



Gloucestershire
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

Annual Report 2020-2021

Governance and Public Benefit

Our trustees are appointed and reappointed at our trustees meeting in accordance with our constitution. Trustees are appointed for a three year term. All trustees are voluntary and give of their time and expertise without receiving remuneration or benefit. Trustees meet approximately ten times a year.

The charity adheres to all current child protection legislation and adheres to good practice guidelines in all areas of its work. Youth for Christ Gloucestershire is an affiliated member of British Youth for Christ. Whilst operating as an independent charity Youth For Christ Gloucestershire is a chartered ministry of British Youth For Christ and receives support and advice from them.

Our Trustees

Rod Pellereau (Chair person)	Rob Goldsmith	Steph Rollinson
Helen Howes	Yemi Alabi	

Our aim

Our aim is to see Good News taken to every young person in Gloucestershire. This will be done in a variety of ways and through many different people. Our approach is to enhance the personal, social and spiritual development of young people through encounters with Christianity. We seek to see young people's lives changed by Jesus. We believe this can only be achieved when we work in partnership with churches, charities and other youth organisations.

Main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Our work provides support for young people of any or no faith group. We seek to provide for their social, personal and spiritual needs. We had a significant reduction in the number of young people we worked with in-person this year due to the pandemic lockdowns. We have managed to restart two youth groups following the ending of lockdowns. Our contacts in schools have massively reduced, but throughout much of the year, we have provided mentoring services in multiple schools. Whilst our number of interactions was lower, these interactions were more in-depth and extended nature. In addition, we have provided online youth groups as we continued to support young people throughout the pandemic. Whilst we were able to deliver some in-person assemblies towards the later end of the year, we provided video assembly resources to four primary schools, helping us reach approximately 1000 young people on a regular basis.

Through this work, we have been able to support young people as they struggled with the challenges of the pandemic. We had reports from young people and their parents of the impact having regular contact, albeit online at points, had on the young people. Reports of isolation, anxiety and loneliness have been frequent, with our groups providing invaluable support to young people. As the country has opened up, we have seen an uptake in a number of our groups, with young people keen to make reconnection. Our work with young people from the Christian community enables them to lives that involve active and positive participation in their peer groups and society in general. These young

people are also given the opportunity to develop leadership skills to benefit them in their transition into the workforce. We continue to see significant growth in the young people's confidence and leadership ability involved in our young leader's training group. We have involvement in our church-based youth work provision through our partnership with Anglican churches in the South Cheltenham area. Also, we support a variety of other churches from a broad denominational background through training, advice, resources and practical support.

Director's Report

This year was the year no one wanted! The year started in lockdown, and a significant part of the year saw us facing some levels of restrictions. Opportunities for face to face youth work were more restricted.

Having had a larger team in the previous year, our team was reduced this year. The year came to an end for two placement volunteers at the start of the year. We also furloughed two members of staff due to financial uncertainties and reduced opportunities for face to face youth work. This furlough lasted for four months and following this time, we used the furlough scheme for a limited amount of flexible furlough. During the year, two local volunteers joined us as part of a gap year. Due to our circumstances, they volunteered part time whilst continuing to work elsewhere.

Despite these challenges, we still managed to provide support services to a number of young people in a variety of contexts.

Our greatest challenge for the year started where the previous year left off: working out how we support young people when the country is locked down. We had sent out Lockdown resource packs to young people just prior to the lockdown, and the first few weeks of the year were spent working out how we could support them further, without opportunities for social contact. Along with the rest of the world, we quickly adapted to Zoom, and began the process of working out how we can run Zoom Youth Groups. Initially, we managed this with our church based groups and our young leaders group. These proved successful, with good initial levels of take up. This was harder for our school based groups. Our groups in schools rely on face to face contact and communication, without this, we had limited opportunities to reach out to the young people. Over time, some students contacted us through social media, and we were able to establish a few online groups. Whilst we were working within the limitations of an online group, we could still see the benefit. The groups provided the young people the opportunity to share concerns they had about coronavirus, the potential impact on their future without school as they had known it, and anxiety about the lockdown. For some young people, these groups became a place of regular refuge that allowed them space to work through these issues in a safe environment. As the year progressed, we established an online youth group from scratch. This arose from a request from a parent seeking support for her children. Despite not knowing the young people particularly well, we managed to establish the group. Over time, particularly in the January 2021 lockdown, we saw greater reluctance of young people to engage with online groups. This reflected a trend seen nationally. As young people spent more time learning remotely with their school, they were reluctant to commit to further online time elsewhere.

5 ways we connected with young people

01

Assemblies

Both online and in-person assemblies took place in five schools.

We supported young people throughout the year through our school based mentoring scheme.

