

Prayer

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

Give thanks:

- Volunteers to come on board to help and support the ministry in Tillydrone, especially the Youth Drop In and the Cage.
- Our young people that they will come to see the reality of Jesus Christ and who He is, and that they may come to know him as their personal Lord and Saviour.
- A happy and peaceful Christmas break for the young people of Tillydrone and their families.
- The youth team as they are involved in the planning and running of the various activities and events in the run-up to Christmas.
- Matthew and the volunteers as they deal with complex and difficult life issues presented by young people, support and build meaningful relationships with them.
- Us as we seek to know the Lord's guidance and leading as to how

the ministry can be expanded and reach out to, impact and support more young people in Tillydrone.

- An increase in regular financial support for the ministry. While income has increased, we are still currently operating with less finance coming in than what we are having to pay out.

Pray:

- Re-established access to Riverbank Primary School.
- The really good start to the Youth Drop-In and the willingness of so many young people to 'drop in'.
- The continuing deepening of relationships with young people and their willingness to open up and share and discuss the issues which they are having to deal with.
- An increase in regular financial support for the ministry.
- The Lord's ongoing and faithful support and care of the ministry among the young of Tillydrone.

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.



Welcome

When our last newsletter was issued back in July of this year, we were still coping with operating within the restrictions of COVID-19 and trying as best we could to support our young people on a largely online basis. Zoom fatigue was very real for both the young people and the youth team in Tillydrone. Now as we begin the run up to Christmas and will soon after be knocking on the door of a new year, we look back at what has been an amazing time for the ministry in Tillydrone during the second half of 2021.

Since the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions in the summer, the past months have been a very encouraging time in the work of NES YFC. With the easing of restrictions we have been granted more freedom to get back to some good old fashioned face to face youth work. For now at least, Zoom youth groups and online school assemblies are a thing of the past. After what seems such a long time, we were at last able to get back to doing what we love, getting out there, meeting and supporting the young people of Tillydrone while also sharing the good news of Jesus with them.

Working alongside the Lighthouse Support Centre, we have re-launched face to face youth groups, restarted our Cage Football programme, launched a new Friday night drop-in for teenagers in Tillydrone, ran a youth weekend away in October and have been told that we are again to have access to our local school to restart groups in there. More about group re-launch in 'Update from Matthew'

It has been so encouraging that previously unreached young people have been coming along to the groups and have become regular faces and seem to be settling in and relate well to the youth leaders. Pray with us that this will continue.

On behalf of Matthew and our Board of Trustees, I take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in and support of the ministry, to wish you a very happy Christmas and many blessings for the coming New Year.

Tom Cowie, Chairperson



Update from Matthew

We catch up with our youth worker Matthew Hamilton on what has been happening 'on the front line' during the past few months



STEP BACK AND PRAY

We have, for some years now, worked very closely in partnership with the team at the Lighthouse Support Centre in the delivery of the various youth and children's groups and activities in Tillydrone.

Just before the summer school break, we felt that it would be good time to take a step back to prayerfully evaluate the various groups and activities to determine whether or not some form of tweak or restructure was necessary before things restarted after the summer schools break.

Since doing this re-structure we have been deeply encouraged to see an increase in the number of young people attending the groups and activities. Some are our 'original crew'; some we haven't seen in a long time and some we'd never met before.



RADIATE

This group runs on a Wednesday night for children in P4 – P7. Every week we meet and have games, a quiz, a story and a snack. This is very much a classic kids club! We have seen between 10 – 20 kids each week at Radiate some of whom had never heard the gospel before. It's a real joy and privilege to work alongside children and watch them hear the gospel for the first time.

ILLUMINATE

Illuminate runs straight after Radiate every Wednesday for teenagers from S1-S3. Over the past months we have been going through the Youth Alpha course together. Many of our young people at Illuminate have only joined us for the first time this year. They have never had any gospel input before. Youth Alpha has been great for this group as it goes through all the basics of the Christian faith.

YOUNG ADULTS

This group is our final Wednesday night group. It runs for young people in S4+. Quite simply this group is a Bible study and is a space, where life issues, faith, beliefs and the Bible can be openly discussed. Recently we've been making our way through the book of Genesis. We've had some really deep and rewarding discussions and indeed breakthroughs with some young people. We've also been doing a one-to-one support with a guy, at his request, who is eager to take his faith more seriously, it's been a privilege to walk alongside him as he seeks to follow Jesus in a deeper way.

IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

As a result of the strict COVID-19 restrictions on access to school premises, our in-school programme had ceased, apart from on-line assemblies etc. However, in the past few weeks we have been in discussions with Riverbank Primary School's deputy head. She indicated that she is very keen for the youth team to come back into the school again and restart our various groups and activities. As a result, we hope to be back in the school running School Football Team training, SU sessions and Bible Alive in the next few weeks.

This is a huge and exciting encouragement to us and a massive to answer to prayer.

NEW ADVENTURES

As well as the above, the Tillydrone youth team have been able to embark on some new adventures.

YOUTH DROP-IN

The youth team felt very strongly that they needed to think 'out of the box' regarding reaching more young people, particularly those who wander aimlessly around the area in the evenings. It would be good to have a place where young people could just drop into, a place that was safe and where they could just chill out with some games (pool, air hockey etc), chat with each other and the leaders, enjoy a hot chocolate and a biccyy.

So the Youth Drop-In came into being. We currently meet once a month on a Friday night from 8-11pm. The group has been going well, beyond our expectations,

with good numbers of young people 'dropping in'. It has been great to get to know young people with whom we have had no previous contact, to begin to build relationships with them and just be there for them. It has been an encouragement also that some of the Drop-In young people have begun to attend some of the other groups and activities.

We would very much like to expand the frequency of the Drop-In sessions, but to do this we do need more volunteers to come on board to help us. Please pray with us for more volunteers.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WEEKEND AWAY

The youth team took 13 young people away to the Abernethy Centre at Nethy Bridge for a weekend in October. This was a fantastic weekend spent with our young people. We had team games, outdoor activities and 5 sessions of talks from



the Bible. It was a great weekend where we saw some real development and progress in the spiritual life of some young people. Requests for a repeat next year have been flowing in.

CAGE FOOTBALL

After two years off the road, we re-launched our PANNA Cage Football at the end of August, having weekly Cage events in Tillydrone. Each week we had between 25 and 60 kids and parents come along. The Cage has been a fantastic resource, and through it a good number of young people have gone on to join some of the other groups and activities. The Cage events have now stopped out-of-doors for the winter, although we are investigating the feasibility of taking it into the grounds of St Machar Academy at lunch time after the Christmas break, as weather and volunteers permit us.

