

# North East Scotland YFC Newsletter

2008 Issue 1

## Welcome!

Happy new year to you all, we hope your Christmas was a good one. It's been another busy few months for us, as we hope you'll see from the rest of this newsletter. There's been a great youth leader training day and four Breathe events. We've also seen some exciting developments on the youth project in Mastrick and we've been working hard to bring in more volunteers so our work with young people can keep growing. Please read on and pray for the work we're doing.

## In Brief

### Update Your Address Book!

Our treasurer Anne Laird has recently moved house. Please send any correspondence for her to our office (address on back page).

### Life Changing Experiences

British YFC are currently planning their international summer missions for the year - if you or young people you know are interested in what will be a life changing experience, visit [www.yfc.co.uk](http://www.yfc.co.uk) and click on Overseas Opportunities for more information.

### Deep Impact

We're just back from the Deep Impact weekend for those in Christian youth work which took place on 18-20 January. Designed for both voluntary and paid youth workers over 18, it combines fantastic teaching and training opportunities with a chance to chill out and share with like minded people from across Scotland. This year's event was fully booked so get in early if you're interested for next time round! Visit [www.deep-impact.org.uk](http://www.deep-impact.org.uk) for more information.



### Publicity Spot

Got a Christian youth or training event, youth worker vacancy or something else related you'd like publicised? Just get in touch and we'll put it in our newsletter and our website. We'd look for a donation if you can afford one to help cover our costs - but it's not essential.

### Picked this up and like what you see?

If you've picked this newsletter up somewhere or had it passed to you and you'd like to receive your own copy in future (by post or email) please contact the address on the back page. A monthly prayer bulletin is sent by email and the full newsletter is about once a quarter.

### Working in a school?

Check out [www.schoolswork.co.uk](http://www.schoolswork.co.uk) for some great resources and networking opportunities.

### In this issue

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## Project Update

The past few months have seen some big progress with the project in Mastrick. A steering group of people from local churches has been meeting to drive the work forward. We're now pleased to announce that we are entering into a partnership with another Christian charity in Aberdeen to bring in some valuable experience - we're still working on some of the final details of this as this newsletter goes out.

As a result of the partnership we're going to be able to take on a gap year team starting this September. This team will be dedicated to full time youth work in the communities of Mastrick and Northfield. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can find an advertisement for members of this team, please consider this carefully and bring it to the attention of anyone who might be appropriate - it's going to be a fantastic opportunity to reach young people in a challenging environment. Please pray that God keeps showing us the right way to go at this crucial time for the project and that He leads us to the right people to join the team.



## Breathe Update

Jay and Sandy Brownlee report the latest 'Breathe' news

We've had a great start to the 2007/8 session - it's hard to believe we're half way through already! September saw us join up with the guys behind Souled Out to run Breathe @ Encounter in the AECC. This was based on the theme of God the Transformer (how He can change your life); as part of the Encounter festival it was a rather different dynamic to what we're used to. Over 50 11-13 year olds were there and it was a real privilege seeing them taking part in worship and hearing about God so enthusiastically.

In October we returned to Whitehills with the theme "Bourne Again" focusing on what God can do with our past. In late November we were at Mid-Deeside Church in Kincardine O' Neil with a Christmas theme. Finally in December we were in Newmachar with a Simpsons Movie related theme focusing on looking after God's creation, with the new Scottish YFC director Graeme Brooks as guest speaker. The feedback from each of these events has been great with young people really opening up to what we've got to say - it's a brilliant opportunity to share the Good News.

Again we've had a good time heading down to Gener8 in Arbroath each month, if you're in that part of the world make sure you head along. More information is at [www.gener8.org.uk](http://www.gener8.org.uk)

Finally, session 2008-9 will see the launch of *Breathe Out*. This initiative aims to share the experience of our team with others - if you'd like to see an event like Breathe run regularly in your community we'll work with local volunteers over the year to equip them with all they need to make it happen. Just give us a call or email [breathe@nesyfc.org.uk](mailto:breathe@nesyfc.org.uk) for more information.



Scenes from Encounter

### Upcoming Dates

**10 February - 7-9pm**

Laurencekirk Church

**16 March - 7-9pm**

Meldrum & Bourtie  
Church Hall

**27 April - 7-9pm**

St Mary's Church,  
Carden Place, Aberdeen

**25 May - 7-9pm**

Methlick Church (TBC)  
[www.nesyfc.org.uk](http://www.nesyfc.org.uk) has  
the latest information!