02

MENTORING

03

ONLINE YOUTH GROUPS

Our existing groups went online and we also established a new online only group.

We established a media project to provide video resources to support young people and schools.

04

VIDEO RESOURCES

05

FACE TO FACE YOUTH WORK

Despite many months of restrictions, we have still been able to provide some face to face youth work.

The Lockdown resulted in our schools work stopping, as schools closed down and then tried to establish remote learning. This meant our schools work ceased in it's previous format. We talked with our school partners about the best way to support them. The outcome of this was the development of a media project. Through a grant from Cheltenham Borough Council, we were able to purchase some cameras to begin making video assembly resources. These were used by five primary, but were also available on YouTube. In addition, we began creating video content for young people via our social media channels. Whilst this had an initial short term usage, we also recognise the importance of this as aspect of our work as we move forward. We are also aware that developing this will require a different skill set that we have within the team at the moment.

As the year progressed, we were able to return to some of our previous work in schools. Opportunities for in-person assemblies and lessons started again, and we were able to support a number of students through our mentoring support scheme. Our school based mentoring project has grown throughout the year, with the addition of a another school.

One result of the pandemic has been a significant drop in interactions with young people. Last year, we had approximately 17,000 interactions. During this year, this has dropped to approximately 5,000. This interactions have often been at a deeper level and longer in length. We have also seen a rise in interactions with young people

through YouTube and other social media. As we plan for the future, we are exploring what this aspect of our work will look like as we move forward. Whenever the country has opened up, we have seen an increase in interactions, and are confident that as the country opens up, we will see this continue.

Our work supporting churches and those involved in church-based youth work has continued this year. Our partnership with South Cheltenham Churches and Cheltenham Network Church continues, with Hanna supporting the young people throughout the pandemic. During the year, the group has actually grown. Volunteer provision continues to be a challenge, which has been exaggerated by the pandemic. We have also supported a number of other churches during the year. We have provided training for Cambray Baptist Church, supported a number of church based youth workers and volunteers. We have also agreed to provide youth work support to the West Cheltenham Team Ministry beginning in the summer term of 2021. We also engaged with a number of churches to help provide food to over 5,000 families living in food poverty.

As the end of the year approached, we launched a new project to support young people who are facing long term unemployment. We will provide mentoring support to young people in this situation, and work with them on their area of need, whether it be assistance with applications, CV writing, interview techniques, or working out a suitable career path. In September 2020, the unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds was 14.6%, nearly a 2% rise from the previous year (source Office of National Statistics). This project will develop over the next year.

We continue to support young people grow and develop in their faith through our young leader's group, Underground. During the pandemic, we have met with the group more regularly, to provide additional support. The age range of the group has also changed to cover years 8-13. This change has been based on the recognition that those young people in the group who have benefitted the most, have been involved for a longer period of time.

Despite initial concerns at the start of the pandemic, we have continued to receive fantastic support from individuals and local churches. People have shown incredible generosity, despite their own personal uncertainty. We are very aware of the vast difference this makes to the young people we work with and the considerable cost to those supporting our work. This support and the support we receive through our fundraising events continue to make up our core support. At a time of so much anxiety, this has made a massive difference. The faithfulness of this support makes planning our work much more manageable. We continue to walk a fine line between faith and wise stewardship of the resources we have. We are very grateful to all those who stand alongside us in support, whether through prayer, finance or volunteering. The youth team deliver the frontline work that had been made possible by the support of those who give finance, time and prayer.

At the end of the year, we look forward to an uncertain year ahead. With hindsight, we started the year, slightly naively, thinking the pandemic would last for less time than the reality has been. Whilst it would appear that things will improve, the year ahead will almost certainly be another unusual year, that will involve a lot of adaptation.

Paul Bennett Director

* numbers are rough approximations and may vary a small amount

Finance report

As with a majority of the charity sector, we had grave concerns at the start of the financial year about what lay ahead. We initially predicted an income drop of 20-30%. In order to prepare for this, we used the governments furlough scheme. Whilst we kept a majority of our staff in place, we furlough some staff, which reflected our financial concern as well as reduced opportunities as a result of the lockdown. As we look back, our initial concerns were not realised. Our regular income remained stable, with some increases from individual donors. Concerns about a drop in income from individuals did not materialise, in fact this income rose as people were very generous. This was coupled with a reduction in expenses. Most noticeably, this is in youth work. This reflects the changing nature of the youth work undertaken. With more online youth work taking place, less physical resources were required. This was partially offset by increased expenditure on equipment, required to meet the need of changing youth work. The purchase of cameras and IT equipment facilitated online assemblies and youth work. Travel costs were also significantly reduced.

