

Prayer

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

Give thanks for:

- The privilege of being allowed to be part of a ministry which has reached out to get alongside, share life, support and show the love of Jesus Christ to those dear and very special young people we have come in contact with in Tillydrone.
- The seed of the Gospel which has been sown by Word and by deed in the hearts of young people. May that seed grow in their hearts as they journey on in life leading them to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.
- Those young people who over the years have travelled with us and have come to accept Jesus Christ as their own Lord and Saviour. May they be strong men and women of God and do great things in their lives.
- The sense of worth that we have seen grow in the hearts of young people. The success of the recent Youth Week.

Thank you!

We thank you for your faithful prayer support and interest in the ministry of North East Scotland Youth for Christ. It has been truly great to know that there were people out there praying for what God was doing through us in the Tillydrone area of Aberdeen.

Please continue to pray for us as we explore what the future has in store for our ministry and for a clear understanding of where The Lord is leading us.

Pray for:

- The Lighthouse Support Centre as they take over the sole running of youthwork and support in Tillydrone. May they be given wisdom and grace as they seek to put in place a new model of youthwork and support. May they identify and recruit a new youth worker by the end of the summer as they plan.
- The young people of Tillydrone, that these changes would not have a detrimental effect on them and that they will be able to cope with Matthew and Rebekah moving on and be able to adapt and get on board the new model of youthwork and support which will be put in place.
- Matthew and his family as they go through their remaining time with us which will be, in several ways, difficult for them. Pray too that they will be given clear guidance from The Lord in what He has planned for their future.

Welcome

Welcome

Welcome to you our faithful band of supporters who have carried our ministry in prayer and financial support over the years. Without you, the young people we have contacted and supported would likely not have had the opportunity to encounter the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We apologise for this newsletter coming out late, but nevertheless, the Lord's work has continued among the young people of Tillydrone.

Changing Seasons

We read in Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 2 “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted;”

For us as a ministry, we have very much been in a time of changing seasons, trying to work out what it is that The Lord has in store for us. We have sought from our faithful supporters and friends, prayer for wisdom and guidance for the team here at NES YFC as we tried to negotiate the changing seasons and come to discern what the future holds for the ministry.

With sadness, we have now come to the place where NES YFC's participation in the ministry of youthwork among young people in Tillydrone will cease on 31 July of this year. There are three main factors which have led us to this place.

1 – The Lighthouse Support Centre have, after much prayer, decided that the time is right to run the youthwork in Tillydrone themselves from now on. Consequently, our existing partnership agreement will conclude on 31 July. We have felt privileged to be part of this work and pray for God's blessing on the continuing ministry there.

2 – NES YFC have not been able to identify the additional financial income required to enable us to fund a full-time youth worker's role. That coupled with the fact that there would not be work for Matthew to do in Tillydrone after July, has led us to the place where his position became redundant. As a result, Matthew will be leaving NES YFC at the end of July. Please pray for him and his family that the Lord will guide them to the next field of service that He has planned for them.

3 – Membership of our Board of Trustees has been much depleted and we have been unable to identify and recruit Trustees to support the management and running of the Charity.

So what of the future? There are two options for us as a ministry/charity. One is for the Charity to be dissolved; and two, to continue with a new focus on the wider Aberdeen City and Shire under a new Board of Trustees. We are currently in discussion with British Youth for Christ who are investigating if there is a realistic and feasible way forward for NES YFC.

Though our involvement in Tillydrone is coming to an end, please pray for us that The Lord will guide us to the path He wishes us to take as we look at the future.

Tom Cowie, Chair of Trustees



Update from Matthew

Despite the various uncertainties which have been going on in the background, the work among young people continued and went well. Below is an update from our youth worker Matthew Hamilton on how things have gone over the last few months.



IN SCHOOL GROUPS

Riverbank Primary – Lunchtime Games

Each Monday we went into Riverbank Primary to play organised games with the children during the lunch break. This proved to be a great way to get to know the children in the school and to invite them along to one or more of the other groups that are run. We have seen anywhere between 20-35 children along each week across the various staggered lunch times.

Riverbank Primary – SU

Riverbank Primary SU has been a big encouragement to us with approximately 20 children out each Wednesday lunch time session. Most of these children are girls, but there has been a small group of boys who also come along. We try and keep things as simple as possible for them, as we go through SU Scotland's material 'The One Big Story' each week, finishing each session with a game. We have been encouraged to see some of the boys who have come along attending Radiate on a Wednesday night.



Braehead Primary – SU

A new group has been started in Braehead Primary School, Bridge of Don by SU Scotland with Matthew assisting in its running. Six children have been coming along. We pray for God's continuing blessing on this new group.

Northfield Academy – SU

Northfield Academy SU continued to go well, running every Friday over lunchtime for S2-S6 young people. We continued to make our way through the Gospel of John, using the 'Word One-to-One' series. We have seen a mix of young people attend this group, some are Christian's already and others are not. There is eagerness from all

the young people who attended to participate in the study and the discuss how it can relate to their own life situations.

OUT OF SCHOOLS GROUPS

Cruyff Court Outreach

We used the Cruyff Court outdoor facility, as weather permitted, to meet with young people. Sessions restarted after the Winter break alongside our Easter Holiday Bible Club. We aim to meet every Thursday to play football, basketball etc. As well as providing some structured activities for young people, the sessions are also a good introduction to the session leaders and the other various groups that are run.



Panna Cage Football

The start-up of the Cage sessions after the winter lay-up was delayed for various reasons, but primarily due to difficulty in identifying and recruiting volunteers who are available to man sessions in the late afternoon. The Cage is being gifted to Burra Baptist Church in Shetland for the furtherance of the Gospel across the islands. Do pray that God continues to use it for His glory!

Radiate

Radiate, our Wednesday night kids group continued to go well, however with the start of the better weather we saw a slight flux in numbers across the group. However,

the kids who came along engaged really well and were excited to be there. We completed a study in the Fruit of the Spirit and have moved on to 'Men and Women of the Bible.'

Illuminate

Illuminate, our group for teenagers, continued to go really well. We completed our studies in Ephesians and have moved on to the book of Acts. We saw around 5-6 teenagers coming out regularly each week. We have been especially encouraged by one new boy who started coming and has also been attending church. We pray for The Lord's blessing on these young people as they go on in their lives.

One-to-One Support

One-to-one support of young people has continued and has largely been directed by the situations which exist or crop up in their lives. It has at times been difficult to negotiate, but we do consider it a real privilege to have been able to get alongside the young people and in a caring way help them to work through the life situations they are facing.

Friday Night Youth Drop-in

Our Drop-in continued to run fortnightly on a Friday evening for all teenagers from S1-S6. We have enjoyed a mixed group of young people coming along, some are church kids and others are not. A Friday night is pretty relaxed. We have the usual group time games such as table tennis, pool, board games etc during the evening and we will also have a short testimony slot.

Easter Holiday Bible Club

In April of this year we ran our Easter Holiday Bible club which ran for four days from the 7th-10th April. During the four days we were very encouraged to see around 40 children regularly attend

each day. We spent the time walking our way through the Easter story, as we knew that many of the children who came in from the community had never heard the Easter story in any detail. We were very encouraged too by the response of the children to the talks that they heard each day. The sessions were full of games, Easter related songs, craft, memory verses, quizzes, Bible stories and were topped off with a hearty lunch together . . . with very little left overs! Feedback from the community was very positive.