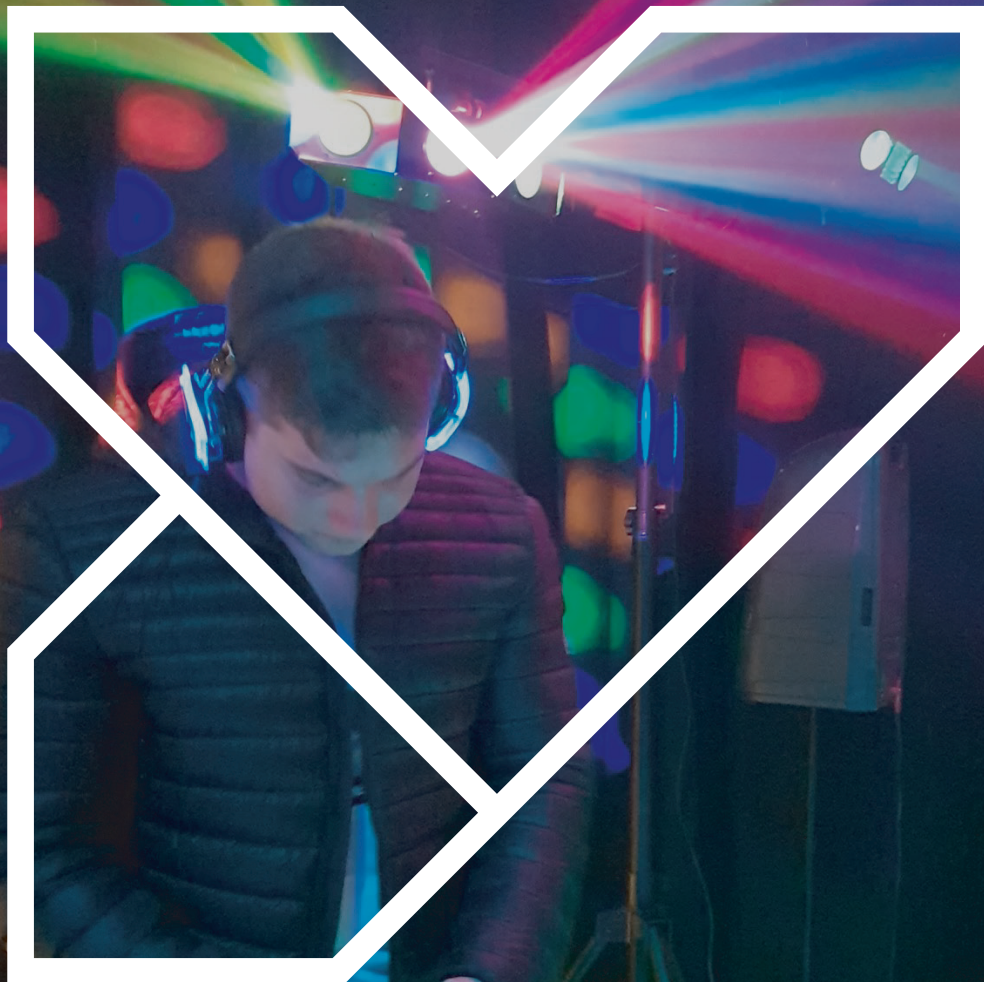




Burton
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

Spring 2020 Newsletter

Director's Thoughts

I've been struck recently about the significance of feeling safe and how this affects us as people. Feeling safe can result in sharing something you've never told anyone else before; returning to a youth club after a week's ban, knowing you can start afresh; playing a new game without fearing you'll be made fun of. Feeling safe is a basic human need that has to be in place for us to flourish.

I originally wanted to be a theatre designer - someone who creates spaces on a stage for actors to move around and communicate a story to an audience. I've realised lately that youth work is a lot like this. We are called to create safe spaces that allow trust to build and relationships to grow; spaces where young people can safely explore their own story, push the boundaries and realise they have value and can play a positive and important role within a community. The difference between a theatre designer and a youth worker's stage is that the first is rehearsed, and plays out the same every night. In contrast, the youth worker has to be aware of all the different stories being played out around them and they can be different from week to week!

