

## Prayer

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

### Give thanks for:

- God's provision of Matthew as our youth worker, the way he settled into Tillydrone and the relationships he has already formed with young people, parents, the Lighthouse team and the other ministries we partner with.
- The various activities restarting smoothly after the summer holidays.
- The new young people who have begun to come along to activities.
- The public profession of faith made by a 16 year old at his recent baptism.
- The commitment to follow Jesus Christ made by two more young people.
- The good relationship with the local school head and teaching staff, and their engagement with what we do.
- The strong relationship formed between the youth and wider team at The Lighthouse.
- The continuing prayer and financial provision which upholds our ministry to the young people of Tillydrone.

### Pray For:

- Wisdom and the presence of the Holy Spirit to be with Matthew as he deals with the complex and difficult issues presented by a lot of the young people he interacts with.
- God's protection of our own and partner ministries as we seek to reach young people with the Gospel and love of Jesus.
- God's protection and empowerment of the young man recently baptised as he seeks to live out his life for Jesus.
- God's protection and empowerment of the two young people who recently made a commitment to Christ.
- The guidance and power of the Holy Spirit for those who come alongside these young people to mentor and support them in their life journey.
- More volunteer leaders, to enable the Friday Night Youth Club to go ahead.
- Volunteers to come forward to serve as Trustees, to assist and guide the strategy and 'background' work of the ministry.

## 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](http://www.nesyfc.org.uk).

## Our new look

You might have noticed that, in line with Youth for Christ nationally, we have changed our appearance. We'd like to share a little bit about the thinking behind this!

Our name declares who we are, what we are about and keeps us honest in our mission. "Youth for Christ" is now written in full as it states our mission clearly: we are about young people and serving Jesus through the great commission. Our "YFC" logo has been replaced with a "Y" featuring a heart. We believe God's heart beats for young people across this nation and that Jesus can transform the lives of the least, the lost and the most broken of young people.



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## Welcome

Welcome to our Newsletter, with the latest from the ministry of North East Scotland Youth for Christ. The past few months have been busy and exciting as our ministry moved forward in its work through our new Youth Worker, Matthew Hamilton. It is a delight to work alongside Matthew and the youth team at The Lighthouse and experience their passion and commitment to reach young people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A major highlight was witnessing the baptism of a 16 year old young man who came through the Riverbank School football training and is now an integral part of the team leading that work. Another two young people also made a commitment to Christ: the Holy Spirit is very much active in the ministry among young people in Tillydrone. Matthew will update you with what has happened on 'the front line' since he joined us and give you a brief summary of the activities in which we are involved.

*Tom Cowie, Chairperson*

## Matthew Hamilton, The First Few Months...

Over the past few months my work with NES Youth for Christ has been primarily based in the Tillydrone area, working alongside the folks from the Lighthouse Support Centre. When I started in July the youth work had mostly been stopped for the summer. It was good for me as the new youth worker to have time to adjust to the move to Aberdeen, meet some of the local young people and begin to build relationships with them and their parents.

As the schools were off over the summer, we decided that it would be a waste not to do anything during this time. After gathering a few volunteers from different churches and the Tillydrone area we took The Cage out on several occasions into the community to let the young people play a bit of football. This was a great opportunity to meet new young people and to build on those relationships that had already begun to form: we saw around 25-35 young people attend each time we did this.

Towards the end of the summer all the Lighthouse youth groups got up and running again. Many children and young people have got involved with these groups which has been great. Games, quizzes, Bible stories, singing, teenage Bible studies are all part of our weekly programmes. As well as the youth groups the work in the schools has also got up and running again. Bible Alive and the football team have both been started again in Riverbank Primary School. There has been a good response to this by both children and teachers. We do hope to start more of our previous activities in the school, however these have taken a bit longer to get up and going. All in all it has been a good few months. The activities have all seemed to start up again without a hitch and we have

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## The First Few Months (continued)...

seen plenty of young people. It is apparent that there are a lot of issues surrounding many of our young people; self-confidence issues, weight issues, issues of neglect, family issues just to name a few.

It can seem that reaching these young people for the Lord is a massive task. Yes, it is a huge task, yes, there are lots of issues surrounding these young people to deal with, but we must remember that, yes, the Lord is faithful and if we rely on Him and do His will and trust in Him, He will give us the victory here.

There are many issues that our young people are struggling with in their lives but we believe that the Lord can transform these lives through the gospel, and if NES Youth for Christ can be a small part of His work in this area then that is something that we count as a privilege.

