

Prayer

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

Give thanks for:

- The great success of the Youth Weekend Away in September, the way the teenagers got on so well together and enjoyed the weekend. Thanks too for the interest they showed in exploring the gospel.
- The way in which The Lord continues to work in the lives of those young people we seek to support and serve, for the relationships and for the trust which has been built up.
- For the relationships which are being formed with some of the young people's parents.

Pray for:

- That our Father God would move His spirit among the young people of Tillydrone and enable them to know Jesus Christ for themselves.
- The interest shown by the teenagers at the Weekend Away in exploring the gospel; for one girl who expressed a desire to explore baptism and for Matthew as he seeks unpack this with her.
- The young people who faithfully come along to the various groups which are run and their willingness to be identified with them. May the Lord Himself strengthen their courage and lead them to Himself.
- For more volunteers with a passion for the souls of young people to come on board and support the Illuminate team and the wider ministry both within the various groups but also on our Board of Trustees.
- For Matthew and his wife Rebekah who are due to have their second baby on the 30th of November.
- For the arrangements relating to the various Christmas events i.e., parties etc. being run in December.

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 last newsletter of 2024 in which we give you an update of how things have been going as we have sought, together with our ministry partners at The Lighthouse Support Centre and Donside Community Church, to serve and support young people in Tillydrone.

As we look back at the year, we can see there have been times of challenge and stress. Yet more importantly we have seen times of great encouragement, joy, and yes, thanksgiving, as we have witnessed young people's lives being impacted positively by the support, friendship and trust they have received from the youth team; their engagement and enjoyment of the various groups which are run; the engagement with and willingness to explore the gospel of Jesus Christ; and to witness young people who once attended the groups as kids now being part of the youth team as teenagers.

Despite the challenges which may lie ahead, is the team ready for another year of service in supporting, getting alongside and doing life with young people? Yes, we most definitely are, and look to our Lord and Saviour to do great things for young souls. We rest on the promise of God's word in Deuteronomy 31 v6 "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 or forsake you."

We thank you so much for your ongoing support and prayers, and in turn pray that you will have a really happy Christmas and know much blessing of the Lord in the year ahead.

Tom Cowie, Chair of Trustees



In what has been a difficult time for many organisations within the Third Sector, we too have been encountering challenges in regard to a decrease in our core income, which has led to us operating with an ongoing monthly deficit and the gradual erosion of our financial reserves.

Please pray for us as we endeavour to identify and secure additional regular income, to maintain the ministry outputs beyond the summer of next year and to develop further the support offered for young people.



Update from Matthew

We catch up with our youth worker Matthew Hamilton on Autumn's work and how regular activities have been going.



IN SCHOOL GROUPS

Five-a-Side Football

Riverbank Football has been somewhat of a challenge at the start of this new school year as we have struggled to get a "core" group together due to various reasons e.g., communications not making it through to the kids that football is on, the weather and other after school groups. We are currently working with the school to sort things out and are putting together a flyer for the school to pass onto the kids in order to grow the number of kids coming along to football.

Riverbank SU

After a rocky start to this school year where we saw very few children come along, we are now seeing a steady group of 25-30 in attendance each week. Riverbank SU is a great feeder into the other various groups and activities run such as Radiate. We have had a regular influx of boys to this year's SU group, something we have never really seen before. It is a good group of kids who are very eager to come along and learn about the Bible and spend time with each other in a relaxed environment.

Northfield Academy SU

Northfield Academy SU group continues to go well. We have seen a steady number of 7 to 10 teenagers coming along each week. It is very much a relaxed and relational group where the teenagers are becoming more and more comfortable with each other, engaging well with the short talks, currently 'The Fruits of the Spirit', and enjoying chilling out with each other in a safe and comfortable setting.

OUT OF SCHOOLS GROUPS

Youth Weekend Away

At the end of September, 11 young people + leaders headed off to the Compass Christian Centre at Glemshee near Blairgowrie in Perthshire for our annual Youth Weekend Away. Two days for them

to enjoy space, activities, fun and friendship away from, at times, a difficult and dysfunctional home environment. For some it was their first time away from Tillydrone for any period of time and their first activity weekend.



Everyone participated well in the various activities put on by the Compass Centre team and the discussion sessions around the topic of 'What is the Gospel'. The sessions led to some deep questions and discussions.



The weekend was a huge success and already the young people are talking about Youth Weekend Away 2024.

Radiate

Radiate (P3 - P7) continues to go really well and has very much been a real highlight of the youth-work in Tillydrone recently. We have a great group of around 16 to 20 children from P3-P7 each week. Over the past few months, we have been going through the book of Genesis. This has gone very well with a high level of engagement from the children, both in the discussions and their craft sessions where they have been putting together their own book of Genesis and what we have been looking at.



Illuminate

Illuminate (S1 - S3) has also continued to go well with a steady core attendance of 15 - 20 young people coming along. Over the

past weeks we have been studying the question "Who is Jesus?". We have seen a real interest in the study from a lot of our young people with some deep and penetrating questions being raised and discussed.

One challenge we are facing with this group is a lack of volunteers to man and supervise the group. We are endeavouring to identify further volunteers with the issue being a main point of prayer for us.

Friday Night Youth Drop-In

After a sharp drop in the numbers of young people attending the Drop-in over the summer, we now have around 15 to 20 teenagers coming along regularly once a fortnight on a Friday night. We feel that with the onset of the darker nights, attendance will increase further.

We have had good engagement with the teenagers who have been coming along and some of them have started coming along to some of the other groups that are run. We are continuing to determine and plan how best to develop the Drop-in further, with the refurbished Lighthouse Support Centre and Donside Community Church building in Pennan Road being an integral part of that planning.

One-to-One Support

Our weekly one-to-one support sessions with some of our young people continue to go well and are very much seen as an important part of the youth-work in Tillydrone. Trust between the young people and volunteers has taken time to build but they obviously do appreciate the availability of a safe space where they can openly discuss anything which they feel the need to discuss and share. It also provides an opportunity for those young people who are Christians to share and discuss their faith and beliefs with older Christians.

PANNA Cage Football

Sadly, the use of our PANNA Cage Football has been somewhat sporadic this year, due primarily to the unpredictability of the weather over the summer. The Cage has now been mothballed for the winter and we hope and pray for a better season in 2024.