

Join Us

How to get involved:

Please help us to transform the lives of young people across County Durham today.

First please fill in your contact details

Name:
Address:

Postcode:
Email:
Landline:
Mobile:
Church/Group:

Next, please tick boxes below:

Pray
I'd like to receive regular prayer updates for Durham YFC.

Partner with YFC
I'd like to give regularly by standing order to Durham YFC's ministry.
(We will send you further details)

Volunteer
I'd like to volunteer my time and skills.

YFC visit
I'd like you to come to my _____ to share about your work in the area.

Donate
I'd like to give £ _____ to your work (cheques payable to 'Durham Youth For Christ')

Gift Aid
Increase your gift by 25% for every £1 you give. You must be a UK taxpayer, paying an amount of income tax or capital gains equal to the tax we claim on your donation. Please inform YFC in you cease to pay tax.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to:
St. Giles, Gilesgate, Durham, DH1 1QH
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Note from the Director...



2011 started with a bang with a move to new offices at St Giles Church. We love being in the midst of this community and have been made very welcome in a church nearly 900 years old. It is great to be based in a place so full of Christian legacy as we carry on the mission of God. This Spring newsletter brings stories of the team of volunteers working in schools, out on the streets and delivering junior work in the community. You are warmly invited to hear from them and young people we work with on Thursday 17th March at 6pm at St Giles Church for our 2011 Showcase! Thank you for your support, please come along to be encouraged and inspired together!

Kate Robinson - Durham YFC Director



Spring Edition 2011

This newsletter has been designed by James, a Durham YFC volunteer.

A Call to Depth...

Kate - Durham YFC Director

In newsletters to come you will hear of our work in Tanzania, development of our well being course, youth events, partnerships in County Durham, junior work residential and mentoring work with young offenders. The truth is all of these have sprung from the deep foundations we have built within the communities of Gilesgate and Belmont. It has been my experience that consistent love, listening, interest and care create a straight path for the good news. Young people from our work in Gilesgate and Belmont schools are daring to believe they can make a difference in Tanzania, vulnerable youth from these schools were the first to experience and evaluate what will be a national resource in well being, and our detached project delivers hundreds of hours of transformative youth work, a model which inspires others. It is not because we have found a special formula, rather we have a team of honest, genuine volunteers who have responded to the invitation to share God's story with often 'hardened' young people. We pray together, learn together and love together as family. It has been crucial in all this to join people from local churches. It has been crucial to work with and within the local community centres. These centres need local people on their management boards who can support what they are trying to do. Please consider how you could be involved both with them and with us.

Junior Work...

Abi - Durham YFC Volunteer



The Pelaw centre is open after school for the local kids to drop in and hang out. DYFC were asked to run arts & crafts for these kids once a week. The kids who come are from all different backgrounds, it is eye-opening to be there and really great to be a positive loving influence in that environment. We have children as young as 5, some of whom display erratic behaviour, others who lack confidence, others who are older and take some time to 'come round' to trusting us. It has taken much prayer and investment, but catching moments where you can see God at work is beautiful. At the Christmas party there was a new girl who didn't know me and she was only about 7yrs old but was my friend straight away and wanted to be on my team - I enjoyed giving her the attention she needed (she was sooo cute too)! Her older friend who was about 11yrs old just came and happily stood there holding my hand. I was blessed to be the person that could give them the gentle love they needed - even if it was as small as holding their hand. One of the best activities we did as a big group was painting a giant picture of the nativity where we all had a section to paint. This was something everyone got involved in, enjoyed and could be proud of what they did. The way I'd describe my experience would be is "living it!" God calls us to go to the broken, the lost, the fatherless etc and I was there in the middle of these wounded lives with God who worked through me!

In Schools...

Chris - Durham YFC Volunteer



On Tuesday lunchtimes each week during term time Faye, Pete, Kate & I go into Gilesgate Sports College. We do various activities which all revolve around how we can most impact the lives of pupils. Last term I helped to run a guitar club for a few of kids along with one of the music teachers, this was great fun and not only was it good for the young people to practically learn some skills on the guitar, it also facilitated conversations with them about deeper issues. This culminated with performances in the Christmas concert at St Giles church. This term Faye & Kate are moving the music scene on by setting up a band and have been learning new songs together. This is a great place to nurture supportive relationships. Pete has regularly gone and played tennis/basketball/football with some of the guys outside - I've started to join him this term and with Spring coming we'll be setting up a tennis tournament. We have a great relationship with a teacher there who helps provide a lot of lunchtime support for the pupils through sport and we are blessed that she lets us help out and is really grateful for our involvement. We are encouraged week by week, seeing God giving us more opportunities to get to know the young people more and help serve them in the best way we can.

Introducing...

Tadge - Durham YFC Volunteer



I like to spend time with young people, and I love telling others about Jesus. This is why I started helping with DYFC in the autumn. I'd previously heard of, and seen the really positive things that YFC does, locally and nationally. I've been treading the pavements of Gilesgate, meeting and chatting to young people and running the occasional 'Uncut' session - exploring the Christian faith with interested young people. One of the most memorable encounters I've had is with Ben and Sophie during one night on detached. I had met Ben before hand at a group session, at which I had told him something of what I felt God had done in my life. Then, when we came across them in the dark, just after meeting Sophie, Ben put my story of God in his own words. The story of my encounter with God meant so much to Ben that he wanted to tell someone else! Sharing stories is such a simple and profound thing. Working with DYFC gives you the chance to be that kind of messenger. It's thrilling, surprising and sometimes, heart breaking. That's because it's following in the footsteps of the life Jesus led on earth. Is it time for you to live it with us?