

Prayer

Please remember our work in prayer:



Give thanks for the young volunteers growing in faith through our work

Give thanks for the growing number of churches partnering with us, and working together to see God's Kingdom come

Give thanks for the open doors in schools, and ask for God to guide our team as they respond to this calling; and that they can respond to the huge demand in a way that reflects God's glory

God's guidance for Steven and the exec team as they seek the way ahead for the NESYFC ministry, and God's strength for Steven in particular as he commits himself full-time to this work

A good response to our appeals for finance and volunteers; that God will raise up His people to support His work

Volunteers Sought

We need more volunteers to help behind the scenes in all aspects of the ministry with whatever time you can spare! Age is no barrier, you just need a heart for young people.

If you feel you can help or know someone who can, e mail us on office@nesyfc.org.uk, or text Alasdair on 07720 837311

Contacting Us

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Want a copy of the newsletter for yourself, or have something to advertise? Just ask!



Make a difference!

Pray for us, our work and the young people of the North East. We'll happily share our work with your church or group. We're always looking for **volunteers** of all ages and skills. We also need **financial support** - whether in your will, a regular donation of as little as £5 a month or a one-off gift. All helps us reach young people with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

North East Scotland

Youth for Christ taking good news relevantly to every young person in north east Scotland



NE Scotland Youth for Christ Newsletter

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free of charge

2013 Issue 1

Welcome!

Welcome to our latest (and slightly delayed) newsletter, the first of 2013. Please pay particular attention to our appeals for finance (below) and volunteers (back page), be encouraged by the work (centre) and most importantly, pray for us (back page).

In Brief

You can now donate to us for free, just by shopping online! Via easyfundraising.org.uk, 1-5% of spending with shops like Amazon, John Lewis, Argos & Tesco goes to your chosen YFC Centre at no extra cost to you. Find out more under "donate for free" on our website at www.nesyfc.org.uk

Our friends running the Imagine 2013 festival are now booking! the event runs on 6-10 August and is a fantastic time for young people to encounter God. Find out more online at www.imaginescotland.co.uk

Appeal from the Chair



We have much to thank the Lord for in his provision for this ministry, and the opening of doors. Steven Hamilton, our outreach worker, is now our centre director, and has set our main focus this coming year on supporting and equipping churches in reaching young people for Jesus. We are networking with churches across denominations, so that together as one body, we can be more effective in the Lord's work. We are also working in schools and communities across the City and Shire, and our football cage purchased last Summer has proved to be a useful tool in engaging with young people. We are being called to work in some of the more deprived areas of the City again. Our training and development of our group of young volunteers continues, and it has been a blessing to have them serving us. So God has been good!

As you read this newsletter, we are actively considering taking on another youth worker to grasp the increasing opportunities being presented to us. This would almost double the number of young people that we can actively engage with. However, the current level of

regular income makes it difficult to cover even our current costs. Grants and trust funding are also more difficult to get with more people chasing them. We are trusting in faith that enough additional people come forward to partner with us financially on a monthly basis. We are also approaching churches and trusts, but if only 30 more individual prayer partners gave us £20 a month, that would be £7200 a year, which would make a huge difference. Or if only half our total prayer partners gave £5 per month, that would be £18,000 - exactly the amount we need to raise in the next 9 months. We cannot do this without you, but together as one body we can!

So! **Will you partner with us?** Any regular amount, or one-off gift, is very welcome: a response form is enclosed. You can also donate via Paypal on our website at www.nesyfc.org.uk/supportingus. Thanks to those of you who already support us financially and in prayer. It was due to your generosity and passion for taking the Good News to the young people of the North East, that we have been able to achieve so much in the past year.

Many thanks in Christ,
Alasdair Brownlee, Chair, Board of Trustees.

Outreach Report

Steven Hamilton updates us on recent mission and outreach work in the local area

“How long?”

The “how long?” cry is repeated many times in Scripture, in the prayers of Christians and in the hearts of non-Christians. I believe many young people also are asking this question, and one of our main responsibilities is to provide a safe environment, a place of quiet and of peace, where the young people can keep asking the question and hearing God's personal message to them.

As we are spending more and more time in schools around young people who are hurting, we pray that we may be led by the Spirit as carriers of that peace and message to them.

