



Gloucestershire
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

Update

May 2022

Break Away 2022

In February 2020, we held our first annual residential weekend. We weren't expecting to wait two years for our next one! The delay may have been frustrating, but it was worth the wait. Almost exactly two years after our first Break Away weekend, we were joined by 31 young people and leaders from seven different churches. One aspect of our weekend is to provide smaller groups the opportunity to attend a weekend that might be difficult to run on their own. It also allows the young people to meet and spend time with young people from other churches.

Our theme this year was World Changers. We wanted to encourage young people to explore the role they can play in changing the world for Jesus. We looked at this through the eyes of different characters from the Bible; Esther, Peter, Joshua and Jesus.



Throughout the weekend, Jessica led worship, but on Saturday night, we were joined by Bean Baker, who led the worship for the evening celebration. During the weekend six young people made a decision to follow Jesus for the first time.

The weekend also featured games sessions, plenty of Uno, and seminars on song writing, evangelism and sport.

We were also keen to make it a great weekend for the youth workers who came with their young people. Upon their arrival, they received a goodie bag with some essential chocolates and sweets. We made a real effort to make their weekend as easy as possible.

This year we used The Poplars, near Ledbury, as a new venue. This worked really well, providing some great space for sessions, as well as a sports hall for games and plenty of outdoor space.



We have already booked the venue for next year (24-26th February 2023) and are looking forward to welcoming the young people from this year, as well as more groups of young people.

What some of the young people said about the weekend

"I really enjoyed coming back to Break Away, because I did the weekend two years ago and it was really fun to come back and remember everything we did before and reconnect with God again. Weekends like this help me look deeper at my relationship with God."

"I really enjoyed getting to know other Christians."

"I liked meeting other people like me and getting to know people in my youth group better. At home, I have so much on; it was



really good to get away and focus on my faith and what I believe."

"My youth group was quite a small group, and other groups were bigger, so it was an opportunity to make more friends. I have learnt that anyone can be a world changer."

"I got to take my faith further and get into the depth of why we should believe in Jesus."

"I was able to take lots more steps with my faith and really enjoyed the sessions."

"I loved the hotdogs!"

"I enjoyed the food!"



"I liked the food. The best bits were the food, songs and staying with friends."

What some of the youth workers said about the weekend

"I just wanted to say a big thank you for making me feel so welcome at the Break Away weekend. I really enjoyed spending time with the young people, meeting other leaders/helpers and building connections between our churches. Thank you for all the coffee, veggie meals and my goodie bag. 😊" *Clare*

“What I liked most about Break Away was the opportunity it gave all the young people to explore in a safe environment



what their faith is and what it could be, learning both from each other and from the leaders. They were able to learn how to conduct themselves in faith, grow in faith, and establish their faith. I think that is one of the hardest things for young people to do, to establish their

faith as their own. I think they had that opportunity at Break Away. I really want to bring the youth group next year.” *Hendrik*

“It was a long time coming, but we were finally able to join the Youth for Christ Gloucestershire weekend away for the second time this February.

Usually, weekends away with a youth group are busy when you are the youth leader in charge. I constantly check if everyone is where they should be, keep an eye on the schedule, and prepare for the next session I am running. But at Breakaway, things are different. I am not there to run, cook, or prep sessions. I get to spend time with my young people without a thousand things going on in the back of my mind. This is what I love about the Youth for Christ weekends away. I get to talk with my young people without the

usual mad rush, and the freedom is what the kids love too. Not only do we all get to play games together, but they also get time to properly build their friendships



and get to know each other, something that has been difficult to do behind masks and with social distancing.

For me, the main takeaway point of the weekend was relationship building. Many of my young people took the time seriously to reflect on their relationship with God; this led to a commitment to Jesus for several of them. They got to spend quality time building their friendships, and I got to spend relaxed time with them, getting to know them better.

My young people enjoyed the sessions but also the free time to roam and explore the place where we stayed. All of them have said they would love to go again next year, and so would I.” *Hanna*





Break Away 2023

Anchored to the Rock

24th-26th February 2023

Register your interest by emailing
office@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk



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Weekend Away Chapter 2

For most people, one residential event a term is enough, but in March, we joined Abbey Church, Gloucester for their church weekend away so we could lead the youth work. Paul and Hanna travelled to Hill House, Somerset and spent the weekend with the church family, and more specifically, the young people.

