

Spring 2019



Swindon
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

Your New Good News Magazine.

Working in Partnership to take the Good News
relevantly to every young person in Swindon.

Kicking faith and sports into touch...

Sports Ministry

“Can you pray for me?”

Every Thursday night we head out to Chiseldon, on the outskirts of Swindon, to run a sports session in the park with young people from the local community. It's always great fun and even in the cold winter months they turn out in force for a game of football, basketball or our latest craze flag football (Basically tag American football). Every week, as we sort teams and organise a game, we also gather to pray. Most of the young people don't go to church and wouldn't even consider themselves Christians but we share with them what we believe and tell them about the power of prayer. It can be a vulnerable time for some people as we share events of the previous week and offer to pray together. This week we discussed the purpose of prayer. During the discussion I had to leave the group to attend to another situation, leaving them to pray by themselves. After they had finished one young person came rushing over to me and said, “Can you pray with me?”. He explained how he hadn't had chance to share his prayer with the group, but a grandparent had died that week and he would really appreciate prayer. It was a really special moment as someone, who seems from the outside a long way from God, recognises the value and power of prayer and how much we care. This, I believe, is just the start of a journey and we will continue to pray that these opportunities will grow into something much bigger.

Want to give directly to the work of the sports ministry?

Contact Naomi (office@syfc.org.uk) at the office to hear about how your support can make a difference in communicating the gospel to those on the sports field.





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Sat 6th - Sun 7th July

K.O. @ 9:30am

24hr charity 5-a-side football match

The Game Is On

Pay to Play

Get Sponsored to Play

Sponsor a Team

For more info visit

swindon.yfc.co.uk/events

“Jesus can find us too!”

The reality of working with young people on the streets.

Gangs from the big town and cities, use policing black spots as hubs to conduct their business. Drugs are readily available, with some as young as 12 getting either drunk, high or both on a daily basis. They hang around the town, often “terrorising” the older, wealthier and middle-class population who are after a peaceful life.

It’s in this rift that our centre’s youth workers spend their time; informally hanging with those lads that are mostly from the estates, in broken families, and literally skirting the edges of life. One of these guys is called Jack*.

When Jack was 12 his dad announced he was leaving him and his Mum to get a new wife and start a new life in the Philippines.

Devastated, Jack was left with a barely coping Mum who was unable to understand and look after her emotionally damaged son. Jack quickly started using drugs and alcohol to dull the pain and deal with his broken world. His health deteriorated and he began committing petty theft and dealing to feed his addictions. He became rude and aggressive in school, eventually stopping going altogether and lost any sense of value in himself.

After getting to know Jack, one of our staff, Sam, believed for a different future for him. With Mum’s permission the team would arrive at his house each morning to prepare him food, encouraging him to shower, and then walk him to school.

This has continued for the past year.

That 10 minute walk each day was the window through which Sam spoke life into Jack’s heart and mind, building him up and telling him about Jesus.

Sam recently received delivery of the new Youth for Christ Good News Youth Bibles and he gave one to Jack on a morning when he refused to go to school (because it was a non-uniform day, but that's another story). He finally opened up about the pain of his absent father. That morning they read Luke 15 together - the story of the Prodigal Son. Sam was able to explain that there is no place too far for God to come find you. As Jack processed the story in tears, something shifted in him.

One of Jack's friends was suffering from psychosis, brought on by heavy use of Weed and other party drugs. His home life was also abusive and he'd been taught to defend himself and carry a knife for self-protection. Two weeks before Christmas, Jack's friend got himself into some trouble and crashing emotionally, he'd become depressive and couldn't stop crying. Jack boldly suggested to the team that they should read the Bible to his friend. At 9.30pm, on a bench in the centre of town, with 10-15 lads all shining their mobile lights on Jack's copy of the Bible, Jack himself put his arm around his mate and read from Luke 15. His friend fell to pieces as Jack told him straight "Jesus can find us too!".

Sam is still working with Jack and his friends. He knows the word of God is penetrating his heart and others like him when they are at their lowest. It seems that often the line between life and death is wafer thin. Sam says:

"We mostly have normal days, but there are profound moments, as you realise this soul eternal work, preaching the gospel into lads lives."

Without your support, Jack would not have had that Bible in his hands and Sam could not have been on that bench each week, engaging with the lads off that estate. We are so deeply thankful for your sacrificial giving and ceaseless prayers for Youth for Christ.

Without you, precious moments like these, are not possible.

Would you consider financially helping us to meet this target by committing to give regularly, or through a one-off gift? Your donations would go towards making the impossible real for more lads like Jack as they meet Jesus and have their lives beautifully transformed by His love. Your support will continue to help us grow our centre, expand our outreach and impact our young people.

