



Update

September 2024

New Home

In May, we moved office across town to Leckhampton. After seven great years with Cheltenham Elim, it was time to move to pastures new. We have loved our time at Elim, and are incredibly grateful for the support and friendship we have shared during our time there. Whilst moving on is always tinged with sadness, our reasons for moving are very positive. For a number of years, we have talked about the potential of having an office based in a church who we can support to develop youth work. Earlier this year, an opportunity arose with Leckhampton Baptist Church. They had a suitable space for an office, and after a number of years of successful youth ministry, they found themselves in a place where it had come to an end. Their heart for young people is still there, but, like many churches, they need support. As an organisation, we have frequently shared how over 80% of churches have less than four young people in the church. Leckhampton are part of this 80%, and we want to work with them to

change the narrative. One of the main reasons churches don't engage with young people, is they don't feel equipped to do so. Working with the church, we can support them and give them the skills.

We instantly developed a good rapport with the church, and were able to move in fairly quickly, as much as moving is ever quick! The move went incredibly smoothly thanks to an able and willing team. We were up and running within 24 hours.



Movers-R-Us: Our fantastic removal team.

Our heart is to be a blessing to the church, and over the summer, some of our young leaders came to help paint the fences at the front of the church and clean the paving stones. This also gave our young leaders a service opportunity during their summer break.

We are also talking with the church about potential opportunities to develop youth ministry once again. We have been awarded a grant from the Spring Harvest Seed Fund to enable us to recruit someone to provide additional hours to help develop youth work with the church. Over the summer, we have been praying that



The Underground summer service project

God would reveal opportunities to us. During this time, we have been approached by another organisation about developing some specific youth

work which could be based in Leckhampton. We have also had some encounters with young people, with one young person keen to join a youth club when it is set up. It is early days, but we are excited about the possibilities.

This is just one example of how we are working to support local churches develop their youth work. We are currently recruiting for a joint worker with Hillview Church in Brockworth, and we have been providing youth work at St. Catharine's Church in Gloucester and will support their new youth work over the next term. We are also working with a couple of other churches to support them as they seek to develop a missional aspect to their youth work. Alongside all of this we are continuing to resource churches through events such as The Big Bash, the Break Away residential, through the Youth for Christ resources, networking meetings for youth workers and much more.



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 Hillview 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.

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 someone with a passion for Jesus, a heart for young people and a desire to see their lives changed by Jesus.

Salary: £24-27000 per annum, depending on experience and qualifications.

For more information contact: Paul Bennett 07855 408068 or office@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk

Closing Date: Sunday 10th November

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.



The Anniversary Challenges

A huge thank you to everyone who has undertaken one or more of our 50th Anniversary challenges. We have completed four of our five challenges. Fifteen people walked from Tewkesbury to Gloucester, ten people attempted the 100 mile cycle challenge, three people ran the Cheltenham Half Marathon, and five people walked the 24 miles of the Glevum Way around Gloucester. So far the team have raised over £10,000, with the total still growing. With one event remaining, we hope that our final total will get to £12,500.

Our final challenge is to row 197.4km (1974 was the year we started). We will be doing this on two rowing machines in the office on Friday 18th October. The team are preparing to row a good distance each, but we are looking for other people to join us and share the load. We will start at 7am, for anyone who wants to get a session in before work, and hope to finish by midnight. We are breaking the day up into 15 minute segments and would like people to sign up for a segment. If each person



A very wet group of walkers after the Tewkesbury to Gloucester walk.

rowing raises at least £30, we will be well on our way to our target.

Would you be willing to give up 15 minutes of time to help us achieve the hardest challenge of them all? We have an online booking system for you to choose your slot. You don't need to be an expert rower, just willing to take a turn and help us reduce the total by a couple of kilometres.

To register for the Big Row, please click on the QR code, or look for details on our website.



The cyclists after riding 100 miles.



Farewell



In January, Robyn joined us on a seven month internship. Those months have flown by, and with the arrival of the summer holidays, it was time to wish Robyn farewell. It has been great to have her on team

and she will be missed. Before she finished, we asked her to reflect on her time as part of the team.

