

east to west Newsletter – Summer 2021

‘Bringing Hope in a growing future’



Hello and welcome to our Summer 2021 newsletter.

As I write the introduction to this term’s newsletter, I’m sat in glorious sunshine with barely a cloud in the sky and life feels good! The song on the radio this morning (which usually wakes me up), was the Beatles, Hello Goodbye. At the risk of alienating many, I’m not a huge fan of the Beatles (I’d much prefer to listen to the Rolling Stones!) however, what struck me most in my semi-conscious state was that this song feels apt for us as east to west. We’re in the midst of that time of year where we say Hello to new people and say Goodbye to others, welcome new projects and close others.



In this term’s newsletter, you’ll get to find out all about it, so, as a much wiser man than me once said: “grab a cuppa and a biscuit and enjoy finding out about how we’re bringing hope to young lives. Enjoy!”

Dan

A new man in the middle...

There have been significant changes at the top of east to west over the past few months. You’ll know from our Spring Newsletter that Ant has moved on from east to west to become Chief Mission Officer at Urban Saints. In May we announced that David Welch was our new CEO. David has joined us from Guildford Diocese and will be working Wednesdays in June, and Wednesdays and Fridays in July, before joining us full-time in August.

We sat down with David to find out a bit more about him and his hopes for the future...

Tell us a bit about yourself? I am a passionate Youth worker and I have been involved in youthwork since I was a young leader at the age of 16. I have been involved in youthwork in churches, schools and clubs, and been advising churches across the Diocese of Guildford (Church of England roughly in Surrey) since 2008. I still lead a youth group at my church in Tongham each Sunday, which I consider to be the best hour of the week! I have a family which you can see in the photos and my wife, and I love living in the village of Tongham, about 30 minutes from Egham. My children are both at junior school locally, but my eldest starts secondary in September.



I am a keen rugby referee, (when we are allowed to play), and I have really missed this in the last 18 months, but look



forward to getting back out in the middle in September – as I always tell people, I am the one in the middle who is the only one on the pitch trying not to cheat! The photo is me refereeing Farnham vs Guildford a couple of years ago. I love the challenge and the sense of community that I find in the local clubs of the area, and no two games are ever the same! When not refereeing, we like to go out on family bike rides (Pam and I have a tandem, and my youngest has a tag along on the back of it – we call it a ‘tri-dem’ which certainly makes for a long and distinctive vehicle as we ride around. I enjoy good food and company around the table at the weekend, as well as supporting our local brewery.

east to west is a Christian organisation. How did you come to faith? My faith journey began in my family – my parents are committed Christians, and I

have been going to church since I was a couple of days old. For me, a few summer camps during my teenage years were very important as I began to discover more of what it meant to follow Christ for myself, and own the decision to follow God that I had made. In recent years I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve in a number of local churches, and I find that young people keep me on my toes and are very good at helping me to find new things to explore in my faith.

What were you doing before joining east to west? I was 'Head of the Mission Enabler Team' for the Diocese of Guildford for 18 months, prior to which I was the Youth Adviser. My role was to encourage churches and leaders to



plan and prepare for growth using various tools and conversations. I led a team of 5 other specialists who worked in different areas of church life. Most of my time over the last year has been spent helping churches through the pandemic – both on a practical '*how on earth to I interpret this self-contradictory guidance*' level as well as helping churches to think about how they should respond strategically to the pandemic.

Why east to west? I have been a fan of east to west since I first came across them back in the mid-00s. I love what east to west stands for – the values and the approach to the work is inspirational. Bringing hope to young lives is a passion that sits very naturally with me, and the opportunity to serve as CEO was something that I couldn't let pass by. The recruitment process for me went beyond looking at it as a human reaction/desire e.g. '*can I do this?*', into feeling that it was something that God was calling me to do – I can't wait to get involved!

What do you bring to the table in terms of skills, talents and giftings? I am a Youth worker with more than 25 years of experience leading youthwork and encouraging others in building relationships with young people. I love balancing both relationships with team members with a strategic approach to working well and giving people the opportunity to grow and develop themselves. The east to west approach which is centred very deliberately on both the young people we serve and the fantastic team that we have was one of the reasons that I wanted to join, and I will be looking to develop this even further. I enjoy public speaking, building teams and I can even play the bassoon, if you would call that a talent!!

What are you excited about in the future? There are lots of possibilities in the coming months that are open to east to west – partnering with other local youth organisations in new ways to bring more hope to more young people in ways that haven't been possible before. I am excited to see how this will develop and what God has in store for this and our 25th year celebrations next year!

