



Gloucestershire
YOUTH
FOR CHRIST

Update

December 2025

Living Beyond

What does it mean for a young person to live out their faith in this current generation? How can they tell their friends about Jesus without looking weird? What does it look like to live out a faith so compelling, that other people are drawn to Jesus? With so many young people open to exploring faith at the moment, these are key questions for young people today.

At the start of the October half-term, we held our Living Beyond residential aimed at equipping young people with the skills needed to share Jesus in the mission field around them.



This is a smaller, more intimate residential than our Big Weekender that takes place in February. The smaller size of Living Beyond allowed for greater connections and spiritual discipleship with the twenty young people who attended. We stayed at the Viney Hill Adventure centre, in their recently built eco pods, surrounded by beautiful forestry. Unfortunately the

beautiful setting was accompanied by typically unsettled British weather!

Throughout the weekend, we worked through the book of James, looking at the importance of putting faith into action. The young people were given space for

discussion and activities to encourage each other in sharing faith, as well as worship and talks from the team. One young person shared her testimony about why she had recently decided to get baptized. She explained that this decision had given her confidence to share her faith with her friends.

During the weekend, we also had the opportunity to enjoy some activities at the centre, including using the climbing wall, and using the man made tunnels. Plenty of fun was had play games together

On the first evening, we took a short late-night hike that included gazing up at the stars through the trees and appreciating God's creation. On the Saturday night, as

we sheltered together around a campfire, we ate lots of s'mores!

One young person said of the weekend; "I liked that we got to spend time together and enjoy each other's company plus the fact that we could talk about each other's lives in ways we wouldn't normally because we were in an enclosed space where people didn't judge.



So that fellowship with each other was really nice."

At the end of the weekend, the young people prayed for each other and shared specific examples of what the weekend had inspired them to go and do in response to the weekend's theme. It was great to hear them speak so passionately about various ways they wanted to tell their friends about Jesus.

Big Weekender

A new year brings a new name to our residential. From 2026, Breakaway will now be known as The Big Weekender. The name may be different, but it will still be the same fun weekend full of activities. We are back at the Poplars from 13th-15th February. The weekend brings together young people from a variety of churches. Putting on a residential is a lot of work, and the Big Weekender allows churches the chance to bring their youth group to a residential, without all the extra work. We run the activities, provide the food, and the youth leaders get to spend time with their young people.

The weekend also provides a space for young people to explore what they believe and choose how they respond. Every year, we see young people becoming Christians, and encounter God.

The residential is designed to support the youth work and input the young people get throughout the year in their churches.

Youth leaders come to the residential with their young people, but it is possible for young people to attend the residential without a youth leader.

Places cost £120, which includes accommodation, food and activities. If you have not brought a group before, we are sure you won't be disappointed.

To book, use the QR code or visit:

<https://buytickets.at/youthforchristgloucestershire/1882602>



Book here

Becca arrives

Earlier in the year, we appointed Becca as our new Youth Worker. This role is a new partnership with Hillview Church, with Becca's time being split between the two different aspects of the role. She started her role in September, following her relocation from North Wales. We asked Becca to share about her first term in her role.

"Over the past three months, I have had the chance to step into my new role of Youth Worker within the Youth for Christ Gloucestershire team and at Hillview Church. It's been an exciting and encouraging time of learning, collaboration and early progress within these two settings.

Myself, my husband Sam, and our dog Archie are settling into Gloucestershire life! I'd love to extend my thanks to all of those

who
have

welcomed us and got alongside us, it's made the move really easy.

I'm really enjoying the dual-role aspect of the job. It's such a privilege to have the opportunities to go into various places where there are young people with little to no faith and having opportunities to share the Good News with them. The work at Hillview also allows me to be based in one church and be able to walk alongside a group of young people who are exploring and living out their faith. Within Hillview, this looks like two weekly groups and also extra social events - in the new year, I will be discerning what extra opportunities there may be to grow this ministry and to enable what God wants to do there.

