

## The Director Writes



I was looking for statistics on prayer recently and came across a BBC report from 2007 that stated, according to a *Tearfund* survey, that 40% of adults pray. This is encouraging, and yet it was interesting that when confronted with the survey the head of the National Secular Society responded that this is not so encouraging if you think that nearly 2 in 3 do not pray. Keith Porteus Wood is being predictably provocative but it is an interesting point he makes and when we realise that the survey reveals that younger people are less likely to pray, some 1 in 4 stating that they do so, you can see that perhaps the picture is not as rosy as it might first seem. It is encouraging knowing that many people pray but worrying that the trend is towards less engagement in connecting with God. Why is this the trend is the question I find myself asking. I am sure there is not one reason. Is it that prayer is less a part of the daily lives of those of us who call ourselves Christians? Is it that we have made prayer into a meeting or an event? Could it be that prayer is regarded as something for the church and done in church? Do we as Christians even believe that prayer is something for all people (not just those who come to church)? Have we reduced prayer to an 'individual activity' with occasional meetings added on?

We complain that society is pushing out the Christian faith, blaming secularisation, and there is some truth in that but perhaps we have withdrawn. Our engagement with society can often be apologetics orientated and information based. These are important, however surely this engaging of the mind must be coupled with seeking also to engage the heart!

So it gets me thinking...what if prayer was more community focused? What if as well as praying 'for' people or situations; sat in a church hall, home group or prayer triplet (all good contexts in which to pray but which could imply we are the only ones with some sort of hotline to God) as it were, we prayed 'with' them? What if prayer was a partnership with our community; something we engaged in 'on our knees' (whether physically or not) together. What if prayer was mission? What if prayer was 'in' and 'with' the community?

Prayer is that most mysterious of gifts from God that enables us to connect with him, speak to him and hear from him; surely that is something worth sharing!

What would this look like with the young people that Bath YFC works with?

What would it look like in your community?

beyond their own worlds to serve others. James talked about how Christ reconnected the two disciples on the road to God's story, turning their disappointment to joy, their disillusionment to hope.

## Briefs

→**SOUTH AFRICA** Jerome, Andre and Latessa are coming over to Bath for ten days from 10<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September. They are part of the leadership team running the youth outreach in our link project in Elsie's River, a 'coloured community' in Cape Town. They will be dividing their time between visiting churches, schools, Bath YFC projects and having some training to help equip them for their work. Please pray for their safety and that the short time they spend with us will be really worth their while. Trip report next Partners.

→**AGM & SHOWCASE** The Bath YFC AGM & Showcase will take place on **3rd December** this year. Stick the date in your diary and let us know whether you'll be able to join us (a response card is enclosed in this edition of Partners).

→**TEAM ASK AWARDS** The second annual Team ASK awards took place at the end of last term. We had added a couple of extra awards so there were plenty up for grabs. Player of the year went to Jed with Jake winning Player's Player and the Pool Award. Ngoni got the Golden Boot award for the second year running, just pipping Jason in the scoring charts, who won Outstanding Contribution for his leadership and effort in spite of a broken collar bone. Most Improved Player went to Tommy who has been really brilliant this year both on Wednesday and in the five a side league.

→**THE DAY WE WENT SPEAR FISHING**

On Friday 10 July, the Bath YFC team packed up the Navarra and headed down to the seaside for the day. No buckets and spades were in sight as the tool of the day was the spear! Simon Flint was kind enough to teach us all what to do and we set about catching our lunch. A few hours and one fish (caught by Simon!) later we gathered round the campfire to cook fish and beer bread. A good day was had by all and don't we look the part in our wetsuits!



→**THE SAVOURY DONUT** On 18 September The Savoury Donut will open for business. After months of hard work local young people and Luke will be launching the youth café supported by a team of willing volunteers. This project is a city centre venue providing a fun and safe environment for young people aged 11-18 on Friday evenings from 4pm – 12am. The facility is being developed in response to a growing need for Friday night provision for young people and is supported by both the police and the Youth Service. Watch this space for updates.

→**CONGRATULATIONS** to Luke and Claire who got married on 8 August. The sun shone, the bride looked lovely and the food was great! Please pray for Luke and Claire as they embark on a new life together and as Luke starts his new work with Bath YFC and Claire starts teacher training.