As we move in to the new financial year we expect to see these costs rise to a higher level. Next year still brings a level of uncertainty, but at the time of writing this report, we have seen positive signs for the future.

We would like to thank all those who have given to our work to ensure that we can continue to see young people's lives changed by Jesus.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GLOUCESTERSHIRE				
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021				
	Notes	2020/2021	2019/2020	
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	1	2708	1,886	
	<i>Total fixed assets</i>	2708	1,886	
Current Assets				
Debtors	2	1537	1,606	
Cash at bank and in hand	3	23346	14,947	
	<i>Total current assets</i>	24882	16,553	
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	2226	1,959	
	<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	22656	14,594	
	<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>	25364	16,480	
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year				
TOTAL NET ASSETS OR LIABILITIES		25364	16,480	

Reserves

Opening reserves	16480	23,164
Surplus/(deficit) for year	8884	-6,684
Closing reserves	25364	16,480

SIGNED:

Hon Treasurer:

Independent Examiner:

AKM FCA

Date: 12.12.21

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Notes to the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	2020/2021	2019/2020
1 Tangible Assets		
Furniture, IT, etc	13,108	13,731
Accumulated depreciation	10,400	11,845
	<u>2,708</u>	<u>1,886</u>
2 Debtors		
Prepaid Expense	27	262
Accrued income	484	201
Deposit held by landlord	500	500
Recoverable Gift Aid	526	643
	<u>1,537</u>	<u>1606</u>
3 Cash at bank and in hand		
RBS - Current a/c	3,137	7
RBS - Deposit a/c	0	0
CAF Cash	7,686	4,468
CAF Gold	12,523	10,018
Co-op - Current a/c	0	453
	<u>23,346</u>	<u>14,947</u>
4 Creditors (due within one year)		
Creditors control	634	1959
Accrued expenses	1,592	0
	<u>2,226</u>	<u>1959</u>

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Statement of financial activities as at 31 March 2021

	2020/2021	2019/2020
Income from:		
Donations and legacies	56,922	53,937
Charitable activities	41,182	40,181
Investments	10	19
TOTAL	98,114	94,137
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	87,121	99,383
TOTAL	87,121	99,383
Net gains/(losses) on investments	0	0
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	10,993	-5,247
Other recognised gains/(losses)		
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of assets	2,109	1,437
NET Movement in funds	8,884	-6,684

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021

	2020/2021	2019/2020	Note
INCOME			
Donations and Legacies			
Gift aided donations	24,828	23,602	
GASDS	20	239	
Non gift aided donations	12,243	9,394	
Church donations	11,063	12,659	
Trusts	0	0	
Other - Companies	300	300	
Legacy donations	0	295	
Gift Aid Receivable	7,113	6,439	
Local Grants	1,355	1,010	
	56,922	53,937	
Charitable activities			
Fundraising events	4,406	11,766	
Resources - YFC	1,569	2,637	
Sales of resources	65	709	
Church Partnership	25,109	20,728	
Job retention scheme	8,657	0	
Statutory sick pay	377	0	
Other income - Youth Activities	0	3,664	
Other income	999	679	
	41,182	40,181	
Investments			
Bank Interest	10	19	
Bank Transfers/Balance Sheet	0	0	
	10	19	
EXPENDITURE			
Charitable activities			
Advertising	48	48	
Affiliation fees	154	125	
Bank fees	69	77	
Church Partnership Expenses	0	12	
Cost of fundraising events	4	2,154	
Equipment purchased (not assets)	1,139	0	
Equipment Lease or Rental	1,344	915	
Flowers & gifts	144	0	
Gross Salaries & Wages	72,721	68,648	
Insurance – Property & Contents	802	652	
IT Costs	531	0	
Local Ministries	5	169	
National insurance contributions - employers	1,958	2,566	
Office cleaning materials	183		
Pension contributions - employer	2,117	2,045	
Postage & Delivery	574	589	
Printing and Reproduction	340	1,348	
Refreshments	6	80	
Rent Expense	3,600	3,600	
Repairs & Maintenance	0	88	
Resources for resale	0	120	
Staff expenses	267	1,366	
Stationery	154	397	
Statutory Sick Pay	0	189	
Telephone & Internet	1,417	1,138	
Training	227	2,203	
Travel Expense	13	2,920	
YFC Resources	1,001	1,247	
Youth work activities	-1,697	6,688	
Other	0	0	
	87,121	99,383	
Gains/(losses) on fixed assets			
Depreciation for the year	2,109	1,437	
	2,109	1,437	
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	8,884	-6,684	

Youth For Christ Gloucestershire, 115 St. George's Road
Cheltenham. GL50 3ED
01242 524408
office@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk
www.yfcgloucestershire.co.uk
Charity no: 1163587



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