

Prayer

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

Give thanks for:

- The way in which our Lord continues to support and care for the ministry as we reach out to support and help young people and has strengthened the relationship which has been built up with Riverbank Primary School, both staff and pupils.
- The strong engagement of the young people who regularly attend the various groups. They feel these are safe spaces for them and at times to decompress, relax and discuss the Bible and faith issues.
- Relationships and trust built up with a good number of young people and that they have a growing openness in discussing the life issues they are having to cope with.
- The way Northfield Academy SU has been going and the regular group of boys who have been coming along.
- The faithful volunteers who are willing to give up their own time to come along and support the ministry and the young people we seek to serve.

Pray for:

- The young people who are coming along to Northfield Academy SU that the relationships which are slowly being built will be of blessing to these young people.
- Most importantly, that all 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. A big ask, but not beyond our Lord to bring about.
- That the attendance numbers at the Friday Night Youth Drop-in would recover and grow now that the winter weather has moved on.
- Wisdom and patience for the youth team as they interact with the more challenging young people who often have huge personal issues they have to deal with.
- That we would be able to identify people with a passion for the souls of young people to volunteer and help us in the ministry to which the Lord has called us. We could do much more if we were able to increase our pool of volunteers.

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.



Welcome

Hi, and welcome to our latest newsletter giving you an update of what has been going on in the ministry as we seek to get alongside and support young people.

Over the first part of this year we have seen some very encouraging progress in the youth work in Tillydrone. SU in Riverbank has grown rapidly; Illuminate has been developing really well, and the relationships that we have been building with young people have been steadily growing and strengthening. We are also now assisting Scripture Union in the running of an SU Lunch Club in Northfield Academy on a Friday lunch time.

However, we have also faced challenges, such as losing a youth worker at the Lighthouse Support Centre and having to rejig and expand the overall team of volunteers; a notable decrease in numbers of young people attending the Friday Night Drop-in over the winter months; and some behavioural issues with one or two of the young people. We do remain very encouraged that, though the road can be tiring, our Lord is impacting on the lives of young people. Pray with us that the impact will grow and that young lives will be changed.

As we commit the lives of our young people to our Lord in faith, we cannot see what the future will be for them, what impact our interaction and sharing of Jesus Christ with them will have. However, we work on and we pray on that young lives will be changed and that they will come to know the freedom and sense of identity that only Jesus Christ can provide.

Of faith, Phillips Brooks once said, "Faith, when walking through the dark with God, only asks Him to hold his hand more tightly." An old hymn says "The Shepherd does not ask of thee 'faith in your faith, but only faith in Him; and this He meant in saying, 'come to me.' In light or darkness seek to do His will, and leave the work of faith to Jesus still."

As we, and you our supporters, pray for our young people, let us do so with that kind of faith, a faith that tells us that 'our God is a great big God' and that He can do great things.



Update from Matthew

We catch up with Matthew Hamilton our youth worker on what has been happening in Tillydrone so far this year.



IN SCHOOL GROUPS

Five-a-Side Football

Riverbank Football has been a bit of a struggle over the past few months. The winter weather largely put a stop to us playing outside and with another local charity hiring the gym hall after school it has meant that on a few occasions we have had to cancel football. We are currently investigating other venues which we could have access to in the future in the case of bad weather. When the football is on, we can have anywhere between 10-15 boys attending.

Lighthouse Explorers/Riverbank SU

Riverbank SU is perhaps the strongest group that we are running, with an average of 30-40 kids out every week. We are currently going through the gospel of Luke and have considered Jesus life, the disciples, trusting God, how to pray and much more. It is fantastic to experience the meaningful and high level of engagement from both children and teachers each week.

Northfield Academy SU

While not without its challenges, the SU group we have been helping to run at Northfield Academy with Scripture Union Scotland has been encouraging with 6 to 10 young people, unusually the majority of whom are teenage boys, coming along. The group is run on a Friday and is structured as a lunch club with board games and such like and for the time being is purely relational in nature.

Bible Alive

Since late last year we have been running Bible Alive in two P6 classes in Riverbank Primary. Both of the classes have engaged really well as we have journeyed together through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation thinking about the big story of the Bible. We've been very encouraged by the level of response and engagement, one class even took part in the Easter journey at the Mission Church, which went through the Easter Story in detail.

OUT OF SCHOOLS GROUPS

Radiate

Radiate (P4 - P7 weekly kids club) has at times been a challenge with our having had issues with a particular group of girls regarding their behaviour, but we are working with them to overcome this challenge. In

general however, things have been positive and encouraging in the group with the bulk those attending engaging well. We are seeing the same group of young people out each week, which in terms of relationship building has been fantastic. We have also seen a few of our kids come along to Sunday school and engaging well with the various activities there.

Illuminate

Illuminate (S1 - S3 Bible study, discussion and games session) has been going well with groups of around 15 young people regularly attending the weekly sessions. We have had a new team of volunteers manning the sessions who have been getting on really well and are already building trust and relationships with the teenagers. Each week we have been going through a chapter of the book '10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask about Christianity'. This has proved fantastic in generating conversation and discussion around matters of faith.

Friday Night Youth Drop-In

The Youth Drop-in has been running twice a month over the winter months, although we have experienced a discouraging drop in the number of young people attending. We have come to the conclusion that the dark nights and inclement winter weather have played a large part in this decline. We will be investigating the wisdom and practicality of running the Drop-in in future during the winter months or rather focus our efforts during the spring, summer and autumn months. We have a great dynamic team of volunteers who are willing to come out regularly to help run the Drop-in. Together we will be praying for, and working at, building the Drop-in attendance back up to - and hopefully beyond - what it was before.

One-to-One Support

The one-to-one support which we offer, currently with around ten young people, has remained steady over the past few months. We regularly meet with teenagers on a one-to-one basis to discuss issues they may be having with school, college, work, life, faith etc. The sessions have been going really well and good relationships continue to be built.



Boxing / Fitness Training

We are currently in discussions with Byron Boxing Club regarding recommencing the boxing/fitness training event in May of this year. Initially the sessions will run alongside the PANNA Cage Football sessions and we will review how things are working as the year progresses. The trial sessions last year proved to be very successful with the young people in Tillydrone and we anticipate the same this year.

PANNA Cage Football

We are intending to have the Cage back into use during May on a fortnightly basis alternating with the Friday Night Youth Drop-in, and are working at putting together a safe level of volunteer manning for the Cage. The Cage has always proved to be very popular with young people who have been 'pestering' Matthew as to when it is going to restart. It is a really good venue for meeting newcomers and also parents who often come along to spectate.



Summer Mission 2023

In partnership with The Lighthouse Support Centre we will, after the huge success of last year's one, be running another Summer Mission in Tillydrone from 10 to 14 July. Matthew and a small Steering Group are spearheading its organization.

The Mission will have a varied content structure, the bulk of which will be centred around children and young people, with one off separate evening events for women and men. The theme and final format of the children and young people's events have yet to be finalized but we plan to have everything at least on a par with last year.