## YFC Resources in Action

*This issue Cat Lawson speaks to Adrian and Diane Davies at Fyvie Rock Solid club. The group meets on Thursday evenings in school term time in the Church Centre owned by Fyvie Parish Church. The group are aged between 10 years and 14 years old.*

*What kind of things do you do?*

Diane: Games, chances to chat about issues. We adapt the Rock Solid materials to suit our group.

Adrian: We have had a barbecue with the group members' families invited to come.

Diane: We also had a film night and a Christmas party. We visited a nearby Sheltered Housing complex to sing carols on the night of our Christmas party.

*What kind of response have you had from young people and their parents?*

Diane: Initially very positive. Numbers have dwindled down to a very few before Christmas.

*Why do you think numbers have gone down?*

Adrian: We don't know, but I wonder if we should change to doing a more games-based club, get pool tables and so on.

Diane: Some parents mentioned that their teenagers were very involved in other festive activities and didn't have time to come to Rock Solid club.

*Describe one thing that's happened at the club which really sticks out in your mind.*

Adrian: How well the young people presented themselves when visiting the sheltered housing

complex to sing carols before Christmas.

*Note from Cat:* We also remember two of the leaders being covered in hair gel and make-up during a game one night! They will of course remain nameless but I might have been one of them.

*What's the biggest problem in running the group?*

Diane: Finding time to think through and organise the program before each week's club meeting.

Adrian: It does take a lot of effort before the night itself.

*Why is Rock Solid suited to your group?*

Adrian: It's useful if used flexibly.

*How easy is it to share your faith with the group?*

Adrian: After praying about sharing my faith it just seemed to flow. It seems much better and more natural if you keep it real, speaking from experience.

*Have you any advice to other groups like yours?*

Adrian: Trust God for everything and stay cool!

Adrian: It would be good to get together with other groups on neutral territory, especially in the summer when the weather's better.

*Anything else?*

Adrian: Happy New Ears!

***If you're interested in Rock Solid or any of our other resources, just give us a call or email [resources@nesyfc.org.uk](mailto:resources@nesyfc.org.uk) - we'll be happy to talk with you and can send a sample pack to try out.***



## Volunteer Spotlight

*This issue we speak with one of our newer volunteers - Sahil Minocha*

*How did you become a Christian?*

I became a Christian in May 07 at the Encounter. I used to go to the RGU Christian Union to know more about this person called Jesus. In this learning process I eventually became a Christian with the support of my friends.

*What does being a Christian mean to you?*

It means a lot to me. It reminds me that God sent his only son to die on this earth for a sinner like me. It also means that God is trustworthy and loving and he would never let me down.

*How did you become involved with YFC?*

Well I heard about the YFC at the RGU Christian Union. I was pretty impressed with what they did and thus I decided to join the YFC as it gave me a chance to share my faith with people and tell them how great God is and how much he loves us.



*What do you do/study?*

I'm a 3rd year student at RGU and I am pursuing an Honours degree in Management with Finance.

*Do you have a lot of Christian friends?*

Yes!

*Who is your role-model?*

Mahatma Gandhi a true legend. The sacrifices he made for the love of his country and his people and his beliefs made him my role model.



*in our villages, towns & cities*

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## Administrator Wanted!

Is God calling you to work with us?

We require a Part Time Administrator for 2 hours per week. While not a time-consuming role, it is vital to the smooth running of our work. Duties would include checking our office in Aberdeen city centre for mail, phone messages and emails at agreed times each week, acting as a first point of contact for NESYFC volunteers and external contacts, and other general administrative tasks. Ideally you will have:

- Good communication, presentation and organisational skills.
- Proficiency in standard office computer applications: word processor, spreadsheet, email, web
- Credit Standard Grade English or equivalent
- Mature independent character
- Office work experience preferred but not essential

Pay will be an hourly rate agreed depending on experience and skill level of the successful applicant.

For more information and a full job description, please contact Cat Lawson (the NESYFC volunteers & training coordinator) on: 07772 690966 or [cat@nesyfc.org.uk](mailto:cat@nesyfc.org.uk).

## Volunteers Wanted!

As you might have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, the project in Mastrick is moving forward!

