

The cover features a dark purple diagonal band across the center. The top and bottom sections are light blue with a repeating pattern of white icons representing various concepts like education, nature, and community. The text is prominently displayed in white and dark blue.

FRONTIER YOUTH TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

This year has been marked by resilience, creativity, and commitment. We've navigated significant changes to our team structure while maintaining our commitment to the FYT movement. Yet through it all, we have remained rooted in our calling: to pioneer with and for young people on the margins.

The year began with difficult but necessary decisions about staffing, leading to farewells to valued team members, Ian, John and Vicki. While these departures created challenges around capacity and required careful management of ongoing projects, they also opened space for the remaining leadership team to clarify vision and establish new rhythms of working.

What emerges from this period of change is a leaner but more focused organisation. We've maintained our core commitments while adapting our approach to match our capacity. The response from our movement has been encouraging – from the 23 young people who attended our Prophetic Dreamers weekend to the practitioners engaging with our webinar series and regional Zoom meetings.

Perhaps most significantly, this year has reinforced our understanding that FYT's strength lies not in the size of our team, but in the breadth and depth of our movement.

The challenges we've faced – around funding, capacity, and organisational change – mirror those experienced across the youth work sector. Yet our response has been characterised by hope rather than retreat. We've invested in listening to our movement, building stronger connections through regular communications, and continuing to take risks in pursuit of our mission.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence that the foundations we've laid this year – stronger partnerships with organisations like the Methodist Church and Salvation Army, proven models like Prophetic Dreamers, and renewed focus on our core themes of Home, Risk, and Voice – position us well for sustainable growth.

This annual report tells the story of the past year through these three themes that capture who we are and what we do.

Home, Risk and Voice.

These are not just words—they reflect the lived reality of the FYT community. They remind us that we are a home for pioneers, that we embrace the risks of innovation, and that our collective voice matters in shaping the future of youth work and the church.

HOME

Creating a Home for Pioneers

A home is where people feel they belong, and in the past year, we have invested deeply in creating such a home for pioneers. Pioneering can be hard and isolating, but through connection, we sustain and equip one another.

Highlights this year:

Regional Zoom Groups: Continued North and South gatherings offered space for peer support, practice-sharing, and encouragement. Attendance has been uneven, but they remain vital points of connection.

Message from the Margins: The launch of our "Message from the Margins" monthly email has created a new rhythm of connection with our movement. Engagement has been steady, sparking conversations and building solidarity across the movement.

WhatsApp Community: Our WhatsApp discussions have proven particularly valuable for fostering community around specific themes. The neurodiversity conversation generated excellent engagement, demonstrating the appetite for peer learning and support among our practitioners. These informal spaces complement our more structured offerings and provide ongoing support between events.

By weaving together digital, physical, and creative spaces, we continue to build a home where pioneers can rest, reflect, and renew.



RISK

Improving and Increasing Practice on the Ground

Risk is at the heart of pioneering. It means stepping into the unknown, testing ideas, and addressing challenging issues. This year we have embraced risk through training, experimentation, and resource development.

Highlights this year:

Prophetic Dreamers: Expanded into a bold programme of workshops on theology, activism, and healthy relationships—alongside creative outlets such as the clothes swap. These events empowered young people to lead and shape the agenda.

Training and support: Training delivery has remained responsive to emerging needs. Our work on youth work in private dwellings addressed sector-wide concerns, while our LGBTQIA+ inclusion workshops continue to meet demand from organisations seeking to become more welcoming and affirming. We delivered sessions with the Methodist Church and regional networks, supporting churches to better welcome LGBTQIA+ young people.

Conference Season: We led or contributed to multiple workshops at national events, including 3 Generate, NYMW, and the National Estates Network Conference, taking risks in challenging spaces and offering practical tools.

Beyond Conference: This year we relocated to Burnley to improve northern accessibility, demonstrating our willingness to experiment with new approaches. While ticket sales presented challenges, the move reflects our commitment to serving our whole movement rather than defaulting to southern-centric approaches. The event platformed voices from within the movement and showcased good practice.

