

## Big changes since my last update!

I'm excited to announce that we have a unit in the Templars Square Shopping Center in Cowley, and its called Jungle!



We have this space in partnership with very talented local artist Micah Haynes who previously had a smaller unit for his gallery called Jungle.

Some time ago, Lola visited Micah's gallery to see his beautiful artwork. They met, chatted and a friendship began. Micah eventually shared that he had long believed the larger space adjacent to his would one day be a ministry hub used by God to connect with and bless the community. Little did any of us know that the time was now!

We had been running Hope Oxford church's Small Steps second-hand shop in their unit and had hoped to do more community-related activities in the Hope Oxford unit. It became clear that this wouldn't be possible so we began praying

about getting our own space. We eventually submitted a proposal to the landlord of Templars Square.....and waited. And waited. Then one Thursday a couple of weeks ago, Lola visited Micah's gallery to introduce him to some visiting colleagues. During this brief visit, Lola told Micah about our proposal and asked him to put in a good word with the landlord for us. Surprised, Micah quickly told her that the landlord had given him the keys to the large space next door, so we started to wonder if this was how God would provide.

Three days later, Lola saw Micah at church and learned that exactly one hour after the referenced conversation, Micah had been given 30 days notice to vacate his current unit because a commercial client wanted to lease the space. Micah still had the keys and permission to use the larger unit next door, so he and Lola began brainstorming. The new unit was too large for Micah and we don't need much space, so they naturally discussed sharing the unit. Two days later we began moving Micah into the new unit and started making plans to create an immersive experience where locals can enjoy art classes, the gallery, signposting to resources in the community, story time, a variety of useful workshops, friendship and lots of family fun...all washed down with a good cup of tea or coffee - and maybe even a piece of cake. We're so excited!!

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These photos show the front of our unit. One half will be for Micah's art gallery and drawing classes. The other half will be ours to use for whatever ministry ideas God gives us for connecting and building relationships with the people in the community.



We've been busy painting, gluing, taping, hanging vines, and having fun planning and preparing for our opening the week of October 24. Children will be off from school, so we have special events planned for each day with a party on Saturday. We would greatly appreciate your prayers!

## Half-Term Activity Schedule at Jungle 24th - 29th October

Templars Square Shopping Centre

Storytime  
at Jungle Story Throne  
10:00 Monday to Friday

10:30 - 12:00  
Monday - Crocodile Craft & Harp Music  
Tuesday - Jungle Animal Masks  
Wednesday - Elmer the Elephant Craft  
Thursday - Circle Dancing with Lizzie  
Friday - Handprint Jungle Animals

Grand Opening Party  
29th October 11:00 - 3:00





To keep up with what's going on at Jungle, follow us on Facebook!

 [Humans of Cowley](#)

 [Friends of the Jungle](#)

 [Micah Hayns Art](#)

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In addition to getting the Jungle ready, I've been attending the weekly Alpha Course hosted by the church I'm attending in the center of Oxford. It has been such a gift to explore topics of faith with the people in my group who don't know or don't fully understand what the Christian faith is all about. Having helped host the Alpha Course in Michigan several years ago, it's wonderful to be involved with it again. I highly recommend this course to anyone! Check out [alphausa.org](http://alphausa.org) to learn more.

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Thank you so much for your prayers, financial partnership and your love. I'm so grateful to have you on this journey with me! God bless you!!

thank you

**Beverly Visser**  
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