

Prayer

Your support in prayer is critical to our ministry, please pray with us!

Give thanks for:

- The amazing way in which our Lord has been with, supported, and used the ministry in reaching out to and supporting the young people of Tillydrone.
- The great success of the Youth Weekend Away at Glenshee in November, the enthusiasm and engagement of the young people and their eagerness to be part of a repeat trip in 2023.
- The strong working relationship which has been built up with Riverbank Primary School, its pupils, and staff. This is something which we should never take for granted.
- Matthew's being part of the SU team going into Northfield Academy to run an SU club.
- For the relationships and trust built up with a good number of the young people we are in contact with, and their growing openness in discussing the life issues they are having to deal with.

Pray for:

- Most importantly, that our young people will come to see the reality of Jesus Christ and who He is, and that they may come to know him as their personal Lord and Saviour.
- Wisdom and patience for the youth team in dealing with the stress points which arise from time to time in the various groups.
- Wisdom and guidance for the NES YFC and Lighthouse teams as we consider how best to move forward with youth work in Tillydrone.
- Wisdom and guidance for us as we seek this year to identify and obtain additional funding support to eradicate our current operating deficit.
- People, young and not so young, with a passion for the souls of young people to volunteer and help us in the front line youth ministry, background support of the ministry as trustees and members of our Council of Reference and to help us to further develop our online profile and fund-raising capabilities.

Thank you!

We thank you for your prayer support and interest in the ministry of North East Scotland Youth for Christ. It is truly great to know that there are people out there praying for what God does through us in the Tillydrone area of Aberdeen.

Please spread the word about our ministry and consider giving financial support. Sign up for the Newsletter and find out more at our website www.nesyfc.org.uk.



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2023 Issue 1



Newsletter

Welcome

Hi, and welcome to our latest newsletter.

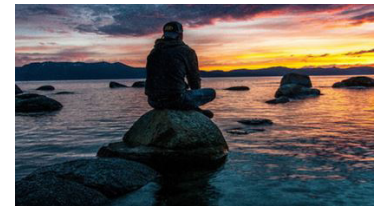
Another year has just passed us by and we sit, as it were, looking out over this new year. We can but wonder what it holds for us, what route our life journey will take, what storms and challenges will arise.

As individuals, and as a ministry, as we face our storms and challenges, we need to remember who has called us to the journey we take. Mark 4: 35-41 and the question asked in v41 come to mind: "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

When we consider that question, we find that the answer was and is, Jesus was Man - and Jesus was and is God. At the height of the storm, when the boat was about to be swamped, where was Jesus? He was "in the stern of the boat, asleep on a pillow."

Jesus Christ the man was indeed sound asleep, exhausted and in need of rest for his body and mind. Jesus Christ - God - certainly was not. He was not oblivious to the situation developing around him. He knew about the storm and He knew about the fear of the disciples. Jesus Christ was not about to let His disciples die as a result of this storm. He knew that their time had not yet come.

Hard as it may be, and it is sometimes very hard, when the storms of life hit, we need to remember to ask the question 'WHO' and when we remember who it is, who is our Lord and our God, we need to cling on to the fact that He has a plan for our lives and He



knows that from beginning to end, as Jeremiah 29: 11-14 tells us, *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord.*

May we all hold on to that truth as we negotiate whatever lies ahead of us.

Tom Cowie, Chair of Trustees

Update from Matthew

We catch up with Matthew Hamilton our youth worker on what has been happening in Tillydrone during the autumn and winter months 2022 into January 2023.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

We were involved in various Christmas celebration events, all of which thankfully went ahead despite the heavy snow around the end of the school term.

Radiate kids had a typical Christmas party which went amazingly well with a sky high level of excitement among them leading up to and during the party. They all totally enjoyed the fun, food and games.

Illuminate teens had a food night and were given options as to what type of food they wanted - Pizza was the winner. They were really well behaved and had a really special night together and enjoyed the food, games and a short Christmas talk.

