

Goodbye Josh & Rachel



I cannot believe that it's already time for me to be writing a few words on how my time here has been. This year has gone so quickly and I am proud to say that it has been an amazing time. The team here are so cool and have been

brilliant in helping me settle in and supporting me in the work I have done and the youth have been equally awesome. I don't really have one main favourite memory, but I will always remember hanging out with the girls in Motus and working with the kids in Culverhay School. I also loved doing the Youth Alpha Course in the autumn term, getting to know the young people there and the team that I worked with. It seems like only yesterday that I was meeting the team for the first time in my first week in Bath. I will never forget my time here and I'm sure that whoever comes next year will love their time here as much as I did!

Rachel

My year out is about to end, and I am about to get a hippy van and live on the back of a surfing beach for the summer! So lots to look forward to. Looking back on this year though, so much has happened! It's been a real wakeup call and a real learning experience. Working with the skate culture of Bath has really opened my eyes to how much these minority groups need reaching out to, and I have really enjoyed working with 180 in doing so. FUSE has also been great, there are some really lovely young people, with some really big problems, and it's been really cool just being there for them. I have grown up a lot over my time in Bath, mentally and spiritually, and this experience has played a major part in preparing me for whatever is coming next (which I'm hoping God is going to tell me sometime soon). So thank you YFC, for putting up with me and helping me to grow.

Josh

Briefs

→DANCE SHOW—11 JULY

Motus Dance will be performing at their annual dance show on Saturday 11 July at St Philips and St James Church in Odd Down. The show starts at 7pm and tickets cost £5. Contact us for further details or to purchase tickets.

→GIVE BY CLICKING

For an easy way to help us raise money why not set your homepage to www.givebyclicking.co.uk/charity/bathyfc Everytime you search or shop we receive 1p towards our work

→JAMES SPEAKING @BATH ABBEY

James will be speaking at the King Edward's School Founders Day service on the 7th July. The service takes place during the morning in a full Bath Abbey so please pray for him as he speaks on the 'Road to Emmaus' story from Luke 24.

Bath yfc Partners

July/August 2009

The Director Writes



These last few weeks there have been discussions around the development of our after school provision, Kat has been busy meeting with school staff and church youth workers as we plan to launch new schools work in September. The thing that strikes me is the potential number of different

churches and organisations who could be involved. Survey any of our projects and although they may be publicly known as Bath YFC's you don't need to delve too deeply to discover different churches and people who make them work, whether this is a volunteer, staff member, venue provider or designer. It seems that partnership is at the heart. Read Jesse's testimony on page 2 of this edition of Partners and again you'll read that his faith journey and decisions to follow Jesus have been as a result of God at work through different people and experiences. There has been an uncontrived though of course God-planned partnership at the heart of Jesse's discovery of Christ.

As I re-read what I have just written I seem surprised, why? We only need to read Paul's story in the book of Acts and although he is regarded as the pioneer of gentile church planting, it is clear that everywhere he went different people were instrumental in the God planned, Jesus shaped and Spirit infused partnership in the gospel.

Now as I re-read what I have written in an attempt to work out a coherent ending, my surprise has moved on to excitement. I am excited at the weaving of partnerships in mission work in Bath; intentional or not, I'm excited that our mission activity is, infused with God's Spirit, making a difference in our city and I am excited that it is bringing transformation in the lives of young people!

Jesse's Story

In May James preached at Emmanuel Church in Bath, during the service he noticed the familiar face of one of the young people who had been part of Bath YFC projects over the years, but one we had not seen for a while. James chatted to him afterwards and what he shared was such a great testimony that we asked him to write it down so we could share it with those of you who pray with us for the young people of Bath...

When I first came to Youth Alpha I wasn't exactly what you'd call a proper Christian: I believed in God and Jesus but had no real idea what they were about, nor did I particularly want to. I went to one Christian union and never came back – too religious and prayer filled for me - I dismissed it as 'not my sort of thing'. However, I came along to Youth Alpha not really knowing what it was about. I already knew a few people there and Dan Northover and the Youth Alpha Team made me feel very welcome. After the evening's talk we split off into smaller groups to have a discussion and then the evening was over and I went home. Already I was closer to an understanding of Christianity than I had ever been.

When that year's Youth Alpha had come to a close I had become what most people would have called a Christian – albeit one who never went to church except for Christmas and avoided the Bible as if it carried some infectious disease. However, I was now helping with the organising of Youth Alpha and through Dan had also joined the group ACT who did work in the local community. I was growing in faith and understanding with each meeting. I also attended Café Base where James and Luke were able to answer the troubling theological questions which seemed to arise for me at an hourly basis.

I am now attending St Brendan's Sixth Form studying Religious Studies and Philosophy which have helped me understand God and Jesus far more with the encouragement of my college Chaplain John. I was baptised on Sunday 31st May at Emmanuel Church in Lower Weston, where I now attend. Looking back on my spiritual journey though, I have no doubt in my mind that if it weren't for Bath YFC I would certainly not be a Christian today and so I'd like to thank all involved for bringing me to a greater understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. I think that the church still has a long way to go in getting itself out of the dark-ages and becoming more relevant to teenagers but YFC are leading the revolution.