As Christian youth workers we advocate a different story to the one the world tells. Jesus shows us a better way of living - one of kindness, forgiveness, vulnerability and hope. We play ourselves on this stage, encouraging young people to ask questions of our lives - so we have to be connected to The Creator to stand any chance of conveying His story relevantly and with authenticity. It's a tough call at times, but one I'm glad to be a part of.

I believe that in fostering these spaces of welcome for young people we are sharing in God's abundant hospitality - allowing openness of connection to grow and His presence to be felt. Please pray for the young people in our town - for their hearts to grow more and more curious about God's plans for their lives. Pray that as they feel safe they would want to step into His story and explore how theirs fits. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sue Garb
Centre Director



Schools Work

Our work in schools and college continues to flourish. This term we have delivered lessons in Paulet High School looking at the importance of Jesus to Christians, as well as the Trinity. We've loved delivering 25 primary school assemblies and given several presentations in college on the subject of resilience. We run weekly sessions in three High Schools, and after-school groups in two Primary Schools. Although our groups will have been drawn together with an outcome in mind, our main aim is to connect with each young person in a positive and meaningful way, enabling them to participate as fully as possible and gain the most benefit they can. One group is specific to boys and looks at issues relevant to them including identity, how to treat others, bullying and resilience. Other groups focus on character and developing social and emotional intelligence. Our Imagine group at Towerview encourages the children to be creative as they work in teams and learn to tell stories through stop motion animation.

At Abbot Beyne the pastoral tutor told us that she'd noticed a couple of the students from our group were more willing to discuss issues which they wouldn't have sought her out for in the past and more responsive when asked questions about specific issues. This shows they've developed confidence in themselves and are more likely to approach staff when in difficulty. These are small steps, but all support young people to grow their resilience muscles.

Usual Schools Week

Monday

Breakfast Club
Assembly

Paulet
Henhurst

Tuesday

Breakfast Club
Character Project
Well-being Group
Animation Club

Paulet
Paulet
Holy Trinity
Tower View

Wednesday

Breakfast Club
Boys Group
Chaplaincy
Assembly
Assembly

Paulet
Paget
College
Holy Trinity
Ryknelnd

Thursday

Breakfast Club
Project Support
Character Project

Paulet
Eagles Nest
Abbot Beyne

Friday

Breakfast Club
Listening

Paulet
Paulet

20+ Years of Service

At our National conference in January Sue was presented a special recognition award for her 20+ years service to Youth for Christ. Sue was given the award by Ken Wright - Chairman of the National Youth for Christ Board.

Sue first joined the Burton Youth for Christ team in 1997 progressing to Operations Manager and then in 2012 taking on the role as Centre Director.

We are very blessed to have Sue as our leader and look forward to what God has in store for her and the team in the future.



Youth Clubs

Numbers have grown in all the youth and after school clubs we run or support across Burton. Since September we have seen 160 different 5-17s with a core group of 100 attending regularly. Some young people move between the groups and connect with us in school and church settings as well. This puts us in a unique position, offering support and giving greater confidence to some who wouldn't normally attend out-of-school activities.

Working in partnership with churches and other charities means we are able to broaden opportunities for some as they realise what else is on offer to them. A couple of families have linked in with the local church through the skatepark, enabling them to build a larger support network.

These community-based sessions offer a safe space to be, eat, play sports, games or enjoy some crafting. Plans for this term include creating small core teams in each setting, where young people can input into the planning and running of sessions as well as Bright Futures UnLtd delivering their 'Incredible Me' workshops, looking at mental health and wellbeing.



One to Ones

As part of our diversionary activities funding from the County Council, we have had the privilege of meeting with some young people on a one to one basis outside of school time - giving an hour a week or fortnight to offer support through listening, mentoring or even going out to play pool. Just knowing you have someone available to be with can be powerful in itself, helping young people to begin believing that they matter. We are finding that this simple service is having a positive effect - increasing emotional wellbeing, school attendance and strengthening relationships.

“We feel that the ongoing 1:1 work with our student has had a very positive impact, especially with regards to them being able to manage their emotions appropriately. He has had incidences in the past, where because of his aggression he had exclusions. However, with the introduction of the 1:1, he has had no incidences of aggression, improved his behaviour and has slowly started to develop positive relationships with more staff members.”

