

North East Scotland YFC Newsletter

Summer 2006

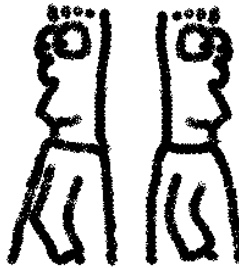
Looking back... and looking forward!

The past year has been a turning point for NESYFC. For the first time in years we were able to employ a part time director, Hazel Ryan, one of a number of people from Soul Survivor church in Watford who relocated in Aberdeen to set up the Imagine festival. Hazel had organised conferences for Soul Survivor and helped train young leaders there as well as having helped lead worship with the likes of Matt Redman and Tim Hughes. Her arrival on the NESYFC scene galvanised the small team of volunteers and strengthened ministries like 'Breathe'. Hazel managed to make contact with most churches in the area using YFC resources and ran an excellent training day for youth leaders and was able to start a discipleship programme for young people doing gap year placements with various churches in Aberdeen and start work in a number of schools.

As 2005 came to an end much progress had been made. Although Hazel has moved on to work with City Church she remains on our council of reference. The team have a renewed confidence in the resources with which YFC can equip local churches (Rock Solid, Youth Alpha, Mettle, The Art of Connecting, RS2) and there were good news stories coming from every area of our ministry. 2006 will no doubt have its share of challenges as we still operate on a small budget and will need to look again for another director to take things forward and build on the groundwork Hazel laid. As we look ahead in 2006 we want to develop mutually encouraging relationships with churches, youth groups, schools and youth leaders in the north east. We'd love to see a growth in the number of young people we reach for Jesus, a growth in the number of young leaders we mentor, and see a growth in the number of churches and youth leaders we help equip. God's giving us some great ideas about how we can move forward; please pray that these can come together and get the support they need.

Later in this newsletter we tell you ways in which you can support NESYFC in prayer and financially, but now it's time to tell you what has been happening in the past year.

Be encouraged! We are!



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In Brief

Training Day

A number of you will have been at our training day near the end of last year at Oldmachar church. We had around 50 people there taking part in interactive seminars on all things youth work. Our speakers on the day were fantastic, with representatives from the local area, Imagine and Scottish YFC speaking. We've had several requests for another day, so keep your eyes peeled for this year's event!

Website

Our website is the place to be for information about NESYFC! Dates, prayer points, contacts and other information can all be found at www.nesyfc.org.uk.

Additionally a forum has been set up on it for discussing pretty much anything you can think of. There's separate areas for young people and the less young, so whoever you are, get involved!



Breathe Update



Jay and Sandy Brownlee bring us up to speed on the latest 'Breathe' news

Breathe, our multimedia worship and outreach event for young people, is at the end of another successful year. Highlights of the past few events (do you remember any of these?) In September we were in Oldmeldrum (just a couple of weeks after our prayer walk there) and our focus was on lost sheep and the story of the prodigal son. This brought in a rather suspicious sheep chasing game. In Kirriemuir we were happy to have guest speaker David Wharton talking about how depressing the Coldplay song "Fix You" is, but also how God can fix your life. In Kemnay the theme was "The G Factor", featuring some interesting singing and a chance to make the sturdiest members of our team cry! Other themes we've covered have included the Narnia stories, "The Saints", and Superheroes - featuring our most technically advanced game yet with the chance to actually fly like a superhero! Naturally Breathe has also been filled with rapid cake eating, baby food, shaving foam, more hilarious videos, shocking humour and embarrassing stories. And that's just the team!



Our hard working tech team

"What did you like most about Breathe?"

"I liked the weird and silly drinks" - Neil (15)
"It was good fun - all fun" - Carrie (11)
"I liked the face stuffing games" - Jenny (13)
"There was at least one good joke!!" - Andrew (12)
"Its Fun, Its Messy!" - Robert (11)
"I like the games and the music is quite cool!" - Ashley (11)
"I like meeting lots of people" - Kirsty (11)

Breathe will be back after the summer. Keep an eye on our website (the "Events" page) for information on upcoming events. Also coming soon is our resource pack full of ideas and guidance for churches wanting to run their own youth events like Breathe. We're also always on the lookout for more team members - you don't need any particular skills other than enthusiasm - so please don't be afraid to ask!



