



Norwich Youth for Christ

Annual Review
2002



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Trustees Report

Over the last year the trustees have been delighted with the progress made by NYFC. Our night club work has developed further, with a growing presence in TIME, the main club in the new Riverside development. The work in schools has continued to progress. Our schools worker, Tim Yau, has moved to a post in Cambridge and whilst recruitment is undertaken the gap is giving us the opportunity to review how this vital aspect of our work fits within the context of the overall ministry. Our latest initiative is to offer a new resource to local churches. We are working with geographical "clusters" of churches to provide them with a youth worker, when, on their own they could not justify or afford such a step. This may be ultimately co-ordinated with the schools work to serve whole communities. Training and development opportunities are provided within our Praxis scheme, and the twice monthly "Fridays" meetings enable young people from across the region to gather for worship and teaching.

Richard Child, Margaret Smith, David Adeney - Trustees

Directors Report

As an organisation we are able to do what we do because of others. We have had a staff team of seven, yet the overwhelming majority of our work happens because of our volunteers.

This review tells our story over the last year. It goes some way to try and tell a multi-faceted and rich tale of lives changed, challenged and transformed by an amazing God. It describes a story that is seen from the perspective of a few yet we are aware that it hardly scratches the surface of the many amazing situations encountered and embodied by those who work with us. To them we are grateful.

This report gives a glimpse into the enormity of the task we seek to accomplish. It is our challenge to work with young people and create the opportunity for an encounter with Jesus, to give them opportunity and esteem, to empower them and enable them to fulfill their choices and achieve their potential.

Paul Cracknell – Director

School Work

Terror, shock, desperation, anger and despair are just a few of the emotions that were captured by the cameras of the world media on the 11th of September, 2001. The scenes of the desolation of the terrorist attacks playing over and over on our screens and in our minds became the day when the mind-set of the western world was severely challenged. 'If America's not safe, who is?'

It was during that turbulent and uncertain time at the beginning of the new school term that I began to start presenting 'assemblies', but what was I to say about the atrocities, or more importantly, what did God want to say?

This time I came with no funny stories, no jokes, no messy games, no songs, no dancing, no dressing-up, no drama, no glib answers, no quick-fix responses, no tired clichés. My experience and training could not have prepared me for this. I myself had more questions than I had answers.

So in a simple, gentle and thoughtful way, with the various students I talked to in the different schools, we lit three candles. The first we lit for the dead, and we laid flowers at the front for them; we talked about loss and the meaninglessness of the victims' deaths. The second we lit for the victims' families and we thought and shared how we'd feel if our loved-ones were suddenly taken away from us. Finally we lit the third candle for the people who committed the terrorism; we recognised the need for justice, but also acknowledged the need for mercy.

When fear of the future surrounds us, perfect love must drive it out; When present hopelessness stifles us, we must endure inspired by hope; When cynical disappointed idealism blinds us, we must pray 'help me overcome my unbelief!'

So this year, as well as the lessons, assemblies, lunch-time clubs, Christian Unions, mentoring and the attendance project, we have started a 'Breakfast Club'. This new venture is totally 'relationship' based and provides support with home work and the opportunity for extra curricular learning activities.

Tim Yau – Schools Worker



SNAP



Norwich Youth for Christ continue to be partners in SNAP DANCE Events in the city together with the Police, Youth Service, Time Nightclub, Crimestoppers, VIBE fm, local councils and other agencies. Snap is a Nightclub experience for 14-17 years olds that promotes a healthy-living message. SNAP continues to be one of the most significant events for under 18's in the region. Each event (every holiday & half term) continues to be a sell out attracting 1500 14-17 year olds. Throughout this past year we have built up a team of detached workers in the venue. The evening starts with them 'working the queue' which gives them the opportunity to be seen by everyone entering the event, and once the queue is inside - they too move inside. Over the year they have started to get to know some of the regulars coming to this event and have begun to build relationships. We also have an active part in the themes for the evenings and have addressed some relevant topics such as bullying, prejudice, self image and drugs.

Youth Bank

It seems that more and more churches are desperate to reach out to young people, but fewer and fewer know how to do so, or have the necessary resources or volunteers.

The Church Resource Project (Youth Bank) aims to help deal with some of these frustrations, and offers advice and assistance, drawing on the 25 years of experience that we have as an organisation. During the last few years the Bus Project visited Acle working with the churches. NYFC staff members and volunteers ran the evenings with the help of a trainee youth worker employed by the churches. The project attracted many young people and offered support in anything from, "What help can I get for Dyslexia?" to "How can becoming a Christian help me?" The bus no longer visits Acle. For the last few months we have spent a lot of time consulting with and training local volunteers to continue the project without us. Acle now has a weekly drop in that is staffed by volunteers and is continuing to help and support the young people.

The Bus Project has now changed focus and has been re-named the Church Resource Project (Youth Bank). Its aim is to assist and empower churches to reach out to young people with the challenge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The focus has changed simply because we realised that we have a lot more to offer than only running youth clubs. We now consider the long term needs of a project and ensure that those needs are met. We ensure that projects do not collapse after a year or when we are no longer involved. With this in mind much of the last year has been spent in consultation with churches to plan projects to start from Sept 2002.