→**JAMES SPEAKING @BATH ABBEY** James recently had the privilege of preaching to a packed Bath Abbey. The invitation had come from King Edward's School for their Founders Day Service. The service was full of pomp and ceremony but between the prayers, Rev. Caroline O'Neill, who led the service and James' sermon on the *Road to Emmaus*, there seemed to be a clear message encouraging and challenging the students to look



We have stopped the Graff Project weekly session over the summer so that we can get ready for a new term/ season of the Graff Project. It has been an interesting time at the Graff Project because we had a few volunteers leave which left us a few helpers down and made things tight. We also had only female volunteers which was great but we felt it would be very beneficial for the young guys on the project to have some guys as well as girls to relate to and look up to as role models. So we prayed and asked God to bring in some volunteers. It was amazing- within 2 weeks we had 2 male volunteers who fit the project perfectly. Thanks God.

Over the summer we are running a graffiti project with the workers at timeout youth centre in Keynsham. We are working with a few young people to produce a piece of work that represents the youth of Keynsham to be painted on the underside of echo bridge. This is very exciting because we are coming into contact with a lot of new people who will hopefully attend our project in Bath. It is also increasing the status of the project and getting us free exposure- this is great for the development of the project and keeping a steady flow of young people attending the project.

We are really looking forward to a new term that will start in September.

## BATH YFC WELCOMES TO THE TEAM:

### Naomi Clynych

Heeeey! I'm Naomi and I'm 18. I'm a Peterborough girl and have just finished taking A levels in Drama, English Lit and Psychology. I'm the type of person who likes to have lots of things to do, so deciding to do a year with YFC was a good move! Dance and Drama are my passions. I find them a great way to increase communication skills and put across the message of Jesus. I've also been doing youth work in my home church, KingsGate Community Church. For the past few years I've led a group of 12 girls in discussions from a group of 100+ youth, and loved every minute of it! I love God immensely and I know that this year will be an amazing year with Him!



### Sarah Johnston

I'm Sarah Johnston and im 19 years old and from Northern Ireland. I've just finished a three year childcare course in June mainly working with children with a disability. I absolutely loved it. I had a calling to take a gap year when my course had finished and prayed until it was revealed where I should be going and what I should be doing! Christianity fully excites me, what God can do/has done still blows me away. I can't wait to come to Bath and meet many amazing people and see God reveal Himself more and working in the lives of myself and people in Bath!!



## BATH YOUTH FOR CHRIST RESPONSE FORM



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.  
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Registered Charity No. 1067198  
www.bathyfc.co.uk www.one-eighty.org.uk

**Bath YFC credits:** Part-Time Volunteers, Council of Reference, Our Trustees, Staff: Gonz Barata, Nick Blythe, Luke Brightwell, Sarah Johnston, Naomi Clynych, Jo Dolby, Lindsay Furze, Dave Joyce, Kat Lazenby, Sam Ludwell, and James Vaughton

# Schools

## SUMMER SOCCER SCHOOL

Over the last few months we have been building relationships with various schools in Bath meeting with teachers and school staff. Out of this came the opportunity to be involved in providing activities for Ralph Allen's summer activity days. Our remit was to provide football fun for two mornings, 'encouraging team building and football skills in a fun safe environment'. So our resident football coach, James, took on the task of training and coaching the group of seven that signed up. We did training games, played matches and engaged in a bit of football cricket. The young people had a great time saying that the training had developed their skills by helping them to learn 'confidence and control'. This event is the beginning of our work with Ralph Allen and helped us to strengthen relationships with staff and pupils who will be joining the school in September.



## WORK EXPERIENCE

Bath YFC recently had one of the Team ASK lads on work experience with us. Here he gives a little insight into the week.

For my week on work experience I worked with Bath YFC. During the week I designed a display board and the Team ASK presentation for the awards evening. I also helped James do enrichment at Culverhay where we trained the year 7s to play football. Straight after that we did Team ASK in the ball court. I also had the experience of sitting in on a Bath YFC meeting so that was good. I have learnt quite a bit working with Bath YFC; through working with the year 7s my confidence has grown and when I sat in on the meeting I learnt about faith like how much God can help you and how the Bath YFC team organise things like Team ASK, Fuse, and One Eighty. Jake



It was the morning of the dance show on the 11th July, and the dancers were due to arrive at 10am for a whole day practice before the performance that evening...Small problem...

