

MISSIONAL YOUTH CHURCH NETWORK Newsletter

Autumn 2021...



A message from Ruthi

Well, I can hardly believe it but I've been in this role for 6 months now. It is still evolving and changing but I am absolutely loving it. It is a genuine pleasure and honour to chat to all those we are in contact with who are involved with working with young people, your stories inspire me.

I had the joy of meeting lots of you and hearing your stories at the Youthscape's National Youth Ministry Weekend in Birmingham. It meant an early start for me to drive down for the day from Rotherham but walking down to the venue it was great spotting those who were clearly youth workers heading to venue, amongst those dressed ready for Comic Con happening in the same building (which led to this excellent photo). Wearing our new fancy t shirts with our logo that we had printed as a starting point for conversation, Andy, Angela and I wandered round chatting to people that we knew and also meeting lots of new faces.



As part of this weekend, we led a session on the Saturday with Fresh Expressions about how to go about starting a youth church. We went through the Fresh Expression journey and our GROW model to a group of youth workers and listened to them as they described their contexts and the potential that they had. It was fantastic to hear their stories, and exciting to explore the options ahead of them. We will be following up with these contacts very soon and will see where their stories progress from there.

To be continued...

If you'd like to speak to Ruthi, her contact details are:

ruthi.gibbons@archbishopofyork.org 07874 861071

Whalley Abbey 24hr Residential

The MYCN Learning Community had its second residential at Whalley Abbey in Lancashire. It is a really beautiful place, and it was a delight to spend time with folks there. What made this time away particularly unique was our attempt to make the time away a hybrid crossover of onsite and online.



So... we took with us many cables, cameras, microphones and laptops in the hope that we could come up with a set up that meant that those in the room at Whalley Abbey and those at home all felt included in the worship, teaching and conversations. It wasn't completely flawless, and we had to work out lots as we went along. But all in all, we think we ironed out the creases and were able to have a laugh when it failed. This was good preparation for our next Learning

Community with the Archbishop of York (more to come about that later).

During our time away we spent quite a bit of time thinking about transitions. Lots of those attending were either starting new jobs, finishing jobs, or working out the next steps for their projects. It was great to go back to the DNA of what MYCN stands for, as we went through the learning journey, what it means to be a pioneer and GROW. We were also really blessed by a brilliant hosting team at Whalley Abbey and some top-notch food.

Our next residential is booked for the 21st-22nd March 2022. This time we will be going to Wydale Hall in North Yorkshire, for more time to be with, learn from, and pray with one another.

Hot Chocolate

In our recent Prayer Space, we talked a lot about the essential ministry of hot chocolate. Lots of those working with young people talked about how they are using hot chocolate to connect with young people again.

Many youth workers are struggling to get back into the schools they were previously working with. Schools are naturally being vigilant about potential covid outbreaks and so outside visitors are severely limited. Therefore, youth ministers have taken to the streets armed with hot chocolate in order to engage or re-engage with young people. During our prayer time we heard stories of over 100 people gathering for a youth drop-in enticed by the smell of hot chocolate and the promise of table tennis.



But equally importantly the story of the 1, the one who had lost contact with their youth group over lockdown but who reconnected for the first time in over a year over a mug of hot chocolate.

Hot chocolate is a powerful tool, and well worth using with young people*.

*alternative warm beverages are also available

Learning Community



Our Learning Community continues to be an amazing place where we gather to learn and reflect. It is always wonderful seeing smiling faces via zoom.

Our last Learning Community was on 21st September where we followed up from the previous meeting, which was centered around doing schools work well.

For this session we looked at how that youth work might then flow into youth church. We were reminded of the Fresh Expression journey: listening, loving, building community, exploring discipleship, church taking place, and finally continuing to repeat the process. As a group we asked ourselves where we were on that journey and using GROW, we worked out what our next steps might be in our individual contexts.

Our next Learning Community is on Friday 10th December where we will be joined by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. This event is taking place at Bishopthorpe Palace but will also be available to access online via zoom. We hope this will mean that lots of people will be able to join in the discussion even if they aren't able to travel to Bishopthorpe. It will give the Archbishop the opportunity to hear more from the youth workers on the ground about what is important, the reality of working with young people today, and how the church can support. The Archbishop will also be sharing the vision from the CofE about becoming a church that is younger and more diverse. To book onto this event in person (cost £10 to cover lunch and refreshments) or via zoom contact MYCN.Admin@archbishopofyork.org



#LoveMurton

For this newsletter we thought we would tell the good news story happening in Murton with our learning community member LeAnne.

She has been absolutely buzzing for the last few months whenever we have seen her because of a big project she has been working on. *Heart on the Terrace* has become a hub for the community of Murton in the North East, a place where people of all ages can come and grab a brew.

LeAnne is working hard with a team to set up a weekly youth drop-in using the powerful ministry of hot chocolate and pizza. The plan moving forward is to follow the Fresh Expressions Learning Journey and from this building of community (over hot chocolate), create a place where discipleship of young people can take place, leading on to establishing a youth church.

We are thrilled to see this passion project of LeAnne's taking off, do pray for her as the project continues and grows. We are looking forward to seeing how it all develops!

For more information on the Heart on the Terrace visit www.facebook.com/LoveMurton



Photo of the opening of Heart on the Terrace

Website

We are currently in the process of creating our own website! Here is a little sneak peek at our home page.