Sunday Christmas Service (Donside Community Church) - several of our young people took part in the Christmas service and nativity which went really well with a good turnout of families and infrequent church attenders.

Matthew was asked by **Riverbank School** to organise and take their Christmas Assembly. The assembly went really well with around 400 kids attending. Matthew gave an interactive talk on the real gift of Christmas.

YOUTH WEEKEND AWAY

From 11th - 13th November this year we took a group of 16 young people, some of whom said it was the first time they had stayed anywhere outside of Tillydrone, and 9 leaders to the Compass Christian Centre



at Glenshee for a Youth Weekend Away. During the weekend we participated in outdoor activities such as a zip line, capture the flag, walks and a night

line.

The weekend included four discussion sessions, the theme of which was identity and what it means in our day and age. The young people listened to and engaged well with the talks and were very open and honest about the subject of identity and were happy to discuss and consider their own views and those of others.

It was a hugely encouraging and enjoyable weekend, and a great opportunity to get out of the city and into the mountains for a few days. We are planning to use the Centre again for Youth Weekend Away 2023, this time earlier in the year. Most of the young people who went are very keen to repeat the experience in 2023.

FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH DROP-IN

The Youth Drop-in continues to run twice a month on a Friday night and remains very popular with the young people who attend. Drop-in is a very relational group where we focus on getting alongside and building relationships with the young people who come along, and at the same time providing a safe space where they can hang out and relax with their friends.

A typical Drop-in would have table tennis, table football, air hockey, tuck shop, play station and a short testimony slot (which the young people continue to be very interested in). We are currently seeing between 20-40 young people out at every session, some of whom attended the Youth Weekend Away.

Drop-in, by its nature, can have its challenges and stress points, but we are thankful that these tend to be the exception and that it continues to be a safe space for young people to hang out.

BOXING / FITNESS TRAINING

For various reasons outwith our control, the training sessions, which were trialled in the early summer of 2022, did not recommence after the summer break. It is however still very much

on the radar. We and the Lighthouse team will be discussing it with Byron Boxing Club early in the New Year with a view to getting the sessions firmly established in Tillydrone.

PANNA FOOTBALL CAGE

Our PANNA Football Cage is currently in storage over the winter months. Experience has taught us that it is not practical or safe to run events over the winter due to the unpredictability of the weather. We expect that events will re-commence in late March 23.

IN SCHOOLS WORK

Weekly Five-a-side football continues to be very popular with the kids. It's great to spend time outside, have fun together and build relationships with them.

Thursday's Riverbank SU continues going well and has seen encouraging growth in interest in the Bible lessons and numbers attending. We are very thankful that an additional volunteer has come on board to help in running this group.

A huge encouragement has been the re-start of Bible Alive, which slots in well with the school Curriculum requirements, and takes P6 children through the Bible in 7 weeks by acting, kid's involvement, teaching sign language. The first few sessions have gone very well, with strong engagement from both the children and teachers.

Another huge encouragement is that Matthew has been asked by SU to help out with an SU group in Northfield Academy (weekly half hour slot) with 5 - 6 teenagers.

RADIATE

Radiate (P4 - P7 weekly kids club) has largely gone well, although we have been challenged by a drop in numbers attending regularly and some of the older children acting in a way which has put some of the younger children off attending. The behaviour issue has been dealt with and numbers attending are recovering. We are, however, really encouraged with the engagement of those children who really want to attend Radiate with the activities and the different talks from the Bible.

ILLUMINATE

Illuminate (S1 - S3 Bible study, discussion and games session) has had some encouraging growth over the last few months, and the young people who moved up from Radiate in the summer of 2022 have fitted in well to the group. We are currently making our way through the Old Testament with this group, and it has been fantastic to see how many of them have shown an interest in the Bible studies and how engaged they were at the Weekend Away.