

Prayer

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

Give thanks for:

- The evidence we have seen of our Lord working in the hearts and lives of young people as they negotiate their life journey and its struggles.
- The good relationship we have with the children and staff of Riverbank Primary School and the willingness of the leadership team to have us support them within the school.
- The additional financial support which has been received over the last three months.
- For the space and facilities available within the newly refurbished church building in Pennan Road which has really enhanced the provision of youthwork and support.

Pray for:

- Our Father God to move His spirit among the young people of Tillydrone and enable them to know Jesus Christ for themselves and establish a firm self-identity in Him.

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.



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2024 Issue 1

Newsletter

Welcome

Hi, and welcome to our first newsletter of 2024, a year which we look forward to with anticipation. The first months of this year have been very busy for us. In late January, The Lighthouse Support Centre (LSC) and Donside Community Church (DCC), our ministry partners, began the phased transfer of their Tillydrone base from the Tillydrone Community Campus to their own newly refurbished building (the old library building) on Pennan Road. That transfer included the youth outreach and support work and we have been working at setting up our various groups in the new building. The move has gone very well with the groups settling in easily and the young people really enjoying the space and facilities available in Pennan Road.

The process of re-locating to Pennan Road has meant a fresh start in a new location, but it has also prompted us to look at our current output with fresh eyes. It has been a good opportunity to look at what we are currently doing in terms of youth work, assess what is working; what could be re-worked and what isn't working. We are currently working alongside LSC & DCC at developing a youth work strategy, initially for the next 12 months.

The outreach and support among young people in Tillydrone, while certainly not without its challenges, has on the whole been going well and remains encouraging.

We are excited about seeing how things develop this year and into 2025 and trust that our Lord will continue to bless His work among the young people of Tillydrone. We do thank you for your ongoing, and very much valued, support and prayer.

Tom Cowie, Chair of Trustees



ANSWERED PRAYER!

You will remember that in our last newsletter we asked you to pray for us in our endeavour to identify and secure additional regular income to maintain the ministry's outputs beyond the summer of this year.

We are so very thankful to our Lord who, as He has always done, came through for us in the form of several one-off donations and also additional regular monthly donations which have secured the ministry financially into Q1 2025. Please pray on for us that we may be able to secure the funding required to maintain and develop the ministry as we seek to serve Him and the young people of Tillydrone.

Update from Matthew

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



IN SCHOOL GROUPS

Five-a-Side Football

For various reasons, it proved very difficult last year to consistently run the five-a-side football. With the better weather coming in, we are now investigating the feasibility of using the new Tillydrone Cruyff Court as a regular venue this year. We would value prayer for this to work out as the football is a great event for getting to know the young people we are working with.



Riverbank SU

Scripture Union at Riverbank Primary continues to go well with around 10-25 coming along, although there's no way of telling who will turn up on any given week. We are currently looking at 2 Samuel in the Old Testament which seems to be going well with good discussion and good engagement from the children.

A typical session at SU begins with some chat, usually a good thing that has happened in everyone's week, we will then pray and play some games, after the games we have our talk with time for questions and then we finish with a colouring sheet.

We are very thankful for the continued openness of the school to have us in each week and are delighted to see children from SU coming along on a Wednesday night to Radiate.

Northfield Academy SU

SU at Northfield Academy is moving along steadily with around 12 young people coming along regularly. We are currently looking at John's gospel and each week do a short study and then we have a quiz.

It has been so encouraging to be able to build relationships with these teenagers. Many of them have no one to encourage them or they give support, so it is a privilege to be able to come alongside them every week and do that. One of the highlights was that one boy decided to attend the last SU weekend away. He had no friends going, no church background, but he had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed it.

OUT OF SCHOOLS GROUPS

Radiate

Radiate, our P3 - P7 group continues to go well. We have been looking at Matthew's gospel with a pause over Easter to look at the Easter story. Throughout this study there have been some very encouraging moments including that of a P4 girl. She has never been involved with church and has a lot of social issues meaning that she will often not speak at all. However, this little girl who hardly ever speaks was able to tell us almost every single small detail of what happened between the Last Supper and that first Easter morning. We are so encouraged that these children with little or no Bible background are soaking in God's word and are able to almost memorise it.

Illuminate

Illuminate has settled well into the Pennan Road building with around 15 young people regularly coming along. We are currently looking at Matthew's Gospel. The group we currently have on a Wednesday night is a mixed bunch. We have teenagers who have no church background, and some who have been to church for years, have made profession of faith and have been baptised. This makes for some lively and interesting conversations each week as we study the passage together. Overall, we have seen good engagement from this group each week and look forward to how the group develops in the coming year.

Friday Night Youth Drop-In

Youth Drop-in happens twice a month on a Friday evening providing a safe space where young people can come and hang out with friends and enjoy the various activities on offer. We generally have around 15 - 25 young people coming along to the sessions, although this can vary.



We have been looking at what's working well and what isn't, including the equipment which is available for the sessions. Things have been 'tweaked' to improve the Drop-in experience, and look forward to seeing how things develop in the year ahead.

One-to-One Support

We continue to work on a one-to-one basis with various young people in Tillydrone. This has been going well and we have continued to build and strengthen good relationships with them. This is a time once a week, or more often should the situation warrant it, when a young person can get the chance to speak freely and openly in a relaxed environment. We have been so encouraged to see how various of these young people have developed and grown in their life journey and go on for Jesus.

PANNA Cage Football

We are in the process of taking the Cage back into use after it being laid up over the Winter. A volunteer team is being identified and our plan at the moment is to run Cage football on a Friday late afternoon on alternate weeks to the Youth Drop-in, starting in mid-May.

Boxing / Fitness Training

We are in early discussions with Byron Boxing Club regarding the running of a boxing fitness club to run on alternate weeks to the Youth Drop-in, ideally



alongside the Cage. You may remember that we trialed this last year but for various reasons it was not possible to go ahead with it.