YFC Conference (7-11th January)

This year, three volunteers came with me to conference. Here are some of their thoughts:

MHAIRI: “It was a good way of seeing the big picture of YFC; also of getting together and seeing the support from others – we are not alone – we can build connections and be motivated anew by seeing others involved in the work.”

DARREN: “I thought it was a great first conference for me and it allowed me to see the vast amount of work throughout the organisation.”

JOSH: “YFC conference was great because I could just be around youth workers of a variety of backgrounds and the experience is refreshing and helps renew some of the passion for the work as you see how God moves in the lives of young people and on such a vast scale...”

Church Work

We thank God for the great youth work that we see in many of the churches in Aberdeen and the other youth-focused groups of the city.

With a good number of them our role is simply of support – praying for them and resourcing them; also doing some speaking (New Deer and Torry Gospel Hall) and, in one



occasion (St Devenick's), I'm helping out covering the youth worker's maternity leave!

In Aberdeenshire I believe that there is a lot of need. Being such a large area however, our effective involvement can only be minimal. As an organization though we are here for the long-run and we are developing links and networks with churches to see what we can do together to reach out to a generation of young people that is now close to 100% non-church-goers.

We hope that our travelling ‘Breathe’ event and the ‘Football Cage’ may help with this as well as setting up network hubs in strategic places in the North East. Please pray for unity among churches in these areas!

As a very positive note, we are seeing the churches involved in the Formartine area coming together to reach young people! Please pray for Stephen and Cat McPhee, a young couple who will be heading that up.

Together with our Aberdeen-based Shetlander Matthew, I went up to Shetland for a weekend at the end of January. Matthew's home church in Burra run a soccer school every year that I've been helping at for the past three years. The purpose of the weekend was two-fold:

- To have a youth outreach event to follow up on the contacts from the soccer school and get young people together;
- To get the youth workers from the different groups and denominations together thinking and praying about youth work in the Shetland Isles.

Both went really well, with very good numbers attending and a lot of positive feedback! Pray for follow-up on that again!

As a more focused calling I am involved at Oldmachar Church in Bridge of Don, helping to lead a Rock Solid Club for 8-10 year olds from non-church background. We are thankful for great relationships that have been established with young people over the years through this club and also we believe that this seed will bear fruit where it finds fertile ground in their hearts!

We would love to develop on this work by introducing ‘Youth Zone’, a monthly event for older teenagers. Please pray as we are in the organising stages of this, hoping to have it running before the summer. Pray also for the spiritual development and growth of the young leaders who help.

Schools Work

Schools are a great open mission field just now and we want to use this window of opportunity just now because we don't know how much longer it will stay open to such overtly Christian input.

I have the privilege of seeing first hand a lot of the work, by occasionally speaking at schools such as Cults Academy, Cults Primary, Banff Academy and Robert Gordon's.

I've also been in close contact with Ellon Academy as I'll be involved with the Easter assemblies and I think there will be an open door to go into this school weekly also after Easter!

Through Oldmachar Church, I take assemblies in the local primary school on a 2-week rotation with the minister.

Some of you will remember that a few years ago we were very involved working in Northfield Academy and its catchment area. All that fell apart a couple of years ago. However we kept being involved in the nearby area of Sheddocksley, helping out at the YMCA's Street Football outreach at the local Baptist church. Together with this church, we joined the project, headed up by the charity ‘Choices’, back in Northfield Academy! We are very excited about this possibility also, because we still have some funding available for working in this area from our former project!

At the moment this looks like two lunch time clubs – 1 for boys (which I'm involved with), and 1 for girls, but we are looking to increase our presence here! Very exciting!

I am also just now training as a School Pastor with Street Pastors and this will greatly enhance and strengthen the schools work that I do and I will also get a chance to work with a team weekly in St. Machar Academy!

Breathe, Cage and Summer

Please pray as we are now in the process of re-vamping ‘Breathe’ after its great success in recent years with 10-14 year olds. We are also praying about something for 14-18 year olds.

Also pray as we are in talks with the City Council about using our Football Cage ministry in one of the city's deprived areas.

Finally, pray also for this summer as we plan a mission to Italy (1st – 7th July); one in the North East (22nd – 28th July); and one in Shetland (5th – 11th August).