

Prayer

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

Give thanks for:

- The Community Week held in July, the number of people from the community who came along and the desire among some young people to find out more about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian.
- The faithful team of volunteers who give their time to help run the various groups and activities.
- The relationships being formed with young people as we seek to support them in their life journey.
- The good attendance and participation of young people at the Cruyff Court Outreach, with several young people starting to come along to the Friday Night Drop-in.

Pray for:

- The recruitment of additional volunteers to help support the Cruyff Court Outreach and Cage Football sessions.

- The settling in and success of the Cruyff Court Outreach and Boxing/Fitness Training sessions which started just before the school summer holidays.
- Wisdom and patience for the volunteers who man the various groups at times when they have to deal with behavioural issues. Thankfully this is not a major problem, but can sometimes disrupt an activity session.
- Young people who are in the early stages of investigating the Gospel, Jesus Christ and Christianity. It is not an easy thing for them to do in the world environment in which they live. May The Lord give them the courage they need at this time, and may they come to know Him as their Lord and Saviour.
- Wisdom and grace for Matthew and the team as they support young people who are having to deal with difficult life situations and relationships.

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 summer newsletter and thank you so much for your ongoing faithful interest in and prayerful support of the ministry that is North East Scotland Youth for Christ. Prayer is the bedrock of any ministry and yours means so very much to us as we reach out to the young people of Tillydrone.

Young people today are living in very uncertain and fluid times with values, certainty and what is acceptable changing almost every day. It is so very encouraging that there are young people who have as it were paused on their life journey to consider where their real worth and purpose lies and having tried so many different things to no effect are 'checking out' the reality of the Gospel and of Jesus Christ. These are the young people you are praying for.

While not without its challenges, it has been a great and encouraging few months for the ministry with the various groups run going well. Things quietened down during the summer school holidays, but are ramping up again now that the schools are back in.

Our annual Community Week was held in July, rounding off things for the summer holidays. It was hard work for the team but was a huge success with very good engagement from the young people who came along to the various activities and groups. We trust that our Lord will be working in the hearts of those who heard His Gospel during the week.

Tom Cowie, Chair of Trustees



Community Week

Trustees – Please Pray for Us!

We have mentioned in previous newsletters that we are endeavouring to identify and recruit additional trustees to help support the running of North East Scotland Youth for Christ by joining our Board of Trustees. There is a lot of work goes on in the background regarding the governance of the charity side of the ministry and the need for additional help and support is now becoming a pressing issue.

Please pray that The Lord would guide us to, or them to us, people who have a passion and burden for the souls of young people who would be willing to join the work among young people in Tillydrone by becoming a Trustee of our ministry. Should you know of someone you think might join us, please feel free to contact, or have them contact, our Chair of Trustees (chair@nesyfc.org.uk) for further information.

Update from Matthew

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



IN SCHOOL GROUPS

Riverbank Primary - Lunchtime Games

Following a request from the school in April, we have been running a Monday lunchtime games session in the playground. This has been going fantastically well with about 45 kids regularly attending each session. We have been able to build some great relationships with the kids and many have begun to come to SU and Radiate.

Riverbank Primary - Football

The football sessions have been a struggle and a point for prayer over the last number of months with low numbers coming along, if at all. We will be working with the school in the new term on raising the profile of the sessions and hopefully increase the number of kids coming along.

Riverbank Primary - SU

SU continues to go well with an average of 15 - 30 kids coming along each week. We have been making our way through the fantastic SU Scotland material 'One Big Story'. The high level of engagement from the kids has been really encouraging, and many of the them who come along are now pulling through into Radiate on a Wednesday night.



Northfield Academy - SU

SU at Northfield Academy remains steady with an average of 12 teenagers coming along regularly to the sessions. We are working our way through 'Word One-to-One, a study of John's Gospel. They are engaging well with the study and it has been so encouraging to be able to explore scripture, the gospel and faith with them and to openly discuss it in relation to life issues which they are experiencing.

OUT OF SCHOOLS GROUPS

Cruyff Court Outreach

In the early part of the summer, we started a new weekly outreach on the newly built Cruyff Court in Tillydrone on the same Friday as the Youth Drop-in. We play football, basketball and do boxing/fitness training with the children and teenagers. This has proved to be a big

hit and we are encouraged to see some of those young people come along to various other church groups.

Boxing / Fitness Training

This is something we have been trying to get off the ground for some time now, but Matthew has now undergone training and is certified to carry out boxing (non-head contact) / fitness training with children and young people. It had its first real outing as part of our Community Week and proved to be very popular. We are also intending to run it with the Cage on alternate Fridays to Cruyff Court and the Youth Drop-in.



Community Week

Community Week ran from the 8th to 12th of July in partnership with The Lighthouse and Donside Community Church. We also had a team from Northern Ireland join us to support the week.

Across the week we ran daily, a mum's and toddlers' group; a kid's holiday club "Wilderness Rescue" where we focused on God's great rescue plan from sin, and had an average of 60 kids each day; Youth Sessions (Cage football, boxing/

fitness training and an evening session) with an average attendance of 15 - 30 teens.

We also ran a Mens BBQ (Tuesday evening); a Women's Night (Wednesday evening) and finished the week off with a Big Family Fun Evening on Friday (food and food and ice cream, bouncy castle, Cage football, face painting etc.) where we saw approximately 600 people attend.

It was a fantastic week, a lot of hard work for the teams, but thrilling to say the least to be able to share fun and our faith with the community and to build new and strengthen existing relationships with the folks who are Tilly.



Panna Football Cage

Cage Football has come out of winter moth balls and is being used, weather permitting, on alternative weeks to the Cruyff Court and Youth Drop-in. It continues to be hugely popular with the kids and young people and often enables contact to be made with parents who come along to spectate.

Radiate

Radiate, (P3 - P7) continues to go well with good attendance. In the final term this year we had a lot of boys coming along, which has been an encouragement, as across all the groups the boys are usually never as keen as the girls to attend. We saw some really good interaction from the children over the final term, with them engaging well with the material we worked through, and asking lots of questions, some of them quite deep.

Illuminate

Illuminate, our teen group has been going well with steady numbers of between 10 - 15 in regular attendance in the run up to the summer break. During the summer break we ran various 'socials' to keep in touch with our teenagers.

The plan going into the new term is to move the group location from Pennan Road to one of the leader's homes. This move will be in compliance with current safeguarding regulations. We hope by doing this that we will be able to have a more relaxed feel to the night and that it will allow for deeper more meaningful discussion over what we are studying. We will be looking at the book of Ephesians.

One-to-One Support

One-to-One support with various young people is ongoing with relationships being maintained and strengthened. The sessions tend to be on a weekly basis, however should the situation dictate, support outwith that is provided. We continue to be encouraged to see how these young people are developing and growing in their life journey.

Friday Night Youth Drop-in

Youth Drop-in is now held in the Pennan Road building, which allows us to provide a more comfortable and less restrictive safe space for young people to come and relax and enjoy being with their friends, enjoy food and build relationships with the group leaders. Sessions have gone well with approximately 15 at each session from Easter through to the end of term.