We are committed to seeing young people's lives impacted by the power of God and the church being a place where they can go for answers and help, as it says in Psalm 102 v18, "a future generation not yet created may praise the Lord".

Matt Gooch – Coordinator

The Forum

- a corner of cyberspace where young people can meet each other and the staff of NYFC. Like many of the arenas in which we work it's not always as well-behaved as our church services, but its value is in allowing people to ask questions and get to know each other in a positive environment. We have found that Christians and non-Christians have been able to discuss issues related to faith and life in general, without descending into heated wars of words. The Forum gives us a chance to cut through rhetoric and respond as a community to people's concerns; and the active moderation ensures that young people are safe as they talk through issues close to their hearts.

Night Club Report

Over the past year the Club work has been based in 2 Night clubs – Time (Tuesday) and IKON (Wednesday / Friday / Saturday). We presently have over 200 regulars who come to see us frequently. As well as a listening service the team provides practical help in incidents such as crisis/emergency situations, administering emergency first aid, looking after people until ambulances arrive, taking people to hospital and taking people home (this we do if no other means is available and they would be at risk if left to their own devices).

The challenge this year has been to allow God to give us more compassion for those we work with and to allow His heart to be expressed through the work. As a team we have tried to be Good News, showing unconditional love and acceptance whilst challenging view-points and behaviour and allowing Grace to be experienced by those we work with. The relationships we have had for one another as a team and have built with our regulars have been radically different from anything they have ever known.

Tracey Hyslop – Pastoral Advisor



Fridays

With events such as Fridays, it can be hard to look back and pull out the developments of a single year. After all, with the experience of over ten years of communicating discipleship to young people, one might expect that we might have learnt the majority of the lessons available. Fridays has always attempted to be a relevant face of Christianity to young people working out their faith, and that aim remains. Fridays has always aimed to provide young people with a meaningful experience of worship, and that aspect of the event continues. It has always sought to build a wider community from the ones, twos, fives and tens of young people from across the city and county who come as the only young people in their churches, and that too remains one of our key principles.



However, we can reflect on the last year and pull out some encouraging news. Firstly, twice a month, up to 160 young people have gathered from a variety of churches to worship and explore their faith together. Secondly, we have continued to explore new & old ways of communicating the gospel.



If you are new to Norwich Youth For Christ, you might not know that for over fourteen years we have been training young people in various year-out schemes. These schemes have ranged from national initiatives such as Operation Gideon to our own home baked programmes such as the Area Teams. All those are names from the past however, and today Norwich Youth For Christ offers an exclusive programme called Praxis.

The distinctive element of Praxis when compared to other year out schemes is the amount of choice offered to our trainees. In many other programmes young people apply to a central point and are then allocated to a position and a location which may or may not be to their liking. When trainees come to us however, we let them try their hand at all the different activities in which Norwich Youth For Christ is involved, and then choose to specialise in the parts that excite them most.

By the end of a year with us, trainees will have gained a wealth of practical experience, and will have benefited from regular training in youth work skills & theory and applied theology. This training covers everything from first aid to theories of relationships on the youth work side, and from the character of a disciple to ethics and post-modernity on the applied theology side. There is also the opportunity for them to work towards a recognised certificate in youth work provided in conjunction with Norfolk Youth & Community Services.

Mark Tuma - Coordinator

Praxis

NORWICH YOUTH FOR CHRIST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2002

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Total Funds | |
|---|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | 2002 £ | 2002 £ | 2002 £ | 2001 £ |
| INCOMING RESOURCES | | | | |
| Regular giving | 51,380 | 0 | 51,380 | 51,374 |
| Other grants and donations | 61,477 | 12,935 | 74,412 | 81,162 |
| | 112,857 | 12,935 | 125,792 | 132,536 |
| Ticket sales, events and shop profit | 12,043 | 0 | 12,043 | 11,683 |
| TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES | 124,900 | 12,935 | 137,835 | 144,219 |
| RESOURCES EXPENDED | | | | |
| Direct charitable expenditure | 111,022 | 13,821 | 124,843 | 117,888 |
| Fundraising | 1,965 | 0 | 1,965 | 3,656 |
| Management and administration | 21,883 | 0 | 21,883 | 17,226 |
| TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED | 134,870 | 13,821 | 148,691 | 138,770 |
| NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCE | (9,970) | (886) | (10,856) | 5,449 |
| Total Funds brought forward | (100) | 3,852 | 3,752 | (1,697) |
| Total Funds carried forward | (10,070) | 2,966 | (7,104) | 3,752 |

These summarised accounts are an extract from the full accounts of Norwich Youth for Christ. They may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information the full accounts and examiner's report on these accounts should be consulted. Copies of these accounts can be obtained from the charities office at 3 Brigg Street, Norwich, Norfolk. NR2 1QN. The full accounts were approved by the Trustees on 18/11/02 and have been examined by the independent examiner, and received an unqualified report. In his opinion the above summarised accounts are consistent with the full accounts.