Within Youth for Christ Gloucestershire, I've loved being able to go into different schools and settings, witnessing all of the wonderful work that the team are already doing, and benefitting from the team's wisdom and experience. I'm especially enjoying the afterschool club at Leckhampton Baptist Church. I haven't had personal experience of starting something completely from scratch before, and so it has been challenging but also inspiring to see what God can do in that space

firsthand. My highlight of the term though was the Living Beyond weekend in October - I believe that young people are some of the most important people in sharing Jesus with other people their age, and so it was great to be able to encourage and equip them within this. I'm really looking forward to the weekend away in February, the Big Bash events, and generally, seeing how God will use me in this new role."

Please pray for Becca as she continues in her role and settles into the area.



Join the team

Recruiting Youth Workers has become very difficult in the last few years. It took us a year to fill Becca's role. The process takes a lot of time, so it was nice to see Becca start in her role. It would be a nice time to pause, but we launched straight back into another recruitment at the start of September.

We are starting a new partnership with Hesters Way Baptist Church that will see a Youth Worker developing the church's youth work whilst working with us to develop our ministry in the local community. As the team begins to expand once again, we will be able to develop more schools' ministry. With opportunities in All Saints Academy, the partnership with the church will allow us both to develop new areas of ministry that compliment each other.

We have had a good relationship with Hesters Way Baptist Church for many

years, and this reaffirms and builds upon the relationship we have.

Our initial round of recruitment was unsuccessful, but we are readvertising. The role requires someone with the ability to understand the needs of the local community and a willingness to pioneer new areas of ministry. It is an exciting role, that will challenge and stretch but bring huge satisfaction. The church has a great team of volunteers that the post holder will get to work alongside.

If you know of anyone who may be interested, the details can be found using the QR code or at:

<https://www.yfcgloucestershire.co.uk/were-hiring.html>

If you would like to talk to someone about the role, please contact Paul on 07855 408068 or paul@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk



Could you make a difference?

£10 each month makes a monthly collective worship session possible.

£25 each month supports an outreach youth club

£50 a month can help a young person receive weekly mentoring

Join us in seeing young people's lives changed by Jesus at gloucestershire.yfc.co.uk/donate or using the QR code





YOUTH WORKER (F/T)

We are looking for an energetic and collaborative individual to work with young people. You will be involved in the existing youth ministry within Hesters Way Baptist Church and developing the work of Youth for Christ Gloucestershire. You will be responsible for leading the youth work team within the church and developing the existing ministry. You will be part of the Youth for Christ team, involved in our schools ministry and starting new initiatives in Hesters Way.

We are seeking someone with the ability to work in a range of environments, both inside and outside of the local church context. The role requires a pioneer with a passion for Jesus, a heart for young people and a desire to see their lives changed by Jesus.

Salary: £26-28000 per annum, depending on experience and qualifications.

For more information contact: Paul Bennett 07855 408068 or office@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk
Closing Date: Sunday 22nd February 2026

There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder is a practicing Christian and will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure. You must have the right to work within the United Kingdom.

Youth for Christ Gloucestershire is a registered charity: 1163587



Gloucestershire
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

HESTERS WAY
BAPTIST CHURCH



A huge thank you to everybody who came and supported our Quiz Night in November. As ever it was a popular evening and we raised £421 on the night which will enable us to share Jesus with more young people.

They have toast



trying not to be discouraged. We knew that if a small group of your people came, more would follow.

After the October half term, we led a collective worship in the local primary school, where we had the chance to talk about the club. That week three boys in Year 6 showed up! The wait was over, now we could begin.

When we moved office in May 2024, we said we wanted to support Leckhampton Baptist Church in developing youth work. The church had previously had a flourishing youth work but had reached a point when they had no children's or youth programme. There is a lot of truth in the old adage that "if you have a big crowd, a lot of people turn up."