PASTORAL SUPPORT ABBOT BEYNE



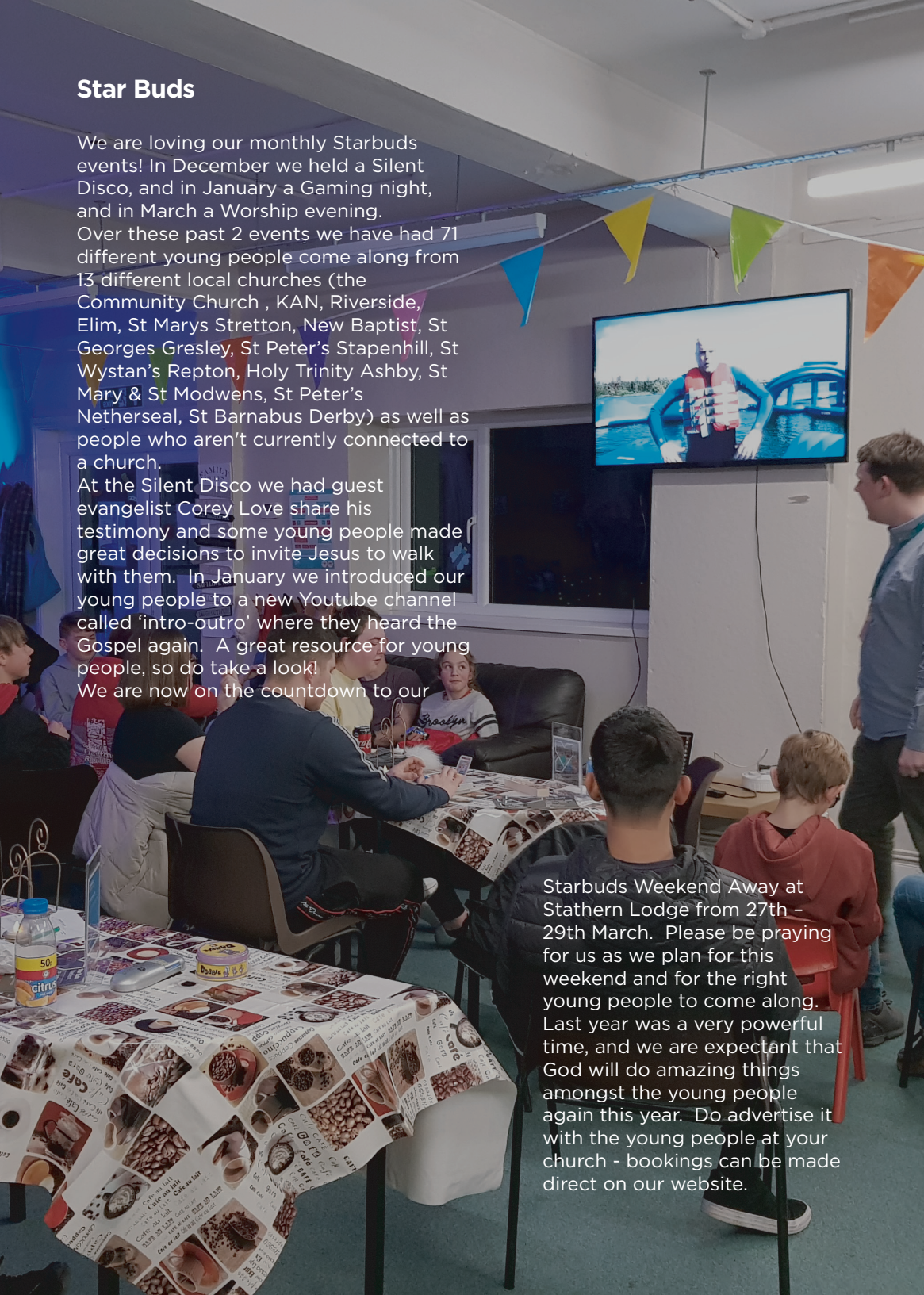
Goodbye Johanna

The last 6 months have gone by so fast, but now it's time to go home and start new adventures. It's hard to leave, because this place has taught me so much about so many things. I've learned about English youth work and how I can adapt that into the Dutch ways of youth work. I've taken part in Kids clubs and skate parks, chaplaincy and school lessons. I've also served the youth group and Kid's Church at The Community Church, who hosted me. I'm gobsmacked with how much work Burton Youth For Christ manages to do in one week and the amount of people they manage to reach as they bring the good news to young people. Certainly, something we can learn a lot from back in Holland. But above everything else, I have learned so much about myself, and I didn't expect that to happen. I've learned to take care of myself and to love myself. I've learned how to listen to what God wants me to do and with that, my relationship with Him has grown more than ever. Going back home is going to be scary, there will be my studies to finish, a lot of challenges and new adventures to start. But I am excited for this! Thank you for the opportunity and I am going to miss you all like crazy!

Star Buds

We are loving our monthly Starbuds events! In December we held a Silent Disco, and in January a Gaming night, and in March a Worship evening. Over these past 2 events we have had 71 different young people come along from 13 different local churches (the Community Church, KAN, Riverside, Elim, St Marys Stretton, New Baptist, St Georges Gresley, St Peter's Stapenhill, St Wystan's Repton, Holy Trinity Ashby, St Mary & St Modwens, St Peter's Netherseal, St Barnabus Derby) as well as people who aren't currently connected to a church.

At the Silent Disco we had guest evangelist Corey Love share his testimony and some young people made great decisions to invite Jesus to walk with them. In January we introduced our young people to a new Youtube channel called 'intro-outro' where they heard the Gospel again. A great resource for young people, so do take a look! We are now on the countdown to our



Starbuds Weekend Away at Stathern Lodge from 27th - 29th March. Please be praying for us as we plan for this weekend and for the right young people to come along. Last year was a very powerful time, and we are expectant that God will do amazing things amongst the young people again this year. Do advertise it with the young people at your church - bookings can be made direct on our website.