What might be the challenges we face heading forwards? Any growth brings challenges – how do we grow yet continue to keep the ethos and approach that makes us who we are? How do we support schools, hospitals and other partners to rebuild well after the pandemic? Add to this, young people who have faced so many challenges with exams being cancelled, continued difficulties around mental health being so poor amongst 5–25-year-olds and how the funding landscape is currently, means there is plenty for us to be praying about!

Are there any key areas you'd appreciate (our supporters) prayer in? For the team as we get used to each other, and new ways of working. It would be good to pray for the new team starting (that we're recruiting!) for September and that the summer break would bring refreshment and a sense of perspective for people.

Update on our Work



This term we're sadly saying goodbye to two of our team. Paige is leaving to join Eikon another local charity, having done a brilliant job over several years at St. Paul's. Paige followed in the rather large shoes of Adrian Laws. A very different character to Adrian, Paige played a pivotal role in growing and developing the role during her time with east to west and will be sorely missed by both the school, those she supported and us as a team.

We're also saying goodbye to Amy, after a year at Esher High. Amy's personal circumstances have changed and we're really sad that it is no longer possible for her to remain with east to west, especially given the brilliant job she's been doing supporting young people. We wish her all the best moving forward and praying she will quickly find a new role closer to where she lives.



In May we welcomed Emily Dodsworth to east to west, in her new role of Finance Manager. Emily will be working closely with Ian, supporting him with the accounts and running day to day finances within the charity.

We're delighted to say we're beginning in four new secondary schools in September! The schools, Epsom and Ewell; Everest Community Academy (Basingstoke); Kings International (Camberley) and Twickenham are all part of the Bourne Academic Trust (alongside Matthew Arnold, Teddington and Jubilee High) and it's through the brilliant work of Clare, Nicola and Adele, this opportunity has arisen! We're very much looking forward to welcoming new team members into east to west to work alongside our existing team in '*bringing hope to young lives*'.

In other news, we've received news that one of our Windsor 1st school partners (Clewer Green) will be ceasing work at the end of this academic year, due to financial reasons. Whilst this is sad news, it's presented an opportunity and we're delighted that Homer (another of the 1st schools) will be increasing its provision in September, meaning Alisa will be continuing her excellent work in the area.

Alongside these additional schools and changes, we're also starting work in 16 projects under the Surrey Wellbeing Partnership contract. These roles (EIC – Early Intervention Co-ordinators), will be within existing projects as well as new ones. For some of our existing team, this means additional hours in school. For our new schools (N) we're actively recruiting for these roles at present and will hopefully be able to announce our new team members shortly.

Spelthorne	Elmbridge	Woking
Schools		
Thomas Knyvett	Esher High	Hoe Valley
Matthew Arnold	Hinchley Wood	Woking High (N)
St. Paul's Catholic College	Heathside (N)	Bishop David Brown (N)
Thamesmead	Cobham Free (N)	Winston Churchill (N)
Bishop Wand	3 Rivers (N)	St. John the Baptist (N)
Sunbury Manor		

Time to (make a) Change?

Over the years, east to west have been blessed by the number of volunteers who've given their time, skills and efforts to '*bring hope to young lives*'. They've worked across schools, Emerge and been based in the office, joining the east to west community and adding to the work we're doing and the impact that's being achieved. We've asked Caz, east to west's Head of Volunteering (right) to share about her role, what she's looking for and how people might engage.



How did you become the Volunteers Lead? I became the volunteer lead when Nicki (Sudworth) left to pursue a new job. She asked me to look after the volunteers until someone else took on the role. I found myself really enjoying the responsibility, so I met with Ant and Ian to explore permanently taking this on, alongside being a Relational Support Worker. They agreed, and it's great that I get to work alongside the amazing volunteers as well as continue growing and developing myself personally.

Why are volunteers so important to east to west? Volunteers are important in two very different but similar ways. Within our schools, they are enabling more young people who are struggling to be seen, feel understood, supported and ultimately, experience Hope. Within our Emerge project it's primarily run by our volunteers, they are going into hospitals over 3 nights a week (hoping to increase to 6 nights) supporting young people who are needing urgent care. In short, our volunteers make a real, tangible difference in the lives of those they serve. Alongside this, we also have volunteers supporting us within the office with data input, admin, and comms.

