

Training NEW Volunteers...

Dear Friends,

We have spent an exciting time over the winter developing our work with young people on the streets of Torbay as well as delivering a volunteer training course in partnership with Torbay Council and Sanctuary Housing. The course, delivered over six weeks in Watcombe, saw 15 volunteers from various projects and charities across Torbay gain a certificate for attending workshops which included: Health and Safety, Youth Work Skills, Safeguarding and Committee Skills.

Our team of over thirty volunteers have been busy running the Youth Genesis programme across the Bay, developing the projects which includes 'The Place' and 'The Zone:Reloaded' – we'll bring you more from these later!!

Michelle...

Michelle Fascione has been working for Youth Genesis since April 2013. In September, Michelle became a Session Leader at The Place Youth Drop-In which is open on Friday evenings at the United Reformed Church in Brixham. Michelle is studying a Level 3 course in Youth Work Practice with the Regional Youth Work Unit. As part of the course, Michelle has been working with Youth Genesis which is her placement – gaining valuable experience working with young people and running a youth project. As well as The Place, Michelle is running The Zone:Reloaded, which is held at the Christian Community Centre, Fore Street, Brixham – an after school club for school Years 5-8.



Michelle Fascione

The Place – Street Pastors drop in...

The Place youth drop-in, which runs on Friday evenings at the United Reformed Church in Brixham, has been growing from strength to strength. The numbers have been steadily growing over the past few months, especially as we're providing young people in Brixham with somewhere warm and safe to hang out. Michelle and her team have been working hard with a challenging group of young people; as well as the usual games and activities,

our Friday night sessions have included group work with young people that has covered topics such as health, relationships, bullying, rights and responsibilities. We also get the opportunities to talk with young people about spirituality and our faith!

We don't just work alone, as well the police dropping in from time to time, we're also pleased to welcome the Street Pastors who pop into the session during their shift in Brixham. It's a fantastic way to show young people that we're all working together to better support them in their lives.



The Street Pastors on one of their visits to 'The Place'

More from 'Streetbase'...

The 'Streetbase' project has been taking off over the winter – we're starting to identify core groups of young people in the town centres of Paignton and Torquay. At the request of Torbay Youth Service, we've also been supporting a youth group which has started in Chelston Methodist Church.

Based in Central Church (Torquay), our team has been going out onto the streets on Tuesday nights from 7-9pm. The key part of the process of developing this work is to establish a regular presence on the streets; this is paying dividends as young people are starting to trust that a Streetbase presence will always be there for them on Tuesday nights. Working with a group in McDonalds in Torquay, one girl asked our workers not to leave as she didn't want to go home, so the Streetbase team stayed and spoke with her – the young people said they will see us next time we are on the streets.

It's the same for our team in Paignton, who are based at Christ Church – they have started having regular contact with a group of young people in the multi-storey car park behind Victoria Park. Using part of the key approach of being a regular presence on the streets, our Streetbase workers in Paignton, Sara and Mark, are having group discussions with young people every session on Tuesday nights. During this stage of contact, Sara and Mark are finding out about the young people and what their interests and possible aspirations are.

It's not just important for the young people to regularly see our workers out and about on the streets, but the community too! Our Paignton team have a regular route around the town, which includes a stop off at the chippie! Some great discussion come out of this with local businesses and residents.

If you would like to get involved, either as a worker or prayer supporter – please contact:

Sara Artingstall (Streetbase Coordinator) – 07944 366990

Rev. Gill Kimber (Streetbase Prayer Coordinator) - 01803 556773



Mark enjoys some chips

Celebrating Christmas...

Every year we get the staff, directors and young people together to celebrate the work of Youth Genesis and to thank them for their hard work over the past year. This Christmas (2013), we held a gathering at the home of one of our Directors – 23 people from across the Bay got together to share their Youth Genesis stories from 2013. There are many parts to an organisation, so this is another great way to get people to meet and say what is they're doing as part of the Trust.



Mrs Barrett conducts the Choir!

As well as the stories, we also had activities – one where a 'whistle choir' played Christmas carols, conducted by Helen Barrett from Fore Streets Methodist Church, Brixham.

Volunteer Training...

Working with Sancutary Housing and Torbay Council, Youth Genesis was involved with delivering a six week training course for volunteers who are working in different projects across Torbay. The aim was to equip people working with disadvantaged groups to help – this was a success as we saw 15 people (including some from Youth Genesis) complete the course, which was held at the Watcombe Community Centre in Torquay, before Christmas.



Volunteers with their Certificates of Completion

The certificates of completion show that the volunteers attended workshops that included an introduction to youth work, equality and diversity, rights and responsibilities, working as a team, safeguarding and health and safety. Projects around the Bay are now benefitting from new and enhanced volunteers!!

Please pray for...

- **Continue to pray for the young people we are working with who have specific issues** – those who have learning difficulties, issues with relationships, those who are bullied, who misuse drugs and alcohol, those who are unemployed, those who self-harm, and those in any kind of need that we are not yet aware of.
- **Streetbase** – for the teams who are going out onto the streets of Torbay, that God will give them strength to deal with the many situations and obstacles that they face.

Inspiring Young People with a Vision for Life

- **New Volunteers** – thank God for our new volunteers as they start their work with Youth Genesis.
- **Reconnecting young people** – that the Holy Spirit will work through us and help to reconnect those young people who are in no way connected with the churches of Torbay.

Some Diary Dates...

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| 15th March | Youth Genesis at the Youth & Children's Work South West Conference at Belmont Chapel, Exeter. |
| 16th March am | Jonathan speaking at Brixham Baptist Church. |
| 29th March am | Jonathan speaking on BBC Radio Devon at 10am. |
| 30th March am | Jonathan speaking at Furrough Cross URC. |
| 1st April | Youth Genesis Directors Meeting. |
| 6th April am | Jonathan speaking at Brixham URC. |
| 13th April am | Jonathan speaking at Central Church, Torquay. |
| 13th April pm | Jonathan speaking at the Churches Together in Torquay United Service at Central Church. |
| 4th May pm | Jonathan speaking at Gerston Chapel, Paignton. |
| 11th May am | Jonathan speaking at St Mary's Parish Church, Brixham. |

Weekly Activities

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| Mondays | 5.30-6.45pm – Anchor Boys Brigade at Brixham URC (5-8 yrs)
7-8.15pm – Junior Section Boys Brigade at Brixham URC (8-11yrs)
7.30-9pm – Senior/Company Section Boys Brigade at Brixham URC (11-19 yrs) |
| Tuesdays | 3.30-5.30pm – The Zone: Reloaded After School Club at the Christian Community Centre, Fore Street, Brixham (9-13 yrs)
7-9pm – 'Streetbase' Torquay Team[s] (11-19 yrs) Based at Central Church, Torquay |

- Wednesdays** 5.30-8.30pm – ‘Streetbase’ Brixham Team (11-19 yrs) Based at Brixham United Reformed Church.
- Thursdays** 10am-12noon – 16-24 Work Club at Brixham URC (16-24yrs)
7-9pm – ‘Streetbase’ Paignton Team (11-19 yrs) Based at Christ Church, Paignton
- Fridays** 7-9pm – The Place Youth Drop-In at Brixham URC (11-17 yrs)

Thank you for your prayers

Jonathan Oliverio – Youth Work Co-ordinator



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