Fundraising Update

Whilst we are still OK financially as a centre, we've not been able to replace Megan who moved on in August. We're also aware that some current funding may dry up at the end of this year - so, after praying we decided to do something collectively to raise extra cash. The year of fundraising was birthed, with every month being taken by a team member, volunteer or Trustee to use creatively. So far God has completely blown our socks off with people's generosity. Esther, (our Trustee Secretary) started us off with a bake sale in October, followed by Sue G cooking up bologneses and currys, whilst Peter (Riverside Church intern), read through the whole New Testament in one sitting for sponsorship. The new year saw our Trustee Treasurer Frank, hold a coffee morning and afternoon tea to celebrate his 60th birthday and then Sue J smashed it with a 12 hour flute marathon in February. So far the total sum raised is almost £2,000, but we know there is still more to come in!

Thank you to everyone who's supported us with their time, money and energy.

In April Nathan is aiming to play Fortnite for 24 hours and Matt is holding an auction in June. There's also going to be a youth event in July to round everything off for the year.

If you'd like to keep updated on how it's going and see what's coming up next, please visit our website.



Prayer Points

Star Buds Weekend Away

Safety, fun and young peoples love for God to grow.

Fundraising

Continued favour on all our fundraising efforts.

Young People

For more young people to find a safe space, helping them to lead fuller lives.

Team

To hear God's voice in every situation, knowing the security of being held by Him.

Prayer Email

We send out a prayer update email once a month. If you would like to be part of this and support us with prayer please email sue.jolley@burton.yfc.co.uk

Weekly Clubs

Monday

STAPENHILL
Waterside Community
Centre

Youth Club
AGES: 10 - 16
TIME: 5pm - 7pm

Wednesday

TOWN CENTRE
The Warehouse, High
Street

Kids Club
AGES: 4 - 11
TIME: 3:45pm - 5:15pm

Youth Club / Skate Park
AGES: 8 - 17.
TIME: 5:30pm - 7pm

Thursday

ETON
St Chad's Community
Centre

Youth Club (£1)
AGES: 11 - 16
TIME: 5:15pm - 6:45pm

Upcoming events

27th to 29th March
STAR BUDS WEEKEND

3rd May 2020
STAR BUDS

7th June 2020
STAR BUDS EXTRA

7th July 2020
PAINT PARTY

Stay connected with us



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To donate to the continuing work of Burton Youth for Christ please visit
burton.yfc.co.uk



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