It will be a place to find the resources that we are working on, a hub for members of the Learning Community, somewhere to read good news stories, and a place to find advice and ideas for your MYCs. We are really excited for this to come out and we can't wait to share it with you all.



We would love to hear your feedback on this, what would you like to see as part of our website? What tools would be handy to have? What stories would you like to hear? Please do contact Ruthi and let her know so she can pass on your feedback to the designers and those creating content for the website.

Social Media



MYCN is on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Follow us/like at:

Missional Youth Church Network @MYCNYouth

Our social media sites are a place to hear stories of what is happening in MYCs around the UK, resources that might be useful, dates of upcoming MYCN meetings and lots more. We are always looking for more content so do share with us your stories.

Festive Fun



Here are a couple of things to note coming up to the festive season.

- 1) Look out for some videos coming out from the MYCN team reflecting on the characters in the nativity scene and what they can teach us over advent.
- 2) ['At the heart of Christmas'](#) is the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2021.

Local churches all over the country will be welcoming their communities – onsite and online – to celebrate and share the good news of Christ's birth with special services and events, supported by a wide range of national resources and support.

At the heart of Christmas is a deliberately simple and open theme – one that we hope can be used by local churches to invite their communities to share in celebrating the good news of Christmas in a whole variety of ways, whatever the prevailing circumstances.

Funding

Andy and John have been working hard to find various bits of funding for the work that we do. Going through the forms is time consuming, as many of you know, but we really believe in what we do. Prayers would be appreciated that we would receive the funding that we need.

For funding ideas around the UK you can see a regularly updated list of grants at [Grants Online](#)



Financial Support

Do you think you or your church could support us financially? If you would like to make a regular or one-off gift to support our work, please complete and return the form at the end of this newsletter or visit churcharmy.org/donate.

Prayer Pointers

It really is central to all that we do. Please do pray not only for us as MYCN but also for the projects that we are connected to.

Sunday

- Helmsley, North Yorkshire
- Alnwick, Northumberland
- Murton, County Durham

Monday

- Hull
- Harrogate
- Seacroft
- Boston, Lincolnshire

Tuesday

- Sorted, Bradford
- Keighley
- BD3, Bradford

Wednesday

- Bestwood, Nottingham
- Tin Can, Wrexham
- Penny's Café, Knowle
- Great Glen, Leicestershire

Thursday

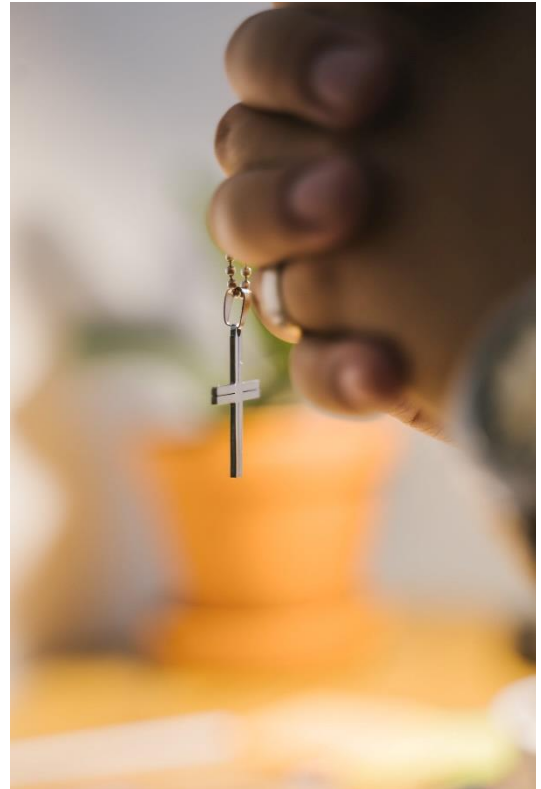
- Crookes, Sheffield
- East Leake, South Nottinghamshire
- The Beacon Project, North Wearside

Friday

- Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York
- Archbishop of York Youth Trust
- Church Army

Saturday

- Carlisle Diocese
- Hereford Diocese
- Blackburn Diocese



I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT MISSIONAL YOUTH CHURCH NETWORK

Please return to:

Church Army, Wilson Carlisle Centre, 50 Cavendish Street, Sheffield, S3 7RZ

Type of donation: One-off* / Regular* (please send me a direct debit)

*delete as appropriate

Amount of donation: £_____ Payment method: Cheque* / Debit card*

(Please make cheques payable to 'Church Army – Code 1186')

Card Number: _____

Valid from: __/__/__ Expires end __/__/__

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Gift Aid Declaration: Boost my donation by claiming Gift Aid

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

Your address is needed to identify you as a current taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the boxes below:

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I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Church Army.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title: Forename: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Please contact me to let me know how I can do more to hear about and support Church Army's work (please tick if desired).

Tel: _____ Email: _____

Using your personal information – Data Protection

Church Army is committed to processing the personal data you provide us with in a fair, lawful and transparent manner. We will only use your data for the purposes you have provided it for and in line with the consents you have given. We will not share your data with any third parties, except for those acting as our agents. Further details in relation to the data we hold, how that data will be processed and your rights in relation to that data are set out in our privacy notices and our data protection policy which can be found at www.churcharmy.org/dataprotection