



**FRONTIER  
YOUTH TRUST**  
MISSION WITH YOUNG  
PEOPLE AT RISK

/News

**AUTUMN 2020**

# SIGNS OF HOPE AND NEW LIFE

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers, gifts and encouragement over the last few months. It has been hard for lots of people in lots of different ways. We can only imagine how tough it has been for young people – isolated at home away from your peers, school closed, youth club closed, locked-in with your parents – compounded by the fears of Covid, and fading futures in the muddle over exam grades, college places and the start of term.

I imagine too that this time has been tough on you in its own way. For this reason, we are particularly grateful for your kind prayers and generosity to think of young people and youth workers at this time. Over the last few months we have found our work has been primarily about pastoral care, listening to people's stories and helping our movement youth workers navigate the 'headache' of restrictions on their work.

During the Spring and Summer, we made it a priority to listen to God and to our contexts, and to care for those in the FYT family – and each of our Leadership Team have taken some time on furlough as demand for training reduced. We spent our time listening to what God might be saying to our hearts and hopes, discerning who we might be at this time and going forward.

As Autumn draws in we are beginning to dream of a bigger, wider movement of Christians responding to young people in their local communities. We have moved much of our support and training online, and in doing so we are embracing the accessibility it is offering those who were previously unable to travel. Across the Movement youth projects are awakening: in this issue of news you'll find stories of how churches have responded throughout the crisis, and how they are re-imagining work with young people at this uncertain time.

At the start of the lockdown I was drawn to the story of Noah, locked in a boat while the storm raged outside. The waters have not yet receded, but we are on the lookout for signs of hope and new life.

With Love

John (on behalf of the Leadership Team)

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# A MOVEMENT ON THE MOVE

Frontier Youth Trust is a movement of independent, local youth projects and workers. Over the last few months, this movement led the emergency response to Covid in their local communities across the UK. We have reports of groups responding to the diverse but immediate needs of young people and their families: from collecting food bank donations to computer support for the suddenly homeschooled. Christian youth workers across our movement have embraced the new ground of moving youth work to online platforms - as well as parcels and doorstep deliveries - to continue to be bearers of hope in local communities.

Here are some stories from movement members, please do write in with your own...



## MAINTAINING CONTACT

In Dundee the Hot Chocolate Trust have been playing to their team's different strengths: they have taken some projects online, used the space outside their building, and turned their one-to-one support sessions into 'walks' (all whilst maintaining social distancing). Knowing that the disruption has impacted the wellbeing of so many, the Hot Chocolate Team have worked hard to maintain as much contact as possible to ensure stability in a time of uncertainty.

## KEEPING IT CLEAN

In Coventry the Bardsley House Homeless Hub have continued to support homeless and sofa-surfing young people throughout the pandemic. Realising that few of the young people in their network had access to washing machines, and that laundrettes were closing in the lockdown, the Bardsley team set up an impromptu laundry service, collecting laundry from their members while dropping off care packages. The new term is bringing opportunity to meet up one-on-one outdoors to give more support.

## SMALLER NUMBERS, BIGGER IMPACT

In Kilburn, London, the OK Club have been running summer holiday projects in accordance with the official 'bubble' guidance for