The church has a fantastic group of young people. We spent the weekend exploring the Kingdom of God and how it impacts our lives. We considered how our lives are changed by Jesus and how this means we live differently. During the weekend, three young people made a decision to follow Jesus.

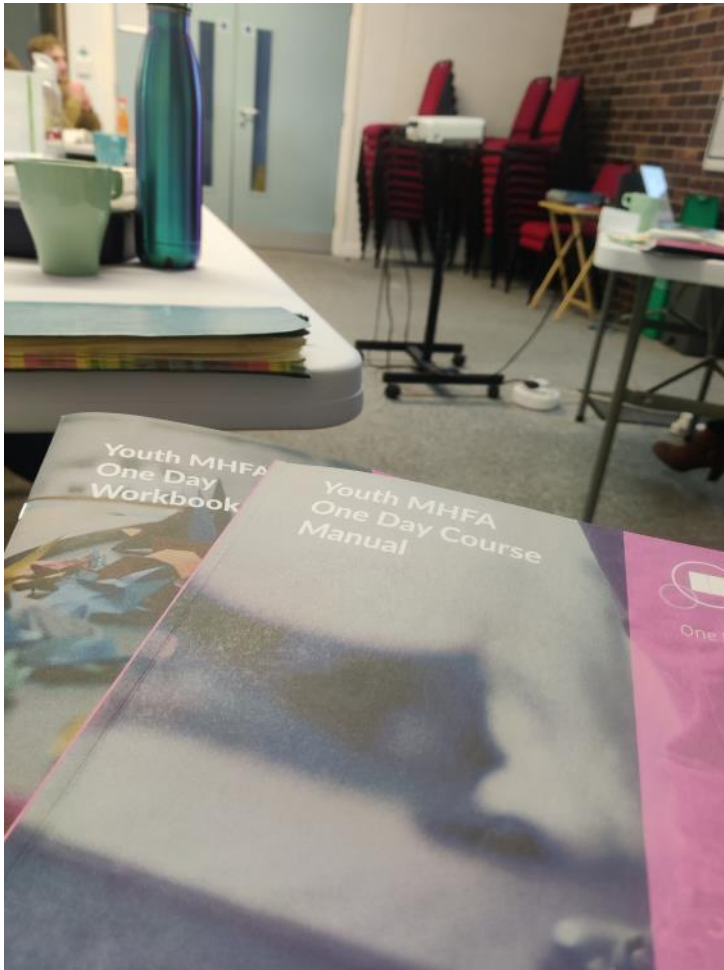
When we spend a weekend with a church, it is always fantastic getting to know the young people, but it is always a great way to get to know the church. Over meal times, we heard fantastic stories from members of the church whose lives had been impacted by the work of Youth for Christ over the years. We were told stories of Youth for Christ rallies in Bristol and choir ministries in Reading. It is always good to hear stories of the past, and it is amazing how often they tie into the future. There has been talk of a centre in Bristol

for many years, but we were unaware of a previous history in the city. The stories of the past were told to us just a few days before Paul travelled to Bristol to meet with a group of leaders who want to set up a Youth for Christ centre in the City. Knowing the history in the city was a great encouragement.

So, we are now two residential weekends down so far in 2022, but we still have one more to go. In June, we run the youth work at the Holy Trinity, Tewkesbury church weekend. This has become a regular bi-annual fixture in the diary, and we will be returning to Cefn Lea as we join the church for the sixth time.

Besides the residentials, we also enjoy getting out and joining together with churches on a Sunday. This term Paul will be spending the morning with St. Barnabas, Cheltenham. We will have the opportunity to share about what God is doing in the lives of the young people we work with. If you would like us to visit your church, small group, ladies fellowship, or any other group, please do get in touch, we would love to join you.

Mental Health Champions



A day rarely goes by without a news headline about the mental health crisis we face amongst young people. The services for young people are stretched beyond capacity. In the mean time, young people continue to live with mental health challenges. In March, we hosted a Mental Health Champions course for those involved in youth work. Sixteen youth leaders from a variety of churches across the county gathered to learn how to support young people with their mental health. We believe it is important to equip as many leaders as possible with the skills to support young people in this key area of life. We are looking to run the training a second time at a later date. If you are interested in receiving details for this training for yourself or your church's youth team, please contact us.