“I came to Youth for Christ with the vision to share Jesus with young people in schools, particularly in assemblies, and I am pleased to say that I have done that... and so much more! When I look back at my time on the team, I am in awe of the richness and variety of experiences that I have had!

It's hard to pick out highlights because whilst I have absolutely loved some of the bigger events, particularly the Big Weekend Away. I have also really learnt the value of building relationships with young people through regular youth groups and watching them open up about

where they are at with Jesus.

I now have an appreciation for all the organising and odd jobs that go on behind the scenes in order to reach out to young people the way that we do, which has been both humbling and rewarding. I am grateful for being given so many opportunities to grow in confidence – whether it be speaking at the front or sharing in prayer and in small groups.

I will fondly remember big outdoor games, joining in with unpredictable ideas of fun and most of all, exciting conversations about Jesus.

Before I started I knew that I loved young people, but now I love them even more. Please be praying for this generation because I believe that they are hungry for the gospel in a way like never before.”

Thank you Robyn for your input over the past few terms.

It is not just Robyn who moved on this summer. After a number of years as a Trustee, Steph Rollinson has decided the time has come to step back. It has been great having Steph serve as a trustee, and we are very grateful for all she has contributed. We wish her well as she focuses on new things, particularly the youth work in her church.

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- For our recruitment of a new worker. Pray that God will bring the right person to the team.
- Our ongoing schools work, and conversations with schools as we look to expand it further.
- For the team as they visit multiple churches this term.
- For our young leaders group as they lead the service at Leckhampton Baptist Church in October.
- For wisdom as we establish youth work based at Leckhampton Baptist Church.
- For the Big Bash in December, that young people will encounter Jesus.

How many days till Christmas?

Christmas music might not be allowed in the office for a few months, but Christmas preparation has already started! Once again, we will be supplying our homemade Christmas puddings to support our work. The puddings get rave reviews, with some people saying they are “the best pudding the have ever tasted” and another “they are better than M&S puddings”. Who are



we to argue!! Our first request for orders normally arrives in January, but we don't take orders until September. Why so early? Because if we don't start cooking then, we won't be able to fulfil the 100 plus orders!

All the puddings are nut free, but we can also make them gluten or lactose free. The puddings come in three sizes, and are nicely boxed and therefore suitable for a gift.

To order your pudding, click on the QR code below or visit:

www.yfcgloucestershire.co.uk/christmas-puddings.html



Big Summer Bash

Despite a day of constant rain, the sun shone brightly as our latest Big Bash event kicked off! Coupled with England's quarter-final match in the Euro Championships we once again worked alongside several churches in Gloucester to provide an evening of fun and enjoyment aimed at encouraging young people to invite friends to hear about Jesus.

One hundred young people were present and fourteen churches from across Gloucestershire were represented. As well as the football the young people enjoyed a short talk from Matt, a BBQ and Ice Cream factory and a silent disco. As penalties in the football fast approached the atmosphere became increasingly tense but the young people's enjoyment remained.

The feedback we received throughout the evening from both young people and youth leaders was extremely positive.

We saw young people happy to see people from their school that they were not aware would attend an event such as the 'Big Bash'. One young person spoke to us about how she had invited a friend



along and that this friend is now keen to explore what being a Christian is all about.

This was the third event we have helped organise in Gloucester since December last year and it is exciting to hear the buzz of excitement from young people in the area when they hear that a 'Big Bash' is taking place.

Our next 'Big Bash' event will be on Friday 13th December.

A term in Schools



Collective Worship

During the summer term, we led collective worship at St Mark's Junior School, Christ Church Primary and Shurdington Primary. As always, these have been characterised by a lot of laughter, most of the time caused by pupil and (sometimes reluctant) teacher participation – and occasionally caused by some incredible acting by the team! We have shared simple biblical truths with random demonstrations including eating mousse, a toothpaste race, science experiments, a pied face and many more. During the autumn term, we will be leading around 20 collective worship sessions.