Mastrick and Northfield are situated in the west of Aberdeen city and may be regarded as some of the more deprived areas of Aberdeen – household incomes are lower, crime rate is higher and a significantly higher percentage of young people in the area are recorded on the child protection register. We are looking for full time volunteers to join our team immersed in schools, drop ins and the wider community there. It'll be an unforgettable year seeing you grow in many ways, especially your own relationship with God.

We're looking for people who are:

- Outgoing, committed, passionate, able to cope well with times of stress and disappointment, and have a commitment to following God's call to mission
- Hungry to grow in faith and desire to be stretched
- Good team players, willing to follow direction and to take initiative when needed

What we will provide:

- Discipleship
- Commitment on our part to see you grow
- Accountability
- Pre-programme and ongoing training and evaluation by an experienced youth worker

Living and training costs will be provided, though volunteers will be required to raise a fraction of their costs for the year.

Please pass this on to anyone you know who might be interested, and ask them to contact Sandy Brownlee on 07720 837303 or [sandy@nesyfc.org.uk](mailto:sandy@nesyfc.org.uk).



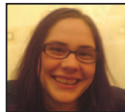
## Training Day

We had quite a wide range of people for the training day in September, coming from places as far apart as Aberdeen and Elgin. Workshops were highly varied, from using technology and drama in youth work right through to dealing with challenging behaviour.

Our next training day is provisionally lined up for 24 May. We're currently taking ideas for topics so please contact Cat on [volunteers@nesyfc.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@nesyfc.org.uk) with any requests you have.

## Prayer

*Prayer co-ordinator Jay Brownlee has a few points for prayer*



As we leave 2007 and move into 2008 pray that leaders and young people alike can leave behind what is unhelpful and look ahead to a year more God-filled than the last

Pray that young Christians will have the courage to share their faith with everyone they meet, their friends, their teachers, their parents. Pray they can share their faith through actions as well as words, heeding the words of 1 Timothy 4:12

Pray that youth leaders will be re-energised for the new year and that they will rely on God for all things as through God even the impossible is possible

Pray for everyone who was at Deep Impact, that they connected with God and with each other. Pray that the words of God spoken through the speakers did not fall on deaf ears and that the kingdom of God can be furthered through it. Thank God for

## Recycling

Got an old mobile phone or print cartridge lying around collecting dust? Put it to good use by sending it to us! We are now able to send these for recycling which not only helps preserve the planet God's given us but also raises funds which will be used to grow our ministry and work with young people. Working and non-working mobiles are accepted, as are all makes of printer cartridge except Epson inkjets. Email [sandy@nesyfc.org.uk](mailto:sandy@nesyfc.org.uk) for more information.



the opportunity He gave us to gather together and worship Him.

School pupils and university students will be in the middle of exams or waiting for results just now. Pray that stress levels remain at helpful levels. Pray that results will allow young people to follow their dreams according to God's will.

Breathe starts up again in the next month. Pray the team have energy and that they listen to God when making any decisions so that the Good News can be taken relevantly to every young person in North East Scotland. The way Breathe is organised may be changing: pray that those with difficult decisions to make will rely on the wisdom of God

Pray for NESYFC's online ministries, our Bebo page, our forum and our website. Pray these can be effective tools in advancing God's kingdom

Pray that we can find the right volunteers for the project in Mastrick and Northfield and that God continues to guide us in this work.



## Contacting Us

NESYFC is a chartered ministry of British YFC  
Registered charity no. SC018031

Our website: [www.nesyfc.org.uk](http://www.nesyfc.org.uk)  
Bebo: [www.bebo.com/nesyfc](http://www.bebo.com/nesyfc)  
Email: [office@nesyfc.org.uk](mailto:office@nesyfc.org.uk)  
Phone: 01224 213495  
Text: 07913 059728

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8 Crown Terrace  
Aberdeen AB11 6HE



## Join our ministry!

Please pray for us and the work we do. If you or someone you know would like to get involved in NESYFC, please contact us. **We're always looking out for more volunteers** - of all ages and skills whether in front line youth work, training, or behind the scenes technical and admin jobs. We'd also love to share what we do with as many Christians as possible - give us a call and we'll be happy to give a short presentation to your church or group.

Please also consider supporting us financially; you can make a secure one-off donation on our website, or call us about regular giving - **as little as £5 a month will help us to reach young people across the North East with the Good News of Jesus Christ.**