

Prayer

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

Give thanks for:

- The success of the recent Youth Weekend Away, both the activities and the open and frank discussions had between the leaders and young people.
- Additional volunteers which have become available to help at the Northfield Academy SU group.
- The continuing strong relationship we have with the staff and pupils of Riverbank Primary School.
- The strong relationships being built through One-to-One support, with young people, sometimes in difficult life circumstances.
- The faithful team of volunteers who give their time to help run the various groups and activities.

Pray for:

- Those young people who are actively exploring what it would mean for them to accept Jesus

Christ into their lives. Pray that The Lord would indeed touch their hearts and enable them to take that step and experience the reality of His power in their lives.

- Those young people who have already given their lives to Christ, that they will continue to grow in their faith and live their lives for Him in a world which shouts to them to do the opposite.
- The provision of a room in Riverbank Primary School which would enable the restart of the SU group in the coming weeks.
- Additional volunteers who could be available in the late afternoon to help with the PANNA Cage Football and Cruyff Court Outreach Groups.
- Wisdom and guidance for us and our ministry partners as we review and develop the outreach to and support of young people in the Tillydrone area in this New Year.

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.



DCF Church, Binghill Drive, Milltimber, Aberdeen, AB13 0JE
E office@nesyfc.org.uk T 07305 806505
www.nesyfc.org.uk www.facebook.com/nesyfc
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2025 Issue 1



Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome, our faithful and much appreciated band of supporters, to the latest Newsletter from our ministry among the young folks of Tillydrone in partnership with The Lighthouse and Donside Community Church. We truly value your ongoing prayer and financial support, without which we would not be able to do what we do in our Lord's service.

New Year Greetings

We do hope and trust that you had a really good time over the Christmas holiday period and wish you every blessing from our Lord in the year that lies ahead.

When Moses was passing the baton of leadership to Joshua, Moses reminded Joshua to "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." (Deuteronomy 31 v6). May that promise hold true also for you and us as we enter into the year which lies ahead of us.

Looking back with thanks

As we pause and look back at the year which has just gone, we can but look at it with a sense of thanks to our Lord for His faithfulness as we have sought to bring the gospel and reality of Jesus Christ to young people. Yes, it has been a year in which we have seen challenges and sorrow, but, and it is a very big but, we have seen the Holy Spirit at work in the hearts and lives of young people.

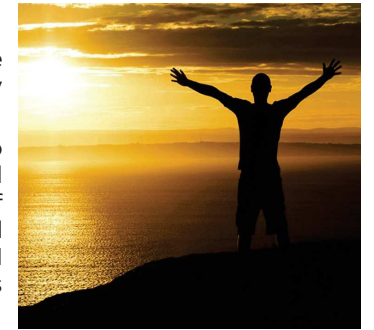
We have seen young people who have accepted Jesus as their Saviour grow in their faith while encountering and negotiating the life challenges that young people often face. We have also seen young people who are seriously exploring what it means to be a Christian, who and what Jesus Christ is and what it would mean to accept Him into their lives. It may be relatively few young people, but we do not know just how our Lord will use these young people to impact our world.

We are also thankful for the faithful service of Edna Brownlee, one of our longest serving trustees and volunteers, who passed into glory in September. We rejoice as she knows the glory of her maker.

Looking forward with prayer and expectation

Just as the Israelites looked forward with prayer and expectation as they prepared to cross the Jordan River, so too do we look with prayer and expectation to that same Lord to do great things in our time among the dear young people we seek to serve and reach with the Gospel of Jesus.

Journey with us and our partners in prayers of expectation as we seek to serve Him and reach the precious young people of our day.



Tom Cowie, Chair of Trustees

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

Lunchtime Games on Mondays has been going really well, with anything between 15-35 children being involved. It is a social group where they can just relax, enjoy the games and time with their friends. According to the deputy head, Lunchtime Games is proving to be an increasing favourite among the children. We hope that the children will in time also engage with some of the other groups and activities being run.

Riverbank Primary - Football

Riverbank Primary Football has continued to be a struggle to take place due to various internal pressures within the school. Sessions are very weather dependent so will not happen now until the winter months have passed. We will be trying our hardest to get the sessions properly re-started around Spring of 2025.