Starting something from scratch is a much greater challenge. Some of the congregation volunteered to help with an after-school club that would take place in the church. We spent a couple of weeks before we started the club giving out leaflets to families as they walked home from school and we prayer walked the area. The response was positive and shortly after we started the first session. The team gathered and set the room up. We waited, but no one turned up. We repeated this for another three weeks, each week talking to families as they walked home, but still no one showed up. In a fast world, we want fast results, instant success and a straight path. Unfortunately, ministry is rarely that straightforward. We continued to prayer walk the area whilst

The boys were very enthusiastic about the club, one of the boys returned home to get something, before coming back for the session. He told us that he had shared about the club with some people from his school who were outside his house. Having been questioned by them as to why he would want to attend the club, he responded with the words 'It's brilliant, they have games, toast and everything!'

From that first week, we haven't looked back. Three turned into five, which turned into seven and then nine. Each week they bring a different friend. So far, we have seen ten different young people, with a good regular core group of seven. One parent came to collect their young person, and she told us that her daughter had been desperate to come for weeks.

Please pray for the young people who have started to attend this group, that we will build meaningful relationships and be able to share Jesus with them. Please also pray for the church at Leckhampton Baptist Church as they take this brave step of starting a youth ministry from scratch.

Eyes down

Our Bingo Night is back by popular demand! Following the success of our first Bingo night in February, we are back for another night of fun, laughter and ridiculous bingo calls.

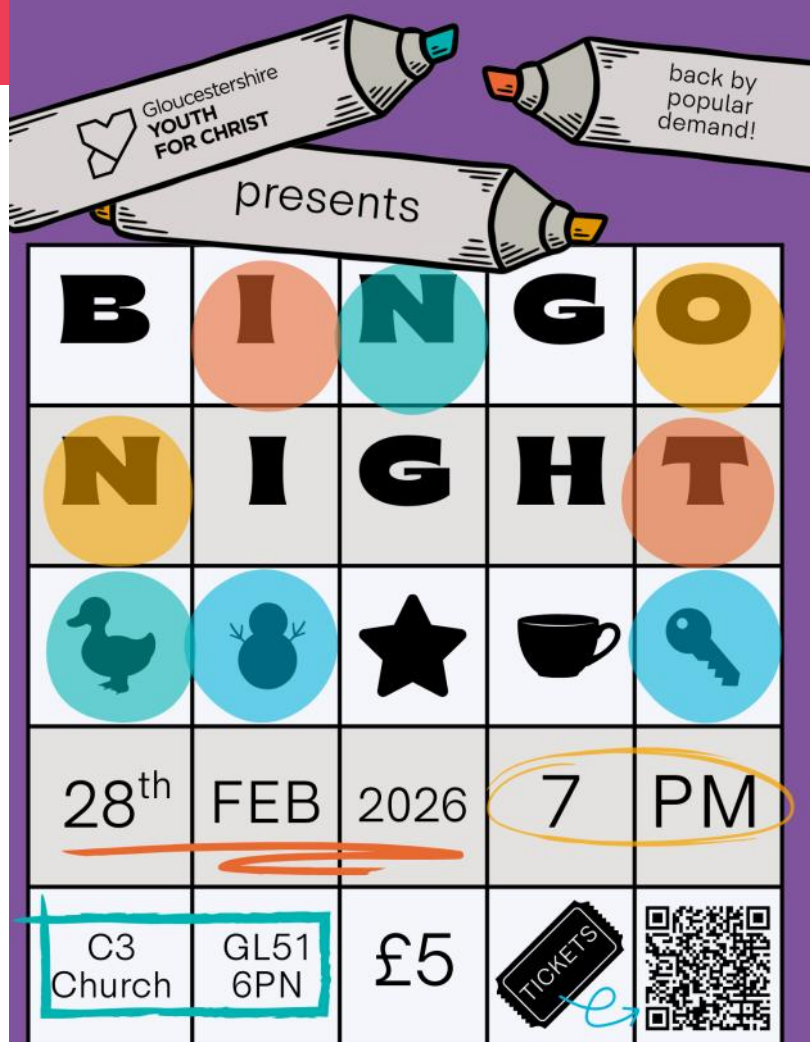
On the 28th February we will be returning to the Pavillion. Tickets are only £5 for the evening, which includes all the games for the evening.