Faithfuel

With the arrival of Alice as the Ministry Assistant at St. Luke's Church, we have taken a more back seat at the Faithfuel lunchtime club at St. John's Primary. We are continuing to provide support, rather than running the sessions. Lots of young people have joined the club throughout

this term, and it has been great to see how they each approach the activities and questions in different ways – from always including their dogs in their prayer response, to rational evaluation of the Bible, managing to always respond with some sort of excited dance move, to very deep questions. They keep us on our toes!

Transition Lessons

During the Summer term, we led transition lessons for Year 6 students moving up to secondary school. The lessons include tips for settling in to a new school, how to choose and make friends wisely, how to tie the knot in a school tie and who we can turn to for help. Students are given the opportunity to share about their fears and excitement about going to a new school. The team shared about how they all deal with challenges they face and give testimony of how Jesus has supported them through challenging times.



Bournside Christian Union

In the Spring term, twelve young people from the Bournside Christian Union made the decision to follow Jesus. This term we have helped them on their faith journey by introducing them to how to pray, listen to God's voice and read the Bible; something that they feel comfortable doing in their own time. They have each been given a copy of 'We Are Satellites' book to read during the summer. It has been particularly incredible to see how a young girl, not from a Christian home but brought along by her friend, has gone from being on the outside of discussions, to making a decision to follow Jesus, downloading the Bible app on her phone and now having the confidence to really participate in bible studies.

Basketball and Jesus

On a sunny day in June, the team arrived at Alderman Knight School for a full day of PE lessons. The lessons were part of a Religion and World Views activity day.

Three classes each had a double lesson slot where they progressed from learning basic basketball skills (the different types of passes, dribbling skills and practising shooting) to a game in two teams. It was

great to see some of the young people who hadn't done much basketball before get involved and grow in confidence, as well as some of the more experienced ones helping the others out and giving them a chance to do well.

We shared the account from the Bible of Peter walking on water to come to Jesus, explaining how we, like Peter, we can ask Jesus to help us when we are struggling. He also linked this to their school values of courage. Who knew that basketball and trusting Jesus go hand in hand?!



Could you be the answer?

We are currently looking for a number of new trustees. Our trustees play a key role in working with the team to ensure we fulfil our mission of seeing young people's lives changed by Jesus. If you have a heart for this mission, we can use your skills. The trustees meet about ten times a year, with some responsibilities in between meetings. You may have experience of governance in a different context, or no experience whatsoever. We will be able to support you in your role to ensure your skills are used to support the organisation.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul.

**Is this
your
chair?**

TRUSTEES WANTED

Could you make a difference
in young people's lives by
serving as a trustee?



JOIN THE TEAM

Break Away



Break Away 2025



Break Away is back in February 2025.

February 2025 may seem a fair while away, but bookings for our Break Away residential is now open.

Break Away is a fun weekend away for 11-18 year olds (school years 7-13) and their youth leaders from churches across Gloucestershire to explore faith and build community. This years residential will take place from 14th-16th February 2025.

The weekend will include playing games, (they might get messy), engaging worship, asking big questions, sports, delving into the Bible and taking part in a variety of other fun activities together. Weather permitting, we might have a campfire. The weekend is aimed at anyone who wants to grow in their faith or learn more about life's big questions.

Last year, we kicked off the weekend with Jon Jackal, and we are already planning our surprise "Big Event" for our next Break Away. Archery will be back for 2025, along

with a whole host of other activities.

You will get to know others in your youth group and meet groups from churches across the region. You might meet people from school whom you didn't know went to church. You might make new friends. The team at Youth for Christ know the challenge of being a young person trying to explore faith and serve Jesus. While following Jesus can be challenging, we also believe it can be fun and exciting.

We will be returning to The Poplars near Ledbury. The Poplars has en-suite bedrooms. No wet tents and cold muddy showers here!

Anyone between the ages of 11-18 year (school years 7-13) can come as part of a youth group with their youth leaders. If you have no youth group to come with, you can come without a leader but we would ask for an email to be sent to office@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk to ensure





we have adequate leaders to support you.

The first four bookings were placed within 48 hours of the opening of the booking page, and interest is already hotting up. The residential normally sells out, so we always advise early booking. Not only do you guarantee your place, but you can also take advantage of the early bird price until 31st October. We have had to increase

prices slightly this year. The early bird price for young people and leaders is £95, but this raises to £110 after this date. We have been working hard to create a system to allow for payments in instalments. For early bird payments, you will be able to spread the payments across three months. After the early bird deadline, payments will need to be made across two months.