Creative Resources: Development of new tools such as the Neurodivergent Die and the “Jesus Doesn’t Mind” postcards, as well as collaboration on the Salvation Army’s LGBTQIA+ resource.

CMS Pioneer Training Course: Our CMS Pioneer Course youth module continues to provide structured training opportunities. With ten students enrolled across youth and children’s work, we’re directly equipping the next generation of pioneer practitioners.

Through these activities, FYT continues to support and resource practitioners to take pioneering risks—wherever young people need them most.



VOICE

Calling More to
Pioneering with
Young People

Our collective voice is vital in advocating for young people and inspiring others to join this movement. By speaking into national conversations and publishing creative work, FYT is amplifying the voices of the margins.

Highlights this year:

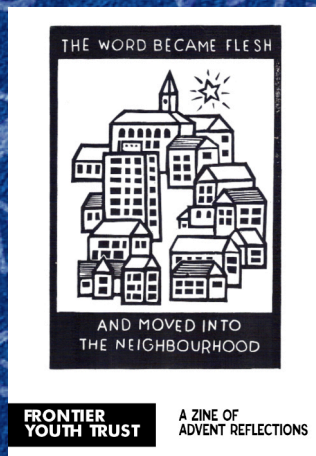
Conferences and Platforms: Delivered seminars and exhibitions at 3 Generate, NYMW, the National Estates Network, and The Birmingham Conversation. The "Open Doors, Closed Doors" exhibition developed for 3 Generate represents a powerful example of giving voice to marginalised experiences. Created with input from our Prophetic Dreamers, Q Space, and Open House groups, this exhibition highlights LGBTQIA+ young people's experiences with the church. The invitation to take this exhibition to other Methodist districts demonstrates its impact and the appetite for these conversations.

Partnerships: Collaborations with groups such as Curbs, the Salvation Army, and URC networks have extended our reach and multiplied our impact.

Publications: Our zines continue to be a platform for storytelling, reflection, and prophetic challenge—circulating new ideas for the future of youth ministry.

Advocacy: Our advocacy work has continued through strategic conference attendance and speaking opportunities. Dylan's contribution to the Birmingham Conversation ensured pioneer perspectives were heard in discussions about the future of youth ministry. Our involvement with the National Estates Network Conference highlighted the voice of estate-based youth work. Our consultation invitations, including Lauren's role with the URC board, position us to influence policy and practice at denominational levels. These opportunities allow us to advocate for young people on the margins within formal church structures.

Together, these voices form a chorus calling the church to pay attention to young people at the margins and to join in pioneering creative, inclusive, and hopeful responses.



OUR FUTURE

At FYT, we believe that real change begins where comfort ends. The future of youth ministry will not be built in boardrooms or designed from the centre. It will rise from the margins, from the places where creativity, struggle, and hope meet.

Too often, the voices of young people on the edges are ignored or dismissed. Yet these are the voices that can reimagine our shared future. They see the world differently. They challenge what is broken and imagine what could be. Alongside them stand youth workers who choose to work where it is hardest, and where transformation is most needed. These are the voices we are committed to amplifying.

Over the next three years, we are embarking on a bold act of creative resistance: to centre marginalised voices through arts activism. Through listening, gathering, and amplifying, we will build spaces where creativity fuels justice, where protest becomes a form of hope, and where belonging becomes a shared act of defiance.

This movement is driven by three commitments:

- To empower marginalised young people as artists, leaders, and change-makers in their communities.
- To equip and celebrate youth workers on the edges as pioneers of inclusive and courageous practice.
- To challenge and reshape the mainstream through prophetic imagination and creative disruption that begins from the margins.

We are living through a time of division, inequality, and disconnection. Young people are the first to feel the impact and the last to be heard. The need for a braver, more imaginative approach to youth work has never been greater.

Your partnership will make it possible to listen deeply, create boldly, and act collectively.

Together, we can support young people and youth workers to tell stories that mischievously demand attention, create art that disrupts injustice, and build communities where every voice matters.

**Because when those on the edges lead,
we all move forward.**



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we all move forward.**

FOR REGULAR NEWS AND UPDATES:

And check the website: www.fyt.org.uk

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