Whether you are a regular dabber, or have never played before, come and join us for a fun night out which will support us in seeing young people's lives changed by Jesus.

To book tickets, visit:

<https://buytickets.at/youthforchristgloucestershire/1975801>

or scan the QR code in the picture.



Sticky worship

Across the course of a year, we lead around 40 collective worship sessions in primary schools. One of the schools we visit is St. Mark's Junior School. The Head Teacher was doing some student feedback session at the start of the term. As part of this she asked about our involvement in Collective Worship. She emailed us to tell us what they said. "I asked them about Matt and Paul from Youth for Christ who led today's act of worship. They got very excited and said that every two weeks they had a different challenge from them. They said they learned games and also that important things from the Bible were discussed. "But he doesn't just read long paragraphs and get you bored, he makes them into games and the meaning sticks," said one year 5. "It makes us realise that we can all learn stuff from the Bible"

We couldn't have asked for better feedback! We always aim to make our Collective Worship sessions fun and memorable. It helps when we have school staff who are willing to add to the fun by joining in silly challenges, just like Mrs Welch in the photo who got involved in our final Christmas Collective Worship session of the term.



THE TERM IN NUMBERS

12289

During the 2024/5 academic year, we had 12289 interactions with young people. These included clubs, collective worship, lessons, events, University CUs, lessons and residential.

3437

In the last academic year, we worked with 3437 different young people. Your support made this possible.

421

Thanks to the amazing support of the people who attended the quiz, we raised £421.

55

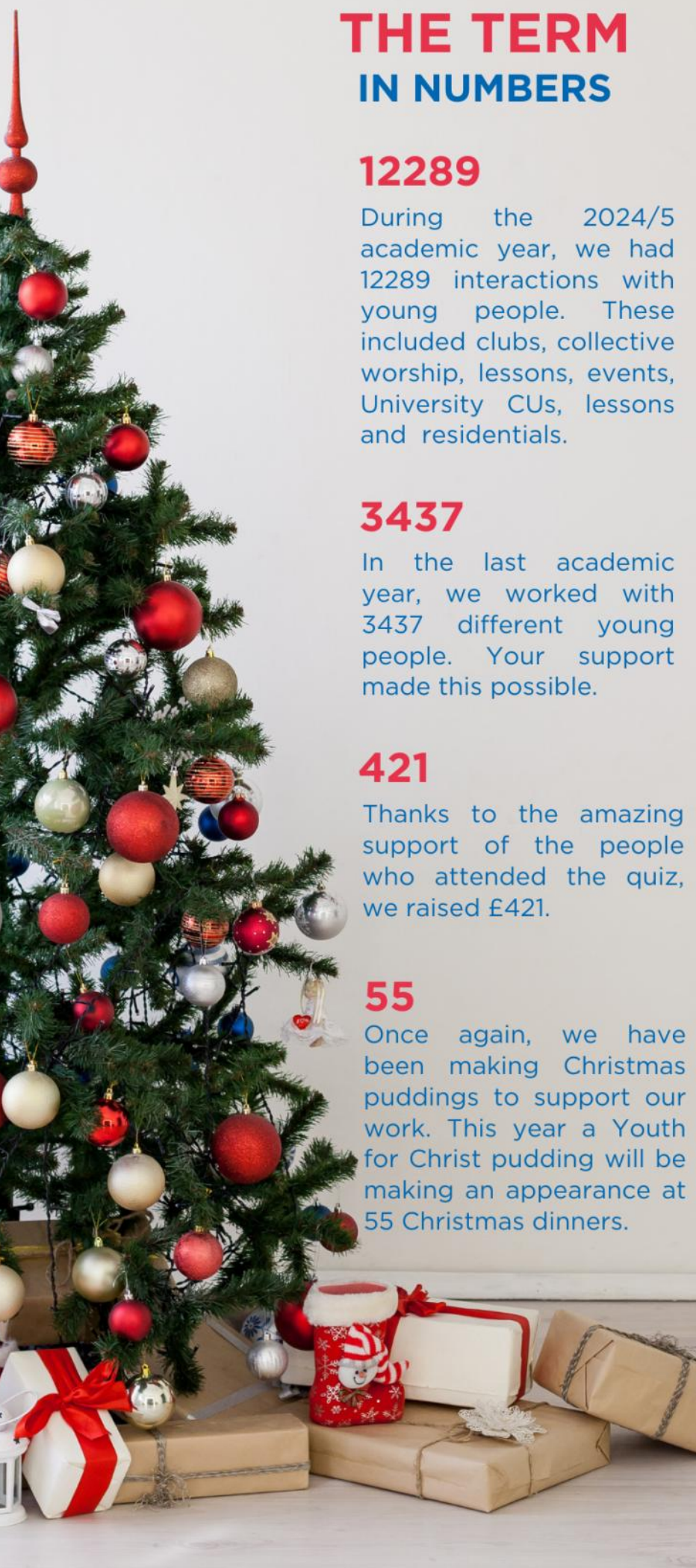
Once again, we have been making Christmas puddings to support our work. This year a Youth for Christ pudding will be making an appearance at 55 Christmas dinners.

