

Welcome to the G-News!!

*Bringing you some of the latest highlights
from across Youth Genesis!*

Dear Friends,

You may have noticed that we've got a new look for 2018 – and as we boldly approach new horizons in our work with young people and communities around Devon, we were inspired to give Youth Genesis a bit of a refresh!

With a New Year already begun and Spring approaching (the optimist!), this time of year can be a time of reflection, especially as we approach the season of Lent, as some look back on the past year and re-evaluate commitments or lifestyles. The temptation to review past challenges and grumble about difficult times can often be there and form part of our attitude as we move forward. The Apostle Paul, writing from his prison cell, encourages the believers in Philippi, living under Roman rule, to not grumble and focus on an expression of living which imitates the lifestyle of Jesus. Paul says in Philipians 2:14-15 'Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation."'

Hard times and an unhealthy lifestyle can lead to a warped and crooked perspective. The essence of our work at Youth Genesis is about supporting young people who may be living through difficult times and challenges

and helping them to lead more fulfilling lives. The dangers of the 'dark-web', online bullying, the temptation of drug and alcohol use and chaotic lifestyles can lead to poor mental health and a warped and crooked perspective on life. Each project, provision and activity that we offer aims to equip young people to deal with challenges and inspire them with a lifestyle that is blameless and pure.

**"Children of God without fault in a
warped and crooked generation."**

Our aim for 2018 is to further model the lifestyle that Jesus teaches, and show what a difference that welcome, valuing others, fairness, equality, service, positive affirmation and belonging can make!

Now onto the stories...

Bost...

One of our recent members of the team has joined us all the way from Kingsbridge! Some of you may recognise Bost as Michelle's younger brother. Bost is a Youth Worker at two of our youth sessions: Decks Youth Venue in Dartmouth on Thursday evenings and the Streetbase session in Foxhole on Friday nights in Paignton. Bost is seen here with the 'Cookie-Monster' at the Christmas Extravagaza in Foxhole on the 26th November 2017. A great day to be supporting hundreds of people in the community!



Bost with the Cookie Monster!

10 Year Celebration...

We had a fantastic evening at Fore St Methodist Church in Brixham on the 20th November where we celebrated and gave thanks for the work of Youth Genesis over the past ten years. Around 100 people attended to join in the celebrations where young people told stories on how the work of Youth Genesis has supported them in some of the most difficult circumstances. We were joined by other organisations which included the Torbay Lions, Brixham Town Council, Devon Community Foundation as well as a large number of churches across Torbay. We look forward to another exciting ten years!!



Young people at the 10 Year Celebration!

Empathy & Mental Health...

We've been working with LiNX to setup a new Mental Health Café for teenagers in the centre of Paignton on Monday nights. Through our work with young people on the streets of Paignton and our connections with LiNX, we've identified a need to support young people who are struggling with anxiety, depression, self-harm and isolation.



Young people Training on Mondays at Gerston Chapel

The aim of the Mental Health Café is to train teams of young people to become ‘Youth-Empaths’ who will be equipped to listen and support their peers and sign post where necessary. We have twelve young people attending the sessions each week and are looking to open up the sessions to more young people from Paignton College.



Youth Empaths in Training

Getting Arty at The Place...

Art’s and crafts are often a good way for young people to express themselves – and we’ve certainly identified a number of budding artists at Brixham URC on Friday nights! The young people have been thoroughly enjoying the sessions and have made Christmas cards, self portraits and learning how to sketch.



Artisans at Brixham United Reformed Church on Friday Nights

Busy Sessions in Cranbrook...

The sessions that we deliver on Tuesday nights in Cranbrook have been busier than ever – we have 63 young people that we are in contact with either in the centre or on the streets. Energy drinks and anti-social behaviour have been key topics over the past term as young people have been learning about healthy eating as well as the importance of respect for others. We’ve had some brilliant discussions with the young people, who say they really value the sessions as it gives them somewhere safe to hang out and meet new friends.



Games at the Cranbrook Youth Space

Fix ‘n’ Ride...

We’re launching an exciting new project at ‘The Point’ Youth Drop-In in Townstal on Friday evenings which will enable young people to learn about bike maintenance. Young people will have access to the latest bicycle maintenance tools and equipment which will allow them to work on their bicycles. Youth Workers will be on hand to support the young people to ensure that they are safe as they maintain their bikes. The whole idea is to promote healthy lifestyles through cycling, and at the same time promote road safety by ensuring that the bicycles that young people are riding are safe and well maintained.



Fix ‘n’ Ride – Coming this Spring!!

Youth Genesis Prayer Fuel...

Prayer plays an essential part in enabling us to carry out the work that God has called us to do at Youth Genesis – Jesus says in Mark 11:24 **“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”** (NIV). The points below give a guide in what to pray for:

BRIXHAM

- Pray for Sarah and Charlie as they take on the role as Session Leaders for the sessions at The Place on Monday and Friday nights.
- Young people as they work on the new ‘Cry-Wolf’ project to raise awareness of the impact of harmful language.
- Young people as they promote Project DAVE 2 – a series of radio broadcasts to raise awareness a of domestic abuse.

PAIGNTON

- Pray for the young people as they learn to support other young people who are struggling with their mental health.
- Bost and Shelly (Streetbase Workers) as they go out onto the streets of Foxhole every Friday night to support young people at risk.

TORQUAY

- Pray for Gill as she takes on the leadership of the Youth Drop-In taking place at St Andrews Methodist Church on Friday nights.
- The Streetbase Workers as they go onto the streets of Shiphay and Chelston on Friday nights.
- Give thanks for our working relationship with the Co-op in Shiphay who helped to raise £3,634.27 towards our work with young people in Shiphay.

DARTMOUTH

- Please pray that God will bring more volunteers to support the 113 young people that we’re working with on a weekly basis – **HELP NEEDED!!**
- Pray for the new Fix ‘n’ Ride project as it launches this term.

CRANBROOK

- Please pray for the workers as they support a number of young people with learning needs.
- Pray for those young people who struggle with anxiety and self-harm..

YOUNG PEOPLE IN GENERAL

- For the young carers we support
- Those affected by domestic abuse
- Those confused by life choices
- Those with no confidence
- Those who are bullied or marginalised
- Those struggling at school



Some Diary Dates...

9th February	Project DAVE 2 Launch at the United Reformed Church, Brixham
13th-16th Feb	HALF TERM
24th February	3 rd Annual Youth Work Conference at the 100 Club, Exeter
10th March	Youth Genesis at the URC Southwestern Synod Meeting in Bridgwater
17th March	Youth Genesis Jumble Sale at Ivy Lane, Dartmouth
20th March	Youth Genesis Directors Meeting
29nd March	End of Term

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Supporting Youth Genesis for the price of a Coffee...!!

£3 per month will help us to make a big difference in the lives of the young people who are facing some of the most difficult circumstances – from young carers through to young people at risk of offending or at risk of getting involved in drug use. Only with the kind support of our generous donors can we continue this vital work.

If you would like to support the work of Youth Genesis, you can do this by completing the form on the next page and returning it to us at:

**Youth Genesis Trust
Palace Avenue Business Centre
4 Palace Avenue
Paignton
Devon
TQ3 3HA**

For more information and details about our regular projects and activities, please visit our website:

www.youthgenesis.org.uk



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