Would you join us and stand in the gap for a broken generation?

*The Name of this young person has been consoled for protection reasons.

**This story has been taken from YFC's good news magazine.



Schools Work

Unity in Christian Union's.

Last December we started a new Christian Union in Dorcan Academy. At the first meeting we had 5 young people but since then we have had numbers well into the teens each week. All the kids are very excited to learn. They particularly appreciate the opportunity to discuss topics that are a real challenge in their lives such as depression and anxiety. We explore what the Bible has to say on these topics and how we can apply the lessons in today's world. Within the first month we formed strong relationships with many of the kids. The teacher who is our contact person in the academy has been very supportive allowing us to use her classroom to host the meetings. Dorcan Academy has the potential to be one of our largest Christian Unions. In the coming year we ask for your prayers that the group will grow and the young people will be open to hearing the "Good News". God is really moving in the academy and we are excited to see how He works through the Christian Union and Swindon Youth for Christ.

- Nathan Nocar, Swindon Youth for Christ Intern

Reminders in the midst of mentoring.

Since starting at Swindon Youth for Christ in January God has helped me see the incredible possibilities and opportunities available for the different schools around the town and I'm struck by how exciting it is to see God working.

During recent mentoring sessions in local secondary schools I've had the privilege of young teenage girls sharing with me their vulnerabilities and struggles. Over the past six months, changes have been gradual and changes can be slow at times, however in a few particular sessions girls have been able to reflect how their actions and attitudes can alter a situation for the better.

As we continue this type of work with young people, I am constantly reminded of the weighty blessing we have; to have the responsibility to input into the lives of six teenage girls is not something to be taken lightly. But, what an opportunity! To speak into the lives of these young people with positivity and with hope reminds me how patient and loving God is and it excites me that I'm in a position to pass that on to these girls.

As we partner with various churches in this area of mentoring across the town we rest upon the knowledge that His hands are far more capable than our own, and I'm incredibly eager to see how He is going to work in us as an organisation, in local churches as the visible Kingdom of God, and what the outcome of all that work is going to be in the schools around us Swindon!

- Sarah Allen, Lead Secondary Schools Worker

“...we ask for your prayers that the group will grow and the young people will be open to hearing the Good News.”

Refer a friend to *WIN* a Good News Bible.

For every new regular giver who you refer, both you AND the individual will receive a good news bible to give away to a young person.*



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*Simply have the individual mention you with your contact details when they make out the donation and we'll make sure your bible gets out to you.. Each new giver will need to commit to giving £10 or more for at least 12 months to qualify

In's and Out's... Team News

Life on the staff team is never a dull moment and when you live life in faith it also means that God can call people on at any time.

Welcome...

We welcome Sarah Allen (secondary Schools worker) and Naomi Ackland (Office Co-ordinator) into the Swindon Youth for Christ family. Check out what they have to say below.

Sarah Allen

Secondary Schools Worker

Being a home-schooled, Christian, there's been so many factors in God leading me to this point in my life at 27 years old. I am able to say confidently that through every challenge and triumph that His faithfulness is great!

It would be hard for me to pinpoint a moment I knew I became a Christian, but as a 7 or 8yr old I was aware there was 'more', and the blessing of being in a good church and strong godly parents meant my questions were answered and all of them pointed towards Jesus. Every step after that has been a journey of firstly understanding God better, and then having life and myself understood through that.

Very excitingly, the start of my role in January has brought with it a passion and hope to see the culture of our local secondary schools impacted by the hope and joy that knowing Jesus brings, and to see churches getting involved in the mission field right on the doorstep. In such a dark and difficult place that school can be for our young people, to simply shed some light by our presence and taking every opportunity to share His love will open doors for the work of the Holy Spirit to turn many souls to a saving relationship with their creator.



Naomi Ackland

Office Co-ordinator

My name is Naomi and I am thrilled to be taking on the role of office coordinator for Swindon Youth for Christ. I have had a number of administrative and managerial roles over the years, including working as a secretary and P.A. to the director of an International Christian Charity. I am Mum to a very lively, cheeky six-year-old boy who absolutely loves going on adventures. I enjoy anything creative, whether that's sewing, painting or graphic design, I love it all!

I am enjoying being a part of this amazing team. I am excited to see the things that God is doing through Youth for Christ and feel blessed to be a part of it.



Do you want to join the team? Head over to
swindon.yfc.co.uk
for news of how to become part of the family.

