

Prayer

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

Give thanks for:

- The great success of the summer mission in the way that our team worked so well together, the engagement of so many of the community, the contacts made with people we had not known before and for the indications and questions of interest we have had from some who had attended some of the week's activities.
- Two teenagers who we have known since primary school who have accepted Jesus Christ into their lives and are due to be baptised in September.
- The relationships and trust built up with a good number of the young people and their growing openness in discussing the life issues they are having to deal with.
- For the safe arrival of Matthew and his wife Rebekah's baby son in August. All are doing well.
- The increase in regular income and

financial gifts we have recently received which will assist in our endeavours to remove the operating deficit we currently work under

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 prepare for the recommencement of the various groups and activities in September, and also that the young people would re-connect and engage with the groups and activities.
- 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.



Welcome

Hi, and welcome to our summer newsletter!

We have had a busy, at times challenging, but nevertheless fantastic few months since our last newsletter, getting alongside and supporting the young folks in Tillydrone. Groups and activities have gone well and attendance and engagement has remained high despite the build up to the school summer holidays. We have been very encouraged with the engagement of the young folks and we have made some great progress with some of them who we are meeting with regularly.

The groups and activities finished for the summer when the school holidays started. However, our focus then switched to completing the preparations for and holding the Tillydrone Holiday Summer Mission, more of which you can read in Matthew's update. Following the Mission Week, the youth team and volunteers relaxed to enjoy some much needed 'R & R' before things kick off again in September.

We do what we do recognizing that actually we are all in God's hands, as Job declares in chapter 12:10 "In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."

The God of all creation holds our lives, the whole of mankind in His hands. It is He who gives us life and who breathes love into our very being. When we fall, as we so often do and feel that we cannot carry on any more, it is God who promises to carry us.

Deuteronomy 32:11 - "Like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions (wings)".

Our Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, holds us in the very palm of His nail pierced hands, and we are very precious to Him, He loves us so dearly.

As we continue in our journey through life, let us all seek to use the life He has given us and the love He has lavished on us, to take the broken, the needy and the hurting into our hearts, just as Jesus did.

May you know much of His presence with you as you journey on.



Tom Cowie, Chair of Trustees

Update from Matthew

We catch up with Matthew Hamilton our youth worker on what has been happening in Tillydrone between spring and summer of this year.



SUMMER MISSION WEEK

From 11 to 15 July, we partnered with Lighthouse Support Centre and Donside Community Church to run the first Summer Mission Week in the Tillydrone area. We wanted to create an opportunity for people in Tillydrone, irrespective of age, to come together, have fun and hear the gospel. The planning of the event began early in this year and as we approached the actual week, there was a great deal of excitement but also a degree of nervousness as to how the actual week would go. We had a group of folks come over from Northern Ireland (Matthew's home church) to help man the week along with our local team.

What the week look like and how many folks attended? Well, we had a daily morning kids' Bible club with lunch (40); a daily morning parent and toddler group (20); a daily afternoon Cage football session (40); a daily evening youth programme (20); one off separate women and men's nights (60); Friday night family evening with free food, bouncy castle, Cage football, indoor games, face painting etc (250).



It was a truly fantastic week in which we were able to reach, chat with, share the gospel and begin to build relationships with people of a wide age range a lot of whom we had never met before.

BOXING / FITNESS TRAINING

The Lighthouse Support Centre and we have recently partnered with Byron Boxing Club to run fortnightly training in Tillydrone. Each session runs alongside our Friday evening Cage Football session and it is the intention to include a gospel slot as part of the evening. We are excited to see how this activity will develop.

The few sessions run before the school summer holidays were very encouraging and very popular with the local young people. Sessions will be picked up again soon now that the new school term has commenced.



FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH DROP-IN

The Youth Drop-In continues to go well with an average of 40 young people at each session. The youth really do appreciate having a safe place to gather in a relaxed atmosphere, where they can come and go as they please, escape the chaos of many of their home lives, and just have space to relax and spend time with friends.

In recent months we have introduced a five minute testimony slot during the Drop-In, which has proved to be a great hit. So many of the teenagers who have never heard the gospel are totally enthralled by these stories of transformed lives.

Over the summer, we stripped the Youth Drop-In back to once a month due to a reduced volunteer manning availability during the summer months. We will be starting again on a fortnightly basis in September.

YOUTH WEEKEND AWAY

We plan to take our S1 - S6s away to the Compass Christian Centre at Glenshee from 11 to 13 November this year. The weekend is taking place later in the year than we would have liked, but post COVID it has proved very difficult to book a weekend due to very high demand. This will be a busy outdoor activity weekend, however it will also provide the opportunity to connect with them on a deeper level.

PANNA FOOTBALL CAGE

The Cage continues to be a very popular part of what we do among the young people of Tillydrone with consistent attendance of around 40 young people together with some parents at each session. The use of the Cage during the summer months was reduced due to a restricted pool of volunteers to man it. It did however play a very important

and popular part of the Summer Mission together with going up to Shetland on loan as part of a Summer Soccer School held up there each year. Regular use of the Cage will start very soon now that the new school term has commenced.



IN SCHOOLS WORK

Our in school work, primarily in Riverbank Primary School,

continued to go well with strong support from and a good relationship with the teaching staff in the school. The sessions stopped over the summer holidays and will restart in September.

The weekly five-a-side football sessions went very well with the kids attending really engaging with and really enjoying the five-a-side format. The number attending the sessions has grown and we now have around 25 kids attending each week.

The weekly SU sessions in which we have been going through the God Story video series on YouTube, aimed at taking us through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, have also been going very well. The sessions have at times been challenging with only two volunteers helping. That said, things have been very encouraging with some kids even coming to church on a Sunday after being at SU.

RADIATE

Radiate, our weekly club for kids in P4 - P7 has continued to go very well and remains very popular with the 15 - 25 kids who attend each Wednesday. The engagement of the kids and their interest in the Bible stories with their ability to help each other in understanding and answering questions has been very encouraging. The sessions stopped during the summer but we are looking forward to starting again soon and hopefully meeting the new kids who have moved up from P3.

ILLUMINATE

Illuminate our weekly Bible study, discussion group and games session for S1 - S3s has gone very well with around 10 - 15 regularly attending each session. We have been very encouraged that the good relationships with the young people have been maintained and that they have remained comfortable in opening up and discussing the life issues which affect them. The sessions stopped during the summer but we look forward to their re-starting with 5 - 7 new kids joining from Radiate. These kids attended a couple of sessions before the school holidays and integrated well with the older Illuminate kids who related well to and were supportive of them.

YOUNG ADULTS

Our Young Adults weekly Bible study has on the whole gone well. We have however had a challenging end to the term before the school holidays with a few young people causing some disruption in the group and not wanting to engage in a meaningful way. We are however still encouraged by the teens who do want to come and study God's word together.

We have been considering over the summer where we should go next with the Bible studies and are really looking forward to a new group of young people coming up to Young Adults when sessions restart in September.