Jesse Perett



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SCHOOLS NEWS

CCC Placement



It was great to spend three days with the ministry training college students from CCC this month. To start our programme of activities we kicked off with an assembly at St. Marks on the topic of justice asking the young people how they can stand up for people who can't stand up for themselves. We attended the lunch time sessions in the sanctuary for those who wanted to come along and chat and play games.

Through this we built some really great relationships with the young people who came along even in the limited amount of time that we had. One young person who heard about the lunch time sessions in the assembly came along to the first one and got stuck in with everything else we did. It was great to spend some time with her and we were



sorry to say goodbye at the end of the week. Other activities included Art workshops and Lunch time sports

tournaments which went down quite well and helped us to engage with the young people.

We're hoping that this placement is just the start of some exciting work in the school. Big thank you to Jerry the Chaplain at St. Marks for being so welcoming.

Soccer School

"Who played well today?" I asked the group of 17 boys sat in front of me to think about one of their peers and why they thought they'd done well. Amidst the chorus of "Me, me, me" from several members of the group I heard a name. "Tom", shouted Jake, "He was really good in defence." Jake was complimenting Tom. The following week, having caught on to this, others were willing to suggest their peers had played well too. Encouraging the players to see the good things in others is just one part of the Soccer School at Culverhay School. This is a one hour session that is part of the school's enrichment programme on a Wednesday afternoon. We have now run several sessions and it has been a good mix of challenge and fun. We are trying to get the boys who come along to develop life and football skills. Having originally planned for 16 boys we have 21 coming along, which is great although can make planning five a side teams interesting! Along with the Rock Solid sessions we have run this year we have been able to make contact with about 50% of the year 7 students at the school and begin to build relationships. We are a little unsure of where this Soccer School opportunity will lead. We are considering running another after school club and as with Team ASK, linking it

with a local church. If we could do this it would



be great. Furthermore, if it is considered worth doing again we would like to run a combination of Rock Solid and Soccer School for next year's intake of year 7 students who start at Culverhay in September.

Thrive

Thrive is going really well at St Augustine's school in Trowbridge as we have had between 10 – 15 young people turn up each week. This particular Thrive course has had a slightly different edge to it as we have had the opportunity to talk more openly about our faith during the think slots. Thrive has also given one young woman who is a full time carer for her mum the chance to learn the basics of skateboarding and have the opportunity to have some time out and have some fun. Josh our year out volunteer spent the whole session with the young lady and helped her to build confidence to skate the big ramps as at the start of the session she was only able to ride the small ramps. Another encouragement from this course is a youth worker from a Trowbridge Church has been assisting One Eighty and is going to follow up our work with these young people in the area by organising a youth event at his church!

WHAT'S NEW?

YOUTH CAFE

The city centre on a Friday night can be a dangerous and daunting place, however young people as young as 12 stay out in parks until the early hours of the morning every week.

The main reason young people give for gathering in parks or on the streets is that there is nowhere else they can go. To address this problem we are going to set up a youth cafe. It will run at Hay Hill Baptist Church every Friday from September between 4pm and midnight, striving to provide a fun and safe environment where young people can meet their friends, feel welcomed and get to know the Christian staff.

Excitingly a team of young people are already involved in running the project and they are really passionate about starting the café, to give their peers a place to go. They have been involved in planning the project, including delivering a presentation to a grant making trust and they will be involved in helping in the cafe sessions.

How can you get involved?
Pray that the required funds will come in for this project and that all neces-

sary building and preparation work can be done in time. Thank god for the willingness of the young people to get involved with the cafe. This is a project that will make a difference in the lives of hundreds of young people in Bath. Please think carefully about if you are willing to give up a few hours on a Friday evening to make this project a success. Cafe and youth work training will be provided and you will be given the opportunity to gain a food hygiene qualification.

Meet Jonathan & Paula Reed...

Role: Gap Year Volunteer Mentors

How long have you been involved with/ supported Bath YFC?: We have been actively involved in supporting Bath YFC from the time that they first moved offices to Hay Hill Baptist Church, although prior to that we have taken an interest in the work for many years. Initially our support was of a practical nature in helping the team to get an office established when they first moved to Hay Hill, and generally supporting the team in any way that we could. That role has been developed through the initiative of James Vaughton to include the support of the Gap Year Volunteers, currently Rachel and Josh. From our perspective it's been great to get to know two young people who, whilst very different from each other, have both been prepared to come to Bath and serve with YFC. Mentoring is never a one-way thing, and we have been encouraged and challenged through working with Rachel and Josh.

