

MISSIONAL YOUTH CHURCH NETWORK Newsletter

Autumn 2020...



A message from Andy

What strange times we live in! After the easing of lockdown restrictions over the summer, we now head deeper into the autumn, living with varying tiers of restriction. Within this situation, those working in Missional Youth Churches are connecting with young people through weekly phone calls, street-based youth work, schools work, Zoom, social media, You Tube and through indoor sessions with limited numbers. They are finding that being both innovative and flexible is the key right now.



It's a tough time for everyone, including young people, and yet God continues to work in people's lives. A young person who spent a lot of time self-isolating, recently told me, *'I've become more aware of the stillness inside me and now don't feel I have to react straight away when my phone pings...'* Another young person finds God through community; connecting with others in an online missional youth church, telling a youth worker - *'I feel supported and listened to by you guys, you help me find God and discover more of Him.'*

When we do emerge from the pandemic, missional youth churches will have a growing role to play as an interface between school, church and community; connecting young people to God and each other as they grow together in faith. So, let's keep an eye out for where the Spirit is at work and then journey with Him and young people towards a different kind of future.

Andy Milne, CA. Missional Youth Church Network Strategic Lead

Fantastic news!!!

We're so excited that Allchurches Trust has decided to fund MYCN over the next 3 years to enable us to grow and develop.

At least thirty more Missional Youth Churches could be established across the country with the support of £200,000 funding from [Allchurches Trust](#).

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The grant will enable MYCN to significantly expand its reach over the next three years, creating church 'for young people by young people', with a particular focus on engaging and supporting non-churched young people in places of rural and urban poverty.

The Archbishop of York, The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell said, *"This is fantastic news. I want to say a huge thank you to all of those involved in the vision and development of this initiative and I look forward to taking the next steps with MYCN and see where God is leading us!"*



Andrew Bass, Grants Officer at Allchurches Trust, said: *"The pandemic has presented huge challenges for the church in engaging with young people, but it has also opened new doors; and there is a real opportunity to co-create church with the next generation. The Missional Youth Church Network has the potential to be transformational in communities and young people's lives, and we're delighted that our funding will support their plans for numerical and spiritual growth."*

What's been happening?

An update on two of the places mentioned last time along with some new developments:

In *Seacroft Estate*, Leeds, Neil Obbard re-engaged with Bishop Young Academy and its pupils in September and is now building relationships with many local young people. He has also gathered an adult volunteer team. Neil and his wife Tina will begin using our MYCN Resource to train the volunteer team in readiness for forming groups so that the team will be equipped to help Neil develop a youth church in Seacroft.



In *Archbishop Sentamu Academy*, Hull, the Academy Chaplain Anne Richards is helping students and staff re-adjust to a new way of doing school. Listening and pastorally caring for young people have become even more vital than before Covid 19. Anne has raised significant funding towards employing a full-time youth worker to begin a missional youth church in East Hull. A recent Zoom meeting brought together local church leaders, school, diocese and others as we prayed and planned towards this goal. *Please pray that we can raise the funds still needed and then have lift off!*

In *Keighley*, Laura Woodfine has been appointed as the new youth worker with Keighley Shared church and is looking to develop missional youth church across this multi-ethnic West Yorkshire town with high levels of deprivation. Laura brings a freshness to the role and is excited about the prospect of young people becoming church.

In *Harrogate*, we're excited that churches and youth workers have come together within the Harrogate Hub to explore how the DNA of MYCN could enable Christian community to form with local young people within the Harrogate context. Sam Corderoy says, "we're hoping to see many young people find faith in Jesus in the coming years as we work with schools and churches."

'I feel supported and listened to by you guys, you help me find God and discover more of Him.'

"In *Rural Ainsty*, just west of York, local churches are looking to employ a youth worker to begin a rural missional youth church among young people across several villages. Richard Battersby says, "it will be fascinating to see the MYCN DNA planted into this rural context and see what God wants to do among young people as they discover Jesus and do church together."

Learning Community

It's been amazing to bring together youth workers, church leaders and volunteers from across the UK at two online Learning Communities in June and September. The Learning Communities are a space to worship, share stories and learn together as we journey with young people in creating church that is by young people and for young people. We next meet in December!

Resources/Website

Friday is filming day! Each week, we've been out and about, filming both adults and young people as we gather stories for our Resource which aims to equip youth workers and their teams to begin missional youth church. The Resource will be free and available on our website and the Fresh Expressions UK website by mid-2021. The MYCN website is in production and should be live early in 2021 so watch this space!

Social Media



MYCN is now on Facebook and Twitter. Follow us/like at:

Twitter – Missional Youth Church
@MYCNYouth

Facebook – Missional Youth
Church Network @MYCNYouth

Funding

We continue to seek funding for our work to enable us to produce the resources, employ staff and keep going as a Network. However, this is a difficult challenge, particularly at the moment when funders are concentrating understandable on relieving the immediate effects of poverty occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Prayer



Dear Lord, I pray the restrictions placed on young people become a space where they can connect to the Spirit. Meet with them in times of despair and need, touch them with your love and fill them with hope...

Sunday

- Seacroft estate, Bishop Young Academy and local churches, east Leeds
- Sentamu Academy and local churches, east Hull
- Harrogate

Monday

- Rural Ainsty
- Durham
- Cambridge

Tuesday

- Sorted, Bradford
- Penrith
- TYM, South London

Wednesday

- Keighley
- Bestwood, Nottingham
- Tin Can, Wrexham

Thursday

- Leeds Diocese
- Middlesbrough
- Durham

Friday

- Chester Diocese
- Blackburn Diocese
- Hodnet, Shropshire

Saturday

- Sheffield Diocese
- Manchester Diocese
- York Diocese

*'You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
You go before me and follow me.
You place your hand of blessing on
my head.'*

Psalm 139