Farewell

At the end of last term, Sam's time with us came to an end. After three and a half years with us, he has taken up a new role elsewhere. Sam was involved in all areas of our work, most notably our school based mentoring. We would like to wish Sam well in his future role.



Praying with iSingPOP

In May, Paul was asked to speak at a prayer day for the staff team at iSingPOP. They are a national ministry based in Tewkesbury. iSingPOP is a singing, performing, and resourcing project that helps children and families engage in Collective Worship in school, church, and at home. They are an amazing ministry making Jesus relevant and interesting to children. Paul was asked to share a word of encouragement with the team. We have numerous links with the team and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to bless them in this way.



Sailing with Jesus

I grew up on the south coast and had the opportunity to learn to sail thanks to the local authority having a few sailing centres. I first went sailing in March, when it was cold and windy. If you learnt to sail in these conditions, the summer was easy. I learnt to struggle against the tides and the wind, looking for the best way to overcome them. Capsizing was always a possibility, but best avoided!

Leading Youth for Christ is not dissimilar. We have navigated the credit crunch in 2008, numerous staff changes, office moves, changes in our work, and of course, a pandemic. In the midst of all of this, we know that we are not alone in our boat, rather, we are accompanied by Jesus, who knows how to calm a storm.

Having faced the recent pandemic, we now have the head winds of a cost of living crisis. As with everyone else, we are seeing the impact of this, both as individuals and as a ministry. We know the near future will be a challenge. We also know that those who support our ministry financially are facing these same challenges. Your support is always appreciated, but we are particularly appreciative at this time. We also know that it is even more important than ever at this time. Last term we saw nine young people choose to follow Jesus. If current forecasts play out as expected, we know that the number of unemployed young people will be even higher than we have sent through the pandemic. Our unemployment project will have greater need. Financial downturns are also known to have a negative impact on the mental health of young people.

We know the needs of young people are great, and the opportunities to share the life changing message of Jesus are also plentiful. As I write this, our staff team is smaller than it has been in many years. We are looking to recruit a replacement for

Sam's role in the very near future. We have also been working on plans to increase the staff team a little. We hope to be in a position to do this very shortly. We are working on this in partnership with a local church. This is an exciting partnership that we know will open many possibilities.

There is no doubt that this expansion will be a challenge for us, but we know it is essential. The challenges facing young people are far greater.

In light of our current circumstances, it seems almost impossible to ask people to support our work. Despite this, I am going to do just that. I would like to ask you to consider supporting our work financially, in order that we can see more young people's lives changed by Jesus. Any gift makes a difference, but a regular monthly gift enables us to plan our work effectively.

When my children were small, they learnt to put aside an amount of their weekly pocket money. Over time this would build up from pennies into pounds and they would give it to a ministry to support their work. Those small gifts were a huge blessing to those who received them. A£3 monthly gift added to other people's gifts, can make a huge difference in the lives of young people.

We know the months ahead are going to be challenging, and at times very difficult. But we also know that our boat is captained by Jesus, and he is a better sailor than me!

Paul



Paul has been our Centre Director since 2001.

72 Smelly feet

What does it smell like when 36 young people take off their shoes? We can tell you that the odour might not be pleasant, but that didn't stop the South Cheltenham and West Cheltenham youth groups having a great time during a combined social event.

At Breakaway 2022, a lot of friendships were formed between the two youth groups. We are involved in both of these groups, and were keen for them to be able to spend time together.

South Cheltenham hired a 45ft inflatable obstacle course and invited West Cheltenham to join them in two hours of madness. The young people raced each other, hung out, played card games, and devoured 13 large pizzas from Dominos.

It was great to see young people realise that the Christian world is bigger than they realised. It has also helped them form deeper connections with people their age who share their faith.



Welcome Aimee

This term, we have been joined by Aimee, an intern at Godfirst Church, Cheltenham. Aimee is in the final term of her placement and joins us for a couple of days a week to get some more experience of youth work. Aimee is from County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Next year, Aimee is starting a theology degree through South West Youth Ministries.

