

Prayer

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

Give thanks for:

- The success of the Easter Lunch Club during the Easter school holidays.
- The attendance of a varied cross section of young people attending the fortnightly Friday Night Drop-in and the relationships which are already being formed with the youth team.
- The way that young people are building trust with the youth team and are becoming more willing to open up, share and discuss the life issues they are having to deal with.
- The Lord's very evident ongoing and faithful support of the young people of Tillydrone.

Pray for:

- Our young people, that they 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.

- Matthew and the youth team as they seek to support young people in what can sometimes be complex and difficult life issues.
- The Summer Mission currently planned for 11 to 17 July of this year. It is hoped to hold groups/activities throughout the week for children, teens, and adults.
- People, young and not so young, with a passion for the souls of young people to volunteer and help:
 - In the front line youth ministry in Tillydrone, especially the Youth Drop In and the Cage;
 - As trustees and members of our Council of Reference:
 - To help develop our online, social media and fund raising capabilities
- An increase in our regular income in order that the current operating deficit of ~£400 per month can be done away with.

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

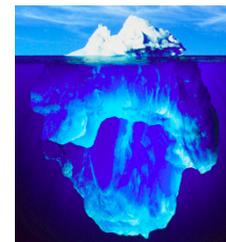
Welcome to our spring newsletter, and our apologies for it being late in coming out.

In the book of Deuteronomy chapter 31 and verse 6, we find words spoken by Moses to Joshua as he prepared to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land, despite the very obvious challenges which lay ahead of them.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."

Those words would have been very special and encouraging to Joshua as he set out to do what God had called him to do. They are words too that are very special and encouraging to our ministry also. We have over and over again seen our God walking with us as we too have set out to do what He has called us to do – to reach out to support and walk with the young people of Tillydrone and show them the love of Jesus Christ who cares so much for them. Not once can we say that He abandoned us in the thirty plus years the ministry has been in existence.

The first months of this year have been hugely exciting and encouraging for us as we have seen strong growth of engagement with our relational, support and gospel based work among young people. Do check out Matthew's Update on how things have been going.



While we are both encouraged and thankful with the engagement we have with young people, we know that we are only touching the tip of a very big iceberg of need among our local young people, a lot of that need can be unseen in areas such as mental health, loneliness, lack of identity and purpose etc.

Please pray for us as we seek the Lord's guidance as to how we move into the future, in partnership with the local church to meet more of the very real needs which are around us. Pray too that He will yet do great things among the young people of Tillydrone who we seek to support and serve.

Tom Cowie – Chair of Trustees

Update from Matthew

We catch up with Matthew Hamilton our youth worker on what has been happening among the young people of Tillydrone in the first part of this year.



FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH DROP IN

The Youth Drop-in runs every second Friday night from 8-10pm. Drop-in functions as a purely relational group, the aim being to provide a safe space for young people to meet, for us to meet new young people and build relationships with them and those we already know in a supportive and caring environment. Some of those coming along to Drop-in have voluntarily joined some of our Wednesday night groups.

Drop-in has now been running since September 2021 and has proved very successful. When it first started on a monthly basis, we had 12 teenagers and 3 volunteers. Fast forward to April 2022 where we now run Drop-in on a fortnightly basis, have around 40 teenagers each session and work with a pool of 8 volunteers.

It has been fantastic over the past months to get to know so many young people that we would never before have had the opportunity to meet. Drop-in has given us the opportunity to break into a new area of the community – around 50% of our young people are from a Polish background.

PANNA FOOTBALL CAGE

After being in hibernation for the winter months, Cage football started up again on 24 March for the 2022 season. Cage sessions run weekly on a Friday afternoon from 5 – 6 pm for ages P4 to S6. Individual games of four in the Cage at a time are age specific.

Cage football continues to be very popular with an average attendance of around 40 and it has been great to meet some new faces and to slowly build relationships with and support young people. It has also been



good to get to meet parents who, particularly with the younger kids, often come along to spectate at sessions.

We are also 'trailing' the use of Cage football as part of the Friday Night Drop-in. It has so far proved to be very popular and should it continue to do so, we would have it as an integral part of each Drop-in session.

EASTER HOLIDAY LUNCH CLUB

During the second week of the Easter school holidays, in partnership with The Lighthouse Support Centre, we ran an Easter Holiday Lunch club for children in P2-P7. We had an average of 20 – 25 at each session which ran in the morning from 11:00 to 12:30. Each session consisted of songs, crafts, games, quizzes and more and were a great success. We also provided lunch for the children at each session, as during the school holidays many kids in Tillydrone would not be getting regular meals.

IN SCHOOLS WORK

Our current focus with in-schools work is in Riverbank Primary School where we have a strong relationship with teaching staff and pupils. It has been a slow start to getting back into the school after the relaxation of Covid restrictions and currently we are in the school twice per week.

On a Tuesday for five-a-side football sessions aimed at getting the kids active and also building relationships with them. 15 kids usually attend the sessions.

On a Thursday when we run three SU sessions back-to-back for P5, P6 and P7. We are currently going through the YouTube series "God's Story". This series aims to take kids the whole way through the Bible in a year. We have been deeply encouraged by the number of kids who keep coming along and who actively engage in the SU programme. Many of them have begun to ask more question around God and faith and are eager to participate in the other youth activities that we do.



RADIATE

(Weekly Wednesday night kids club for children in P4 – P7)

We now have around 25 children on the

register. Each week the children enjoy games, singing, quizzes and Bible stories. Radiate has gone from strength to strength over the past months and we have seen children who previously struggled to concentrate learn to sit and listen to the story and answer the questions during the quiz. Many children have begun to show an interest in the various Bible stories and have begun, voluntarily, to attend the weekly 'Kids Church' held at Donside Community Church in Tillydrone.

ILLUMINATE

(Weekly Wednesday night Bible study, discussion group and games session for young people in S1 – S4)

This group is a real highlight of the week as 90% of this group is made up of teens who joined having attended the cage football or Friday night youth drop in. There is very little "Bible knowledge or awareness" in this group, so it is very much a back to basics group in terms of Bible knowledge. This has been really quite refreshing as it has presented the opportunity to simply sit and chat about God, the gospel and about life in an environment which allows the teens to openly discuss, and if they want, challenge life questions which are relevant to them. On average we would see 10-13 young people out each week.

YOUNG ADULTS

(Weekly Wednesday night Bible study and discussion group for young people in S4+)

Young adults also runs on a Wednesday night from 8:30-9:30pm and is a group of young people who have been with us over the past 5-6 years. The young people themselves requested the set-up of a group more suited to their age, and the session generally consists of tea and coffee, a bit of chat and a Bible study. We are currently working our way through the book of Genesis. It has been tremendously encouraging to sit with 16-18 year olds and discuss the Bible and the questions the young people have as they negotiate their way through life.