We arrived an hour before to find that we had not been given the code for the new alarm on the church!

After much phoning around, panicking and plans of breaking in, we managed to get hold of someone who came round and rescue us. The dancers turned up shortly afterwards, and we began the dress rehearsals. They worked hard all day and even managed to scare us in their first dress rehearsal of 'Disturbia' complete with white face masks and dark, ripped clothes! But before we knew it, it was time to start the show.

## THE MOTUS DANCE SHOW

*Let the show go on!*

*By Rachel Gurnett*

For many of the girls, it was their first performance in front of a large group of people - nearly 100 - but you would never have guessed it. After dancing to 7 tracks including 'Dance wiv me' by Dizzee Rascal and 'Canned Heat' by Jamiroquai, I heard nothing but great comments from everyone I talked to.

It was a great show and I know that I can speak for both Sam and myself when I say that we are so proud of what they have achieved. They did really well and they deserved every compliment they received. So thanks to everyone who made the day what it was and especially thanks to the girls for all their hard work and brilliant dancing!





# September Prayer Diary

**1** Pray for team members recovering from Greenbelt

**2** Thank God for the gap year team working with us this year

**3** Pray for the young people as they go back to school

**4** Thank God for the youth of Bath

**5** Pray for safe travel for the guys from Cape Town on 11th

**6** Thank God for His financial provision

**7** PSHE & Girls Football at Ralph Allen

**8** 180

**9** ASK, Fuse

**10** Graff, Motus Dance, 180 development meeting

**11** Motus Dance, Cape Town team arrive

**12** Pray for the final days of preparation for the youth cafe

**13** Cape Town team at St Philips

**14** PSHE & Girls Football at Ralph Allen, trustee meeting

**15** 180, Kat mentoring at St Marks, GAP Yr volunteers arrive

**16** ASK, Cape Town team do St Marks Assembly

**17** Graff, Motus Dance, CT team do Beechen Cliff Assembly

**18** Motus Dance, Savoury Donut Launch

**19** Thank God for the new projects starting in schools

**20** CT guys at Hay Hill, James at CCC

**21** PSHE & Girls Football at Ralph Allen

**22** 180, Kat mentoring at St Marks

**23** ASK, Fuse

**24** Graff, Motus Dance

**25** Motus Dance, Youth Cafe

**26** Skate event in Radstock for NESAs

**27** Pray for more opportunities to go into schools

**28** PSHE & Girls Football at Ralph Allen

**29** 180, Kat mentoring at St Marks

**30** ASK, Fuse



# October Prayer Diary

**1** Graff, Motus Dance

**2** Motus Dance, Youth Café

**3** Thank God for His provision

**4** Pray that sorting the accounts this week will go smoothly

**5** PSHE & Girls Football at Ralph Allen, accountant in for week!

**6** 180, Kat mentoring at St Marks

**7** ASK, Fuse

**8** Graff, Motus Dance

**9** Motus Dance, Youth Café

**10** Kat & GAP Yr girls go to YFC commissioning day

**11** Thank God for the opportunities we have to share the gospel

**12** PSHE & Girls Football at Ralph Allen

**13** 180, Kat mentoring at St Marks

**14** ASK, Fuse

**15** Graff, Motus Dance

**16** Motus Dance, Youth Café, HIOS steering meeting

**17** Thank God for the trustees

**18** Pray that we will continue to seek God's direction for our work

**19** PSHE & Girls Football at Ralph Allen

**20** 180, Kat mentoring at St Marks

**21** ASK, National YFC Strategy Day

**22** Graff, Motus Dance

**23** Motus Dance, Youth Café, Luke's graduation

**24** Thank God for our good working relationship with churches

**25** Thank God for all those who volunteer their time to help out

**26** PSHE & Girls Football at Ralph Allen

**27** 180, Kat mentoring at St Marks

**28** ASK, Fuse

**29** Graff, Motus Dance

**30** Motus Dance, Youth Café

**31** Pray for safety for young people on Halloween