We thought it would be good to find out a little more about her, so we asked her a few questions:

What couldn't you live with out?

My dog, Kassie.

Favourite food?

Spaghetti Carbonara

Have you met anyone famous?

I met James Nesbitt when I was five years old in an ice cream shop. My mum made me have a photo with him.

What are you looking forward to this term?

I am looking forward to learning new skills, seeing how other ministries operate and dig deeper into the Bible, so that I can live it out to the young people I work with.





A visit from afar

In recent years, we have developed a link with the Youth for Christ team in Cyprus. In 2020, we were due to take a team of young people to Cyprus for their summer camp. Unfortunately, the pandemic made this impossible, but we have regularly met together online to pray. In addition, Paul and Loukios, the national director for Cyprus Youth for Christ, talk on a regular basis. In May, Loukios joined us in Gloucestershire for a few days. During his stay he visited youth groups where he was

able to see what we do as well as to share his testimony and experience of living his faith in a different culture. He also had the opportunity to go to see some of the British Youth for Christ staff at the national office. In a short space of time we managed to pack a lot in.

Later this term, another member of the Cyprus team will join us for a week to experience how we do youth work in the UK as well as to receive some training.

Bible giveaway

We regularly visit St. Mark's Junior School to lead assemblies. These visits are based on the school values for the term and reflect on the Christian view point of each of the values.

On a recent visit, we presented them with a copy of the Good News Bible Family Edition. This was recently launched by Youth for Christ and the Bible Society and is excellent to read as a family or in groups in school.





Afternoon Tea

11th June

There are not many things that can beat an afternoon tea on a summer's day. Fresh sandwiches, a selection of handmade cakes, scones and jam with a nice pot of Roddas clotted cream and some good tea or coffee.

In June, we will be holding a Youth for Christ Afternoon Tea, when you can come and sample an excellent cream tea.

Roddas are supporting our event with the donation of clotted cream, and Wilkin and Sons are donating Tiptree Jam.

The afternoon tea will feature a selection



of sandwiches, scones, and a variety of cakes. We can provide vegetarian and gluten free alternatives upon request.

The afternoon tea will be held at The

Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, Cheltenham.

Tickets are available at:
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/
youth-for-christ-
gloucestershire](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/youth-for-christ-gloucestershire)
or by using the QR Code



Price for adults: £12
Children under 14: £8

The event runs from 2-5pm. Different time slots are available upon booking.

Supported by





75 years young

In March, our team went to the 75th anniversary of Youth for Christ. We had a great time

worshipping alongside past and current Youth for Christ volunteers and employees from all over the country.

Speakers included past British Youth for Christ Directors Roy Crowne, Gavin Calver and a video message from Clive Calver. Former National Youth for

Christ Evangelist Eric Delve, also shared about his time with the organisation. The former administrator for the very first



rallies with Billy Graham in Birmingham in the 1940's also joined us for the evening.

Worship was led by ex-Youth for Christ worship leader Graham Kendrick alongside Tim Hughes. It was an excellent evening to look back at the last 75 years of Youth for Christ's ministry and look forward to the next 75 years. The team had a great evening spending time together and finally

connecting in person with other Youth for Christ staff after a long time of holding events online.

Pray through May

Pray through May is Youth for Christ's annual month-long prayer initiative to consciously pray into all areas of a young person's life. At the beginning of the month, the Youth for Christ centres in the South West met up in Taunton to spend time together and pray about issues young people in their areas are facing. Paul and

Hanna enjoyed meeting up with staff, trustees and volunteers of the other centres and the national staff, to discuss the current circumstances affecting young people in their areas. It was a great day of reflection, prayer, encouragement, and challenge.

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

Weekly

Each week at 9.30am Monday and Thursday mornings 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.

May

12th Underground

22nd Paul preaching at St. Barnabas
Cheltenham

12th Paul preaching at C3 Cheltenham

24-26th Running youth for Holy Trinity
Tewkesbury residential

June

9th Underground

11th Afternoon Tea

July

7th Underground

Donate by text

Text YOUTH followed by your donation amount to 70490 to give that amount. E.g. Youth 20 to donate £20

Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text YOUTHNOINFO instead.



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 below:



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