What is it about Bath YFC that interests you?: One of the great things about Bath YFC is that there is a great sense of team working, with so many volunteers working in partnership with the paid members of the team, and there is often a real sense of the work being fun as well as challenging – that's a great attribute for any organisation. Bath YFC also has the ability to reach and refresh young people in places and in ways that the traditional churches cannot – the strap line 'taking the gospel relevantly to every young person in Bath' is worked out in so many ways.

What would you say to someone who is thinking about getting involved with Bath YFC? Jonathan's contact with YFC began many years ago, when he responded to a call to make a commitment to Jesus Christ at an YFC event, one of the monthly Sunday evening meetings at the Colston Hall in Bristol way back in the 1960's, and Paula became a Christian partly through the positive influence of the young people at her local church. We have both enjoyed our work with YFC and would encourage anyone who is thinking of helping in any way to 'give it a go'; you will be encouraged and challenged in many ways.

What's your favourite food? Well Paula is a vegetarian and so, predictably, loves pretty well anything made of vegetables. Jonathan just loves anything that Paula cooks, at least that seems to be the safest answer.

If you could be anywhere in the world right now, where would you be and what would you be doing? the quick answer is probably 'on holiday by the sea in a quiet part of one of the Greek islands that we love.' More generally though, we would just like to know more of where and how God wants us to be serving Him in our daily lives. We are just glad that for us, working with YFC seems to be part of God's will for us at the moment.



For the price of a coffee a week, help change a life



Name:.....
Address:.....
.....
Tel:..... Email:.....

Please tick relevant option:

- I would like to find out more about giving time to help facilitate the ongoing work of Bath YFC, please call/email/write to me at the above contact details so that I can find out more
- I enclose a donation of £..... for the ongoing work of Bath YFC among the young people of Bath (please make cheques payable to Bath Youth for Christ)
- I would like to give per month starting on 12th day of the next month to Bath YFC by making a monthly standing order to: Bath Youth for Christ, Barclays Bank, 37 Milsom St, Bath, BA1 1DW, account number: 60145203, sort code: 20-05-06

From my/our account (name).....

Bank:.....Address:.....

Account number:.....Sortcode:.....

Signature

Date

Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a taxpayer and would like to gift aid your donation please read below and sign

I want Bath YFC to treat all donation made from the date of this declaration, until I notify you other wise, as gift aid donations

Signature:.....Date:..... Please return form to address below

Bath Youth For Christ, c/o Hay Hill Baptist Church, Fountain Buildings, Bath. BA1 5DU.
T: 01225 336055 E:admin@bathyfc.co.uk



July Prayer Diary

1 ASK, James 1-2-1 at Culverhay, Football Summer School

2 Graff, Motus Dance

3 Motus Dance, Team Meeting, Detached

4 Skate Event, Trowbridge

5 Detached work

6 Thank God for the blessings of the past academic year

7 180

8 James speaking @ KES Founders Day Service in Bath Abbey

9 Graff, Motus, HioS steering mtg, Team ASK vs Batheaston

10 Team Day Out

11 Motus Dance Show

12 Rachel preaching at St Luke's church, detached work

13 Trustee Meeting, Rachel on YFC 'end of year bash'

14 Rachel on YFC 'end of year bash' until 15th, 180

15 ASK, James 1-2-1, Football Summer School, ASK awards eve.

16 Graff, Motus Dance

17 James Leadership Enhancement Prog with local authority

18 Jo and Dave meet for 180 review on 22nd

19 Detached work

20 Josh and Rachel's last day on 24th

21 180

22 ASK, James 1-2-1 at Culverhay, Football Summer School

23 Graff, Motus Dance

24 Schools finish for summer, Motus Dance, Team Mtg, Detached

25 Thank God for Josh and pray for his future

26 Thank God for Rachel and pray for her future

27 Pray for the youth we work for over the summer hols

28 Pray for the ongoing fundraising to allow our work to cont.

29 Thank God for His provision

30 Team ASK vs Larkhall in 5-a-side league

31 Thank God for using those at YFC to do His work



August Prayer Diary

1 Pray for safety for skate events happening over the summer

2 Thank God for the youth of Bath

3 Pray that the team will have a good rest over the summer

4 Thank God for His provision

5 Pray for James

6 Thank God for the trustees

7 Pray for Jo

8 Luke gets married to Claire

9 Thank God for the Council of Reference

10 Pray for Dave

11 Thank God for Christian teachers in schools

12 Pray for Kat

13 Team ASK vs Bath Athletico in five a side league

14 Thank God for all our volunteers

15 Pray for the preparations for Greenbelt

16 Pray for Luke

17 Thank God for good working relationships with official orgs

18 Pray for Sam

19 Thank God for relationships built up over the previous year

20 Pray for Nick

21 Pray for the work of our Elsie's River link in South Africa

22 Pray for Adam

23 Thank God for the opportunities we have to share the gospel

24 Pray for Lindsay

25 Pray for new volunteers for next year

26 Pray for Gonz

27 Greenbelt, Team ASK vs PYP in five a side league

28 Greenbelt

29 Greenbelt

30 Greenbelt

31 Greenbelt