Riverbank Primary - SU

Due to ongoing free space issues and other pressures within the school, we have not been able to secure a room for holding SU. We are in discussion with the school, who do see value in SU being run, to find a solution and we hope and pray that sessions can re-start after the Christmas holiday period. It has been very encouraging though, to have the children coming and asking repeatedly when the SU group will start back.

Northfield Academy - SU

Northfield Academy SU continues to go well with consistent numbers of 7 - 12 young people coming along on a Friday lunch time. Our hope and prayer is that as we continue to make our way through the gospel of John using the Word One-to-One study, the young people will be positively impacted by it as they negotiate the complexities of their life situations and also see the relevance of Jesus Christ to them in this modern age.

OUT OF SCHOOLS GROUPS

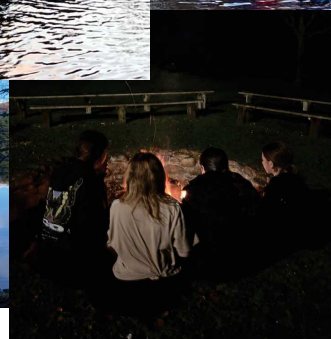
Youth Weekend Away

The annual Youth Weekend Away took place on the weekend of 8th to 10th November 24 at the Abernethy Outdoor Centre at Nethybridge. Ten teenage young

people + leaders headed off after school on the Friday for what was a very enjoyable and encouraging weekend away. Over the course of the weekend there was lots of fun had with activities such as raft building, archery, team games, zip lining and a hike. A huge encouragement was the response from various young people to our sessions in the gospel of Mark. Over the weekend we had four talks from Mark's gospel. Throughout our time together we were able to have very open and honest conversations around faith and what it means to follow Christ.



Some scenes from the weekend away



Cruyff Court Outreach

When weather permits, the Cruyff Court outreach (football, basketball and boxing fitness training) is well attended and has proved to be a big hit with the young people who come along. The more structured environment of the session seems to go down well with them and we have been encouraged to see some of those young people come along to various other church groups.

Panna Football Cage and Boxing / Fitness Training

Regrettably we have not been able to hold sessions as often as we would have wished since the summer of 2024, primarily due to difficulty in the availability of volunteers to man sessions. The young men who usually volunteer have not been available for personal reasons and the timing of the sessions (late afternoon) are not suitable for people who are in full-time work. We are working to resolve this issue in time for the next season

after the winter months.

Radiate

We were delighted that after the summer break 2024 Radiate picked up exactly where it left off before, with the same regular children back with us on a Wednesday night from 6:00-7:00pm. Each week we have a time of singing children's songs, learning memory verses, 'minute to win it' challenges, games and Bible teaching. Over these past months we have been studying the "Armour of God" from Ephesians Chapter 5 and learning how God can equip people to stand firm in the struggles and trials of life. The children's engagement with the session content remains very high.

Illuminate

In an endeavour to deal with the behaviour of certain young people which was having a negative impact on the group we went ahead with the plan to move Illuminate to the home of one of the session leaders in line with current Safeguarding protocols. The hope in doing this was that it would create a more easily controlled, yet relaxed and informal, environment for Bible study. This move has proved to be hugely successful and we have been encouraged by the young people who have been coming along, how engaged they have been with the study and their desire to grow and learn more from God's word and how it can relate to their own life journey and situations.

One-to-One Support

One-to-One support has been challenging of late with some of the young people we support having to deal with issues which have needed sensitive pastoral care and support as they seek to work through these issues. Two in particular have had to negotiate very stressful situations which have needed care, support and where appropriate guidance pretty much on a daily basis. Despite the challenge of negotiating these difficult issues, we are seeing small amounts of progress in our one-to-one sessions.

Friday Night Youth Drop-in

The Youth Drop-In got off to a steady start after the summer holidays 2024. We have seen a consistent group of young people coming along, including a number of new S1 children. The Drop-in continues to be a fantastic relational space, where young people can come, relax, have some fun with their friends and engage with the leaders. The drop in is currently running fortnightly. We were encouraged to have a number of Drop-in young people show an interest in attending the Youth Weekend Away in November.