Get stuck in... Opportunities

Are you a youth or children's worker?—volunteer or employed?—Then why not check out "The Hub". Swindon YFC and SWYM (South West Youth Ministry) have teamed up to gather like-minded individuals for faith building, encouragement, resourcing, coffee and banter. Check our website for more details. Swindon.yfc.co.uk

The Hub
Children's and Youth Leaders gathering

TIME: 7:30pm - 9pm - Refreshment's on arrival
DATE: 13/5/19
VENUE: St. Paul's Dorcan, Covingham, SN3 5BY

Bring your best resource that you use in your setting...AND...something that others may like to get involved with.

An opportunity for leaders who work with under 18's to worship, pray, support and meet other like minded individuals whether employed or volunteering. For more information, contact Kath Smith on kathsmith@swym.org.uk

 **SWYM**
south west youth ministry
 **Swindon YOUTH FOR CHRIST**

Do you know anyone who is footy mad? Would like to come on a football and faith residential between 29th and 31st May? Then look no further! Come speak to us to hear about how you can get yourself onto a camp that will allow you to "Reach the goal" every time. Check our website for more details: swindon.yfc.co.uk



Ever wondered what it would be like to serve as a trustee? Well if you have the ability to think visionary, think outside the box, problem solve or simply point out the practicalities of governance—then we could do with your help. Contact the office on office@syfc.org.uk or 01793 977676 for more information



Dates for the Diary

10th May: Synergy

13th May: The Hub—Youth and Children's gathering

29th—31st May: LIVE football

29th—30th June: SPREE

6th—7th July: 24hr football match—FUNDRAISER

12th July: Synergy

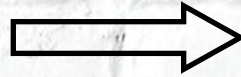
15th July: The Hub—Youth and Children's gathering

For any information on any of the above, please contact the office on office@syfc.org.uk or 01793 9776763

Partnership with your church...



Swindon
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**



Insert your
church
name here

Working in partnership to take the good news relevantly to every young person in Swindon.

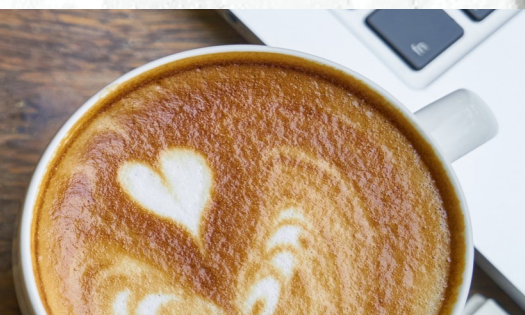
So we've been working hard, partnering with various churches or organisations throughout Swindon. Here's a list of churches and projects that we've been able to support to help make a difference in someway since the beginning of Jan 2019:

Gateway—Mentoring and Assemblies at Dorcan Academy, Shine Pinehurst—Friday football, St. Paul's Covingham—Faith room in Dorcan Academy, Highworth Methodist Church—Men's Breakfast and Summer Sports Camps, Discovery Church—Buckhurst Sports session and Faith room at Lawn Manor Academy, JD church—Buckhurst Sports session, Pattern Church—Potential mentoring in High Schools, Cornerstone—CAP Course in Great Western Academy, Maranatha Christian School—Assemblies, Gorse Hill Baptist—Using rooms within the church, St. Michael's Highworth—The Hub, Freshbrook—Faith Room at Lydiard Park Academy and relationships lessons, SWYM—Training provision and Creating "The Hub", Swindon Community Church—Speaking at the church, The Bristol Diocese—to provide a sports ministry seminar at their inspire conference and Dave being on the advisory group for churches interested in getting involved with schools work, Wiltshire Youth for Christ—sharing provision, St. John's Parks and Walcot—exploring youth work provision and being based there, The Deanery School—fundraising events and Synergy location, The Stowe—Monday night football in Wichelstowe, Shrivenham Methodist Church—advice for youth and children's provision, Royal Wootton Bassett Methodist—faith room advice and provision in Bradon Forest. Synergy—25+ churches across Swindon through GN4S (Good News for Swindon)

If you want to hear more about the work taking place, head over to the website or our social media.

swindon.yfc.co.uk

@swindonyfc



Become part of something greater

Keep in touch,
receive,
and give.



Yes I would like to be kept informed about the following fantastic work of Swindon Youth for Christ.

Termly Newsletter ☐

Monthly E-News ☐

Prayer Diary ☐

Name : _____

Address : _____

Email Address : _____

Phone Number : _____

Church Attended : _____

Donations:

Amount that you would like to donate: _____

Monthly ☐

One-off donation ☐

☐ Are you a tax payer? Please tick if you would be happy for us to claim gift aid on your donation. This will be at no extra cost to yourself.

Bank Address: _____

Sort Code: _____ Account Number: _____

Printed: _____

Signed: _____

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO: SYFC, PO Box 2352, Swindon, Wilts, SN2 1WE. THANKYOU.

We're all about seeing
young people's lives
changed by Jesus.



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