Over the last few months, we have been working with Kendal Road Baptist in Gloucester, assisting with the leading of their Youth Alpha course and providing occasional support to their Friday night youth group. Twelve young people attended the Youth Alpha course, with two of them becoming Christians during the course. The young people have been encouraged to let us know if they didn't have a Bible, and a few weeks ago, one of the boys was given one of our Youth Bibles. His Mum told us the following story:

"He is not a big reader as he is always out playing sport, particularly football, but having been given one of the Youth Bibles, I noticed it was left downstairs, and I asked him to take it and put it in his bedroom. He said he wanted it left downstairs because he wanted to read it each morning before school and seeing it downstairs would help him achieve this. He has been reading it every day since, and I know this because the bookmark that is in it keeps moving!"

It was great to hear how one of the young people from the Youth Alpha course was engaging with their Bible on a daily basis.

Over the last twelve months, we have supplied over 260 Bibles that have gone out to young people, either directly from us, or via a local church. We supply them at the lowest price possible to ensure that churches can afford them, and are able to supply them to young people they have contact with.



BarnFest 2025

In 2023, Counties Connect started a festival with a desire to celebrate all the good things that God was doing in people's lives. Two years later, the festival is growing and they asked us to join them and run some activities for young people. So, at the start of July, we headed out to a farm just outside of Newent to run a youth programme on the Saturday activities.

Matt and Sarah, along with a team of volunteers, had a blast with around 30 young people from churches across the county! As the theme of the weekend was

'Encounter Jesus', we explored four stories of individuals who met Jesus in the Gospels, through stations around the marquee. We also played games, prayed together, and enjoyed some donuts!

It was fantastic to be involved in such an exciting event and we congratulate Counties Connect for organising all aspects (including the delicious BBQ!!) Next Summer, we will be returning to BarnFest, where we will run the Youth programme for the whole weekend.

Thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us this year.

If you have supported us financially, thank you, we couldn't do it without you. As a result of your support, we have had over 1000 contacts with young people each month.

If you have prayed, thank you, we have seen the answers to your prayers.

If you have encouraged us, thank you, it is very welcome.



An International Flavour

By this point in the year, we had expected to have had an additional two team members. Two young people from Brazil were looking to do a gap year with us. Unfortunately, the visa application process has taken much longer than we had hoped. As a result, one of them has had to pull out, but we hope that the other young person will be with us by the end of January. Laura has grown up surrounded by Youth for Christ as her parents are staff members. She will stay with us until December, before returning to Brazil for University. Please do pray for the Laura as the final stage of the visa process goes through.

We are still looking for accommodation for Laura, if you would like to find out what is involved in hosting a gap year student, please contact Paul at paul@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk. He will be able to explain what is involved.

Many people who host a gap year volunteer build a strong relationship with them that often lasts for many years.

Laura is 18 and speaks English as an additional language.

We are finalising which church Laura will be based in, and if you would like to be considered, please also contact Paul.

Book a speaker

Would you like a member of the team to visit your group? Do you need to book a speaker? Would you like someone to come and share some stories about young people's lives being changed?