What are you looking for in a volunteer? We are looking for anyone who has a heart for bringing Hope to young people. I recently helped interview a volunteer who was worried they may be a little too old, when in reality she came across as a great fit for what we do. We ask our volunteers to have an active faith and live out our ethos in the ways they work and support the work of east to west. We also do lots of training to help our volunteers have all the skills they need to flourish.

What might new volunteers expect? Within a school setting a volunteer will meet with the Relational Support Worker, figure out a case load and check in at the start and end of each day. The reality of what they will do is to listen, encourage, and journey the often-bumpy road with a young person. They will see challenges, growth and a young person learning to cope, and others thrive - what a privilege! Within Emerge, volunteers go into St. Peter's hospital in pairs or solo (when ready and confident) to bring Hope to young people in crisis. This is often a one-off meeting and is hugely valuable in showing love and light in a dark place.

What are east to west looking for in September? Now our schools are opening up to visitors (post COVID-19) we are once again looking to grow the number of volunteers we have within our schools. This might be for an hour, a morning or a day a week – whatever you can give, is a real blessing and helps 'bring Hope to young lives'. We are so excited to be looking to increase the number of evenings within St Peter's and for this to be successful we need more volunteers to go in to support young people on the wards, as well as provide prayerful 'backstop' support.

If you're interested please contact me on volunteer@easttowest.org.uk as I'd love to take you for coffee (and cake) and chat about it further.

Fundraising Update

You'll (hopefully) know that Dan has been doing a sponsored weight loss for east to west this year. In January he committed to losing 100lbs (7st/45½ kg) and as he approaches the midpoint for his challenge – 2nd July 2021 – he's already lost 53½ lbs! To put that into context, Dan's 7-year-old son weighs 55lbs! If you'd like to support Dan (and east to west) and help him reach his £1,500 target, you can via his Virgin Money Giving page - <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DanBeedell>

With many fundraising events postponed until 2022, we're beginning to think about the events and activities we're hoping to run. With east to west celebrating their 25th Birthday on Saturday 11th June as well, there will be lots of reasons to get involved! (Incidentally, Nightrider 2022 – the annual night-time cycle through the streets of London – also takes place on the 11th so if you're coming to the celebration, why not make a night of it!?!?)

We're always looking at ways of generating funds for east to west, and there are several simple ways you can help support our work. If you shop at Amazon, you can support east to west each time you shop by signing up at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and choose to support east to west. Every time you shop (using the smile.amazon.co.uk sign in) you will generate a donation to support the work. Alternatively, if you're upgrading



your phone and would like to donate your old handset, we'd be happy to arrange for it to be recycled for you. Recycling old phones can generate charitable donations, so your generosity will be supporting our work.

We have been really blessed to receive a legacy gift from one of our supporters. Legacy giving is a simple way of leaving a gift to charity in your will. If you'd like to find out more, please contact us on info@easttowest.org.uk.

Impact Update

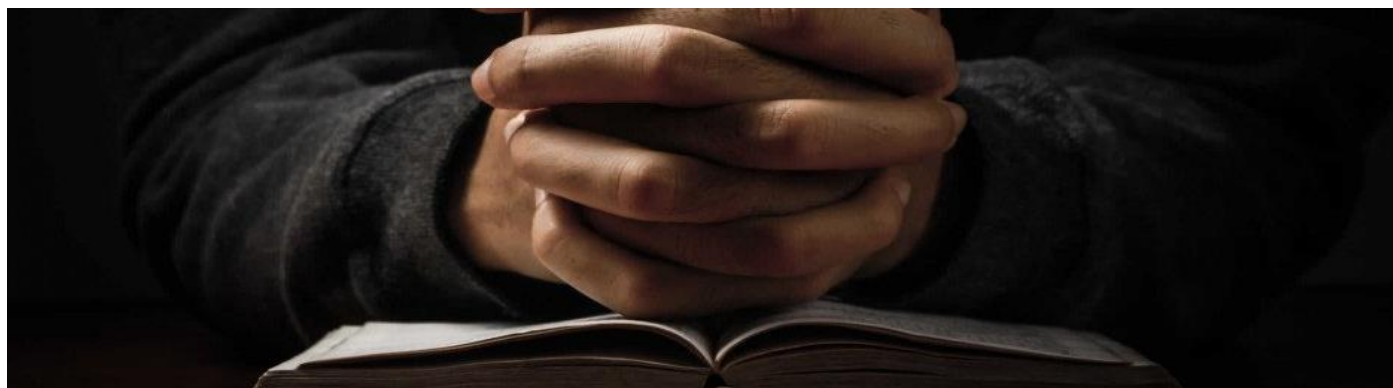


We normally share the impact we've achieved in our Autumn newsletter, but we wanted to give you a sense of the work east to west have done in schools since the start of the academic year.

