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# St Mary's Youth Newsletter



What's God been doing in and through  
~~young people?~~

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20 Dec 2016



It's nearly Christmas and energy is low, but i have been looking back at the last 6 months and thinking of all the amazing things God has been doing here in Chippy. There have been lots of both highlights and challenges but there has been much growth and fruit since i last wrote a newsletter back in June and i'd love to share them with you.

The summer brings real opportunity to get outside, especially once exam season is over. We were able some great fun activities which were great for the young people's fellowship. We went back to my old stomping ground in Reading and went Kayaking on the river Thames which was a great day out in July.



We were also able to join our church family at New Wine and many young people served on team and had opportunities to grow and deepen their faith as they saw God at work and spent time with their church family, worshipping and hearing God's word.

Then the real fun began as we embarked on our very own Youth camp called 'United'. This was a brilliant time away as a youth group. We played sport, games, enjoyed the swimming pool, had our very own bake off, worship, bible teaching from Martha and Tom Simpson and had lots of fun and laughter. We looked at the life of David whilst away and it was a really super time deepening our relationships with God as we dug into His word and discussed how it applied to our lives. We had some intimate times in worship too which we all loved.

It was back to school and routine not long after that, however we were all well equipped to go back into school and live for Jesus.

The usual groups started back and young people continued to be disciplined in their small groups and through mentoring, alongside church. We have discussed and learned a lot in these times, looking at Prayer, Colossians, Isaiah etc.

There were many highlights this term and i'd love to share some with you.

### Remix

We set up Remix, a community youth club, at Glyme Hall, at the end of June. We have ran it most Friday afternoons after school during term time. Since its beginning we have had over 90 different young people come along to the group and on average we have around 20 each week. There are super opportunities to build relationships up and we have seen them grow even in 6 months. Some

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young people have even come along to our own church events but this is and will be a battle to transition young people into church.

We have a lovely cafe, games,xbox, table tennis, pool and even nail painting, which i have been known to get involved in from time to time.

We aim to take the opportunity to show a short video or do an activity which engages the young people and shares something of the gospel. Its a difficult environment but there have been some good conversations which young people as we hang out.

It has been a great opportunity to engage with the young people in our community. It has been a massive undertaking but God has been at work and it has been worth it.

### Youth Service

On 20th November we had a youth led 10.45 service which was really special.

We had 7 young people in the worship band and they did an incredible job at leading it. We had some interviews with the young people about a 48 hour social media fast called 'Blackout', which they were undertaking that same weekend to raise awareness and support the persecuted church. It was a huge time of encouragement for the whole church as they saw young people doing such an great job leading and serving, using their gifts and abilities that God has given them all.

### Christmas events



We had a christmas party and a christmas movie day over the last week to invite friends along to. We had a 'tube station' fancy dress theme and there were some super costumes, the winner being

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Paddington. It was great fun as we played some fun party games and ate some amazing food. We had lots of great games and even the classic christmas musical chairs.

For our Movie Day, Home alone 2 and Christmas with the Kranks got an airing on our movie day which was a great way to start the holidays.

We enjoyed our Carol service and are looking forward to the other services over christmas.

## Schools

I have had some good opportunities in the schools here in Chippy of late.

Having done several assemblies in both the secondary and primary schools, i have also had the privilege of doing some other valuable things. I was able to get involved in some cycling training in the primary school which was excellent for building relationships with yr6 kids who will be able to come to youth stuff in September 2017.

I have been running a lunchtime football club for yr9's too and will be doing some coaching come January with the same boys.

It has been a privilege to go in and support the Christian Union at school. They recently ran an evangelistic 'Grill a Christian' event in November. Martha Simpson and i joined their panel to field questions from the pupils in school during a lunchtime. Many engaged really well and asked some real provoking questions. Some pupils even stayed for an hour after the allotted time so they could continue discussion. This was a joy to see the CU put on this event and be bold to stand up for their faith in school, eager to share it with others.

## Baptisms

We had a baptism service this autumn and it was so lovely to see one of our young people, Hetty, be baptised into our church family. It was a special day as a church to welcome in people across generations and see and hear their faith in action. It was a huge blessing to us all.

We have seen our groups grow and new people come along to church which has been brilliant. We have seen young people grow and develop in their faith over the last six months.

The leaders at St Mary's have been brilliant in supporting the work here and we value their support hugely. Without them the youth ministry cannot happen to its potential and so we are so glad of the people who give of their time, energy and wisdom to support and journey with our young people.

Please continue to pray for us at St Mary's. If you could pray for some of the following things that would be great...

Thanks - Thank God for all the amazing things he has been doing in the lives of our young people.

Remix - Continue to engage young people in our community and give us wisdom in integrating them into church and introducing them to Jesus.

Discipleship - For young people to continue to grow in their faith and love for Jesus and to equip them to live out their faith in school.

Leaders - For more committed leaders to be able to give of themselves to support and grow the youth work.

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Wisdom and Vision for me - How best to serve and engage the young people in Chippy with the gospel.

Have a lovely Christmas everyone! Enjoy celebrating King Jesus who came down to rescue us for himself. What a Saviour!  
Thanks for all your support,

Jonny,  
St Mary's Youth Worker