## Existing Activities

*We catch up with youth worker Matthew Hamilton on existing and planned activities...*

**ILLUMINATE** - Bible study for S1-S6 held every Wednesday night in the new Tillydrone Community Campus. Since the start of the new academic year we have been going through a short book by Mez McConnell which focuses on God, and "if He exists . . . then prove it"; what is He like; what's wrong with the world etc. Around 10-12 young people have been coming out regularly to hear the word of God. We have recently seen four new people out who have absolutely no church background at all, this has been challenging at times but also refreshing.

**TUESDAY NIGHT 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL** - every Tuesday night I meet with 3 other Lighthouse workers and a group of 6-9 teenage boys in Tillydrone for a game of football. The boys love getting together with us and playing a game of football. The night begins with a short prayer and then we play football for an hour. This gives the young men a chance to let off some steam and gives the leaders a chance to build friendships with them.

**RADIATE** - a kids club run on a Wednesday night before Illuminate. It is a high paced all-action event with around 16 kids currently attending and the night has quite a simple structure to it. The kids come in, we sing, play minute-to-win-it games, have our Bible story and finish up with either crafts or games. We are currently going through the Old Testament looking at the story of Joshua. Moses and Joshua seemed to be a great hit with the young people who have all been really engaging and asking lots of questions.

**BIBLE ALIVE** - an interactive Bible exploration programme (one hour sessions over a 7 week period) aimed at P6 kids and held on a Wednesday morning in Riverbank Primary School with four volunteer leaders. The kids and the teachers both love it when we go in. It is clear that the lessons that we are giving are making an impact both in the children's and teacher's lives.

**RIVERBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM** - Wednesdays after school is football training. Since the start of the new school year we have held trials and finally selected a team to play in the school's league.

11 boys have been picked to represent the school and each week attend fitness training and practising drills to prepare them for matches. The league doesn't start until mid to late November so in the meantime we hope to organise some friendly games with other teams.

**SU AT ST MACHAR ACADEMY** - Scripture Union at St Machar Academy was started at the beginning of the school year by SU Scotland and the Mission Church. The team will be meeting on a Friday lunchtime to share the good news of Jesus with the pupils. We will spend time building relationships with the young people, gaining their trust and sharing the gospel with them.

**SU AT RIVERBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL** - Scripture Union in Riverbank Primary School has recently started with a team of three going in on a Thursday lunchtime to share the gospel with the kids. The series we are going through is a CEF material called 'What Every Child Ought to Know'. In the past this group has not been consistently well attended, however at the first session this week we were very encouraged by the turn out and enthusiasm of the kids, some of whom had been to Bible Alive.

## Planned Activities

**FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH CLUB** - it has been decided that the previous youth group, meeting on a Thursday afternoon and known as The Space, was no longer effective and fit for purpose and was discontinued. As a result we are in the advanced stages of an investigation into the commencing of a Friday night group for young people in S1-S6. A typical evening could potentially start with some games or an organised activity and would have a short epilogue in the middle with supper at the end. This group would be as informal as possible so that the young people would feel welcomed and be at ease in it. Critical to getting this off the ground is the identification of a few new leaders. This has proved difficult, however we are active in seeking to overcome this hurdle and are making it very much a matter of prayer.

**TRANSFORMING LIVES FOR GOOD (TLG)** - a one-to-one mentoring scheme for pupils in Riverbank Primary School who have been identified by their teachers as in need of, and would benefit from, one-to-one help. Pupils are mentored on a weekly basis in a 1 to 1½ hour session. In previous years we have seen major improvements in the pupils being mentored and a strong appreciation from teaching staff for the improvements achieved.

I have completed my training with TLG Scotland and am currently in discussion with school staff on the allocation and mentoring of a pupil.

**SCHOOLS PASTOR** - In previous years our Youth Worker has worked as part of the Schools Pastors team in St Machar Academy to build and develop relationships with the pupils and staff, to encourage the pupils to positively relate to peers, teachers and the wider community and also provide personal support through basically being available around the school and the lunch club run for the pupils by the team.

I hope to join the team in the near future once Disclosure Scotland PVG check requirements have been completed.

**THE CAGE AT ST MACHAR ACADEMY** - for a few years now The Cage has been going into St Machar Academy on a Thursday lunch time. There was a delay in getting this restarted due to awaiting schools approval. Approval has now been received and we aim to restart The Cage early in March 2020 after the winter weather has gone.

This one particular aspect of our ministry is something that we don't want to lose as it is a great opportunity for us to connect with the school, but more importantly the young people of this area to hopefully build supportive relationships with them and where appropriate share the Gospel and show them how it can be relevant and applicable to their everyday lives.