You'll notice that we've seen significant increases across the main areas we've supported, not least Relationships (Family and Friendship) and Anxiety, both of which are key areas impacted by COVID-19. It is testament to the work our team have done that despite all these challenges, they continue to meet need as it presents itself and have a positive impact in the lives of those they work with.

We'll unpack a bit more of this impact during 2020/21 in our Autumn Newsletter, but hopefully you'll be encouraged by the work that's being done and the differences we're making.

Prayer Requests



- Pray for the recruitment of lots of new team members – pray that God would bring the right people to east to west, they'd settle quickly and fully understand, appreciate and engage with our ethos and culture.
- Pray for our school partners as they finish this academic year. It's felt like they've not stopped over the past 18 months with COVID-19, Home Learning, working with restrictions, extra provision and the like. Pray that they would have a good opportunity to rest and recover during the summer holidays.
- Pray for all the students we've been supporting over the past year. Pray that they'd have a restful holiday and return in September looking forward to their next adventure. Pray in particular for those entering exam years and those who are transitioning from Nursery into Primary/First schools and those moving from year 6 into secondary schools.
- Pray with thanks that God has been generous and gracious in his provision over the past year. Where there have been opportunities, there has also been financial or practical provision enabling us to serve in these new places.
- Pray with thanks for our Charity Partner Menzies, which has now come to an end. east to west became their charity of the year three years ago(!), and we've been incredibly blessed by their care, generosity and willingness to engage and support us over this time. Pray that they would continue to be a blessing to the next organisation they support.

- Pray for Ant as he settles into his role at Urban Saints – pray that he would be as much a blessing there as he was with east to west.
- Pray for those within east to west who are moving on from the charity. Pray that God would bless them in their next adventure and that they would look back at the time they spent with us as one where they were loved, valued and cherished.
- Please give thanks that God has brought David into east to west. Pray that he would settle quickly and that we would be as much a blessing to him as he is to us. Also pray for Pam (his wife) and Josh and Ben (sons), as they get used to the changes and get to know us.
- Give thanks for our team who've done an amazing job over the past year. They are brilliant people who live out our ethos on a daily basis, serving in difficult and hard places, but who bring hope through each conversation.

Breaking News

We're pleased to welcome Rob Lewis to east to west. Rob's taken on St. Paul's Catholic College taking over from Paige in the short-term to help see the students through to the end of term. We're really grateful for Rob's willingness to join with us and the work he'll be able to do between now and the end of the academic year.



We're sad to be saying goodbye to Trish Duan, our office volunteer (pictured with Ant's wife, Rachel). Trish has done a brilliant job supporting Dan with data input, specifically recording the outcomes data produced by our team in schools. Whilst COVID-19 has limited her ability to be in the office, her efforts and sense of fun has been a real blessing (not least because it meant Dan didn't have to do the data input!!)



In the Autumn, we'll be changing the way we deliver the east to west newsletter. We're moving towards a digital delivery format, similar to wePRAY, which will allow us to more quickly and effectively share what's happening within east to west. If you'd like to remain on our hard copy mailing list (e.g. get a printed version of the termly newsletter), please let us know via the contact details below and we'll ensure you're added to that mailing list.



Likewise, if you'd like to stop hearing from east to west, please let us know and we'll remove your details from our database.

Exciting News:

We are delighted to announce that there will be a new addition to the east to west family! Eliz (Head of Emerge) and her husband Simon are expecting their first child in November! Eliz will be taking maternity leave in the Autumn, and we'll let you know who'll be looking after Emerge in her absence. Please pray for Eliz and Simon as they embark on this new adventure together and that all would continue to be well with the pregnancy.

If you'd like to get in contact with east to west you can do using the following methods:

Phone: 01784 438007 - **Email:** info@easttowest.org.uk - **Website:** www.easttowest.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/e2wrelationalsupport

Instagram: www.instagram.com/easttowest.charity/

Post: The east to west Trust; Unit 3; 80 High Street; Egham; Surrey; TW20 9HE

Charity Number: 1131229 – **Company Limited by Guarantee Number:** 6972769

BACS Details: The Co-operative Bank, The east to west Trust Ltd R/C. Acc #: 65026045. Sort Code: 089250