Whether it is a small group, a ladies fellowship, a men's breakfast or a church visit, a member of the team will be more than happy to join you. Whether there are a handful of you or a large crowd, we would love to meet with

We can come to a Sunday service and do a presentation, lead a family service or preach.

If you have an evangelistic or youth event, we can provide a speaker.

We always like to get out and meet people, whether it be talking about what God is doing amongst young people or sharing the amazing news of Jesus, we would be happy to be there. To book a speaker, please email office@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk



Hand Crafted

Recently, we have had many people tell us they assumed we bought our reed diffusers premade as they look the same as ones you would buy in shops. People had not realised we make them by hand. The team mix the base oil with the fragrance oil, fill the bottles, print the labels and box them up. When you buy a reed diffuser from us, you get them at half the price most retailers charge for the same oils, but the profits support our mission. They make an ideal Christmas present, but they are also available all year round. If you are quick, you can get some last minute presents from us that are certain to please. Look out in the new year for some special edition fragrances, alongside the regular favourites.

The diffusers cost £12 each, or £11 each if you buy more than one. If you return the bottle to us, we can supply you a refilled bottle and new reed for only £8.

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Bring us your old diffuser bottle and we will replace it with a new full bottle and a set of reeds.

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I would like to become a Youth for Christ Gloucestershire partner.

Title: Full Name:

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Are you involved in youth work?

Communication Preferences

I would like to receive from Youth for Christ Gloucestershire newsletters and information on events and fundraising activities/ appeals. I am happy to receive communication via (please tick all that apply)

☐ Post ☐ SMS/text message ☐ Email

I enclose a cheque made payable to YFC Gloucestershire for £_____

Gift Aid declaration

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by Youth for Christ Gloucestershire from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current tax payer. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the appropriate box below.

☐ I want to Gift aid my donation of £_____ to Youth for Christ Gloucestershire

☐ 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 Youth for Christ Gloucestershire

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

Signed Date

Please notify us if you: 1. Want to cancel this declaration. 2. Change your name or home address. 3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Youth for Christ Gloucestershire Standing Order Authority

Your Bank Name and address

Account No: Bank Sort Code:

Please pay: Youth for Christ Gloucestershire. Account no: 00028687 Sort code: 40-52-40

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent. ME19 4JQ

The sum of £ on the and thereafter from my account

monthly / quarterly / annually (delete as applicable) until further notice. This instruction cancels all previous instructions for standing order payments to Youth for Christ Gloucestershire.

Signed Date

Please return to: Youth for Christ Gloucestershire, c/o Leckhampton Baptist Church, Pilley Lane, Cheltenham, GLOS. GL53 9EP Charity no. 1163587

We only use your data in connection with our work and will only use it in ways you request. To read our privacy policy and find out how we use your data please visit www.yfcgloucestershire.co.uk/_tos.html

Events Diary

Every Monday morning at 9.00am we gather for our prayer meetings. All are welcome to come and join the team to pray for our work. The prayer meeting is available on Zoom, if you would like to join us, please email office@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk for the Zoom codes.

The following are a few dates for this term. Please do pray for these events.

January

6-8th Youth for Christ Conference
11th Paul speaking at Highworth URC
12th Youth Workers Prayer
13th Youth Unite Gloucester
18th Leading Street Pastor Training in Gloucester

13-15th The Big Weekender
28th Bingo Night

March

9th Youth Workers Prayer
10th Youth Unite Gloucester
20th Big Bash Gloucester

February

8th Paul preaching at Hesters Way Baptist
9th Youth workers Prayer
10th Youth Unite Gloucester

Donate by text

Text YOUTH followed by your donation amount to 70490 to give that amount. E.g. YOUTH20 to donate £20
Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message.



How to get in touch

Feel free to get in touch with us. We love hearing from our supporters. It is always worth checking we are in the office before popping round as we are frequently out working with young people.

For general enquiries, please email office@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk

We can also be messaged via our social media accounts.

To contact a staff member directly, please use the details to the right.



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