrims in this world with our hope fixed on Christ. On Saturday mornings, I have been covering the theme of holiness in our men's fellowship, which has led to many profitable conversations about the Christian life and our call to pursue godliness.

Alongside this, I have appreciated helping in BBC JAM as we work through the Epistle to the Romans, as well as spending time visiting members of the congregation. Those visits have been a particular reminder that pastoral ministry is often found in quiet, ordinary acts of prayer, conversation, listening, and encouragement. I have also found much joy in joining with others every few Saturdays to share the gospel in Poole and Bournemouth. These times of evangelism have been a real encouragement, both in the conversations we have had and in being reminded afresh of the privilege we have of making Christ known.

Through all of this, I remain very thankful to the Lord for His kindness in providing opportunities to learn, serve, and grow. I am grateful for the support, encouragement, and prayers of the church, and I continue to pray that this season of training would bear fruit not simply in greater knowledge but in deeper godliness, greater usefulness, and a growing love for Christ and His people.

SOPHIE TELLS US:- These past few months have been very busy!

We had the privilege of putting on a Holiday Bible Club for children in February Half Term. This was called "The Wonder Zone" and we explored how science can help us learn more about God. We learnt about wisdom and discovery, the magnitude of God's creation, light, animals, robots and so much more! It was an incredible time of fellowship, learning and joy. The children and adults alike all seemed to really enjoy it, and I came away with a renewed awe of God and his creation, so I hope everyone else did too.

We not only had children from our church attending, but we also had children come along from different churches and some who were friends of our children who had maybe not been to church before. On the final day we had 40 children! I thoroughly enjoyed it!



Photo above: It's the 2026 Holiday Bible Club and this time it's "The Wonder Zone" unwrapping God with science and nature. Here "Professor Phenix holds the attention of the children as she explains one of the experiments!

I, like Josh, also had the privilege of attending Rising Lights, a new conference in Devon run by the FIEC. However, I was there to serve on the children's team. I was helping with a group of around 120 five- to seven-year-olds and I had the best time! It was actually really refreshing for me personally as I didn't have to organise anything so I could just turn up and enjoy spending time with the children. We were split into small groups with around 6 children each and it was such a blessing to be able to get to know this little handful and to spend time looking through Philippians and praying with them. As I was only serving in the mornings, I had the afternoons to do whatever I wanted. I did chill down by the seaside, but I was also able to attend the evening services to be fed myself and to catch up with friends I know from other churches and camps, etc. I will definitely be going back next year, and I recommend it to everyone!



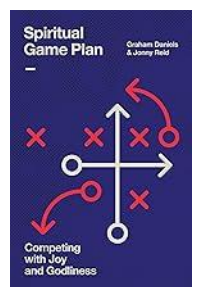
I have been studying with Growing Young Disciples doing their GYD Academy. We have covered a range of topics so far looking at what Children and Youth Ministry is and why it is so important, discipleship, handling the Bible and teaching it appropriately to children, and the spiritual development of children. It has been really interesting to take what I have learnt and apply it to my work here at BBC.

I have been taking part in the GYD Reading Challenge again this year. It is essentially a book club for Children and Youth workers where we read 8 books throughout the year and meet up on zoom to chat about them. So far this year I have read:



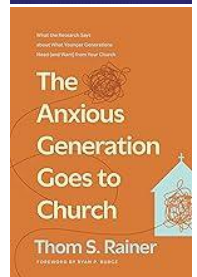
1. **Spiritual Game Plan by Graham Daniels and Johnny Reid.**

This book is all about sport and how we as Christians can play sports well, being witnesses of Jesus to others through it. Graham and Johnny actually joined us on our zoom call which was amazing as we could ask them all the questions we had!



2. **The Anxious Generation Goes to Church by Thom S. Rainer.**

This book was all about Gen Z (the 'Anxious Generation'), how we can get them into church, why they need it and how it can help them. This was interesting to read as I am Gen Z myself!



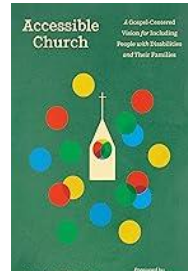
3. **Caring for the Souls of Children edited by Amy Baker.**

This book is a guide for Biblical Counsellors which explores many different areas in which you might encounter with young



people such as anxiety, grief, divorce of parents, etc. I found it extremely helpful and practical.

4. **Accessible Church by Sandra Peoples.** This book is all about how we need to have a gospel-centred approach to including people with disabilities and their families into church. Once again, I hope I will be able to practically apply some of what I learnt in this book.



Overall, it's been a busy but great few months. I am so blessed to be able to call this my job and to spend time, teaching the bible to all of the amazing children and young people who attend our church.

We look forward to the next report (Issue 2) when Josh and Sophie will tell us about their activities in May, June and July.