Where finance is a real challenge for you, we would request you contact us in confidence, to discuss how we can help. We would not want a young person to miss out due to finance. We can work with you to see how this can be overcome.

Book with the QR code or at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/youth-for-christ-gloucestershire>



Exploring work

We sometimes get asked if students can join us for a week of work experience. This is an opportunity for a young person to spend a week with us, exploring what working life is like, whilst giving them opportunities to try out new skills. This year, we were joined by Daniel. We asked him to write about his time with us.

"In January, my school told me and my friends that all students in Year 10 would be doing work experience for a week during July. This was something that I was quite unsure about since I didn't know what it would be like and I didn't know what to expect. Youth for Christ agreed for me to join them for the week. This turned out to be a fun and insightful week.

During the week, we went to three primary schools including Shurdington. There I was involved in helping Year 6 children prepare for Year 7, by teaching them what not to

do and how to treat others. I helped the Year 6s learn to tie a tie, one student made the tie too tight she couldn't take it off!

I also designed postcards to give to churches to help the young people grow their faith. Other tasks I completed included sorting items in the office and IT. I also chose the pictures for the Year 6 lesson to help them understand what they were being taught.

My work experience with Youth for Christ has been worthwhile, I have a better understanding of having a job and having responsibilities. And I'm really impressed by the work of Youth for Christ and their heart for working with children and young people."

Daniel, Year 10.

If you know a young person who would be interested in doing some work experience with us, please get in touch.

Situations Vacant

In the last edition of Update, we talked about developing a shared youth work role with Hillview Church. During the summer term, we advertised for the role but were unsuccessful. Recruiting Youth Workers at the moment is incredibly difficult; it is seen as one of the hardest positions to fill in Christian Ministry. Our second round of recruitment has just started. We would value prayer support for this recruitment, that we will find a suitable candidate.

The advertisement is in this edition of Update, online and on our socials. Please do share the advert around your circles.

Holiday Food

Once again, we joined Family Space, to provide Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) in Hesters Way during the Summer Holiday. For the first time in four years, we were affected by the weather. Twice we were forced to relocate from King George V play fields to the Oasis Centre to avoid heavy rain. Despite these more challenging weeks, we still provided sports, craft and food to a good number of families. During the four sessions, 300-400 meals were provided to families entitled to free school meals. We even managed to run our very own HAF Olympics for the families to join in with.

The HAF sessions are an excellent opportunities to interact with young people as well as their parents. Every year, we also encounter parents whom we have previously worked with when they were young people involved in our schools' work. It is a good opportunity to reconnect with them and once more, input into their lives.

The term in numbers



One member of staff moving on.

300+ Meals Served at HAF



50th



900 miles cycled

Anniversary



361 miles walked

Challenges



40 miles ran

120

Year 6 students who did a Moving to Secondary School lesson



1800 interactions with young people



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

Title: Full Name:

Full home address:

Postcode: Email:

Telephone: Church:

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: The Treasurer, Youth for Christ Gloucestershire, 115 St. George's Road, Cheltenham, GLOS. GL50 3EG 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

Each Monday and Thursday 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, so, if you would like to join us, please email office@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk for the Zoom codes.

The following are a few of our less regular dates for this term. Please do pray for these events.

October

- 6th Paul speaking in Portsmouth
- 13th Matt and Paul at St. Andrew's Churchdown Mission Sunday
- 14th Youth Workers prayer
- 15th Gloucester Youth Workers
- 18th The Big Row
- 20th Underground at Leckhampton Baptist

November

- 9th Quiz Night
- 10th Paul speaking at Hesters Way Baptist
- 11th Youth Workers prayer
- 17th Paul speaking at Charlton Kings Baptist
- 19th Gloucester Youth Workers

December

- 9th Youth Workers prayer
- 13th The Big Bash
- 17th Gloucester Youth Workers

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.



Paul Bennett
Director
paul@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk
07855 408068



Matt Craig
Youth Work Lead
matt@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk
07857 670232



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