Breathe - can you guess where?

Prayer



Our former prayer co-ordinator Cat Lawson has a few points for prayer

Our mission statement as a part of Youth For Christ is to take the Good News relevantly to all young people. Please pray for us to stay fixed firmly in God's word and God's good news. Also pray that we will continually stay relevant to the young people we are sent to reach. Certain areas of our work are continually adapting. Breathe events, run by teams of young volunteers are all very different from one another. Pray for our volunteers that they will bring fresh energy and ideas to each event. Pray that young people will learn more about God's love and justice wherever we take Breathe events.

YFC resources such as Rock Solid, RS2 and Mettle are used by local churches to help teach and encourage young people in their area. Pray for the people who write the resources that they will be inspired and will write what God wants. Pray for the leaders who use the packs that they will have fun and learn from them. Pray for the young people who hear God's word at these clubs, sometimes for the first time, that they will see the truth of God and learn to pray and to trust Him.



In the past NESYFC have been involved in mission in this area. Over the past couple of years we have struggled to provide resources to churches for mission. We are grateful for the assistance of Highlands and Islands YFC who have provided a team of volunteers to Kemnay Parish Church in 2005 for a mission there. Thank God for their willingness to serve. Pray for more outreach to take place, remembering the need for continuing discipleship after the mission teams have left. Pray for good leaders for each mission team and for the teams to work well together. Pray that the young people in each area involved will see something of God and be attracted to Him.

YFC Resources in Action



Dougie Adam reports on 'Rock Solid' at Oldmachar Church.

Rock Solid is a great way of reaching young people with no church background. At Oldmachar we have been running Rock Solid clubs for over 5 years now and we find that each year it keeps getting bigger and better. RS is designed for 11-14 year olds but locally we run it for P6-S1 pupils and this year we have been getting an average of 60 young people along. In the last two years almost 50 young people have become Christians at our RS group.

Our group meets on a Tuesday night from 6.30 – 8pm and at the start of each school year I visit all 4 primary schools and the local academy who all display a poster advertising RS and we give every P6 pupil a letter telling them about Rock Solid and inviting them to attend the first night (which usually involves some free pizza!). We now have a really good team in place with around a dozen leaders consisting of church teenagers, gap year volunteers, youth workers, accountants, pharmacists and college lecturers. Each week at Rock Solid has a new theme and a suggested list of games, discussions, quizzes, media clips and short talks. At the start of each term a few of us select the best games each night for our group (usually there is no shortage of good ideas to fill the evening's programme) and we assign one game per night to most of the leaders. This divides up the workload, preparation time, and keeps all the team involved.



Over the course of the year we find the young people strike up friendships with different leaders and their attitude to Christianity changes as they come to see the Bible has a lot of helpful things to say about issues which they are facing like their own self images, peer pressure, making the best choices as well as more overtly Christian themes. Rock Solid works on the basis that if the club gets boring the young people will vote with their feet and stop attending, so to combat this there is a new theme and new set of games every week. No two weeks are ever the same and the games and talks all last between 5 and 10 minutes each which means it is a fast moving programme taking account of young people's famously short attention span!

If your church is looking to do something with 11-14 year olds and want something which is fun, easy to use and adapt, and something which will help the young people connect with Jesus, at Oldmachar Church we can't recommend Rock Solid highly enough. As a team we are really willing to help other churches in the area see how RS works.

Supporting Us

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. Our details are to the right.

Please also consider supporting us financially; you can make a secure one-off donation on our website, or call us about becoming a partner by giving regularly.

Contacting Us

You can visit our website at: www.nesyfc.org.uk, email us at office@nesyfc.org.uk, call us on 01224 213495, or text us on 07913 059728.

You can even write to us at:
NESYFC
c/o Methodist Church
8 Crown Terrace
Aberdeen
AB11 6HE.



Next Issue...

We hope to reveal our exciting plans for the coming year.

We hear from the "Kick" team about how God has used their gap year in Aberdeen.

Focus on Mettle (YFC's new resource for 14-18 year olds) and how it's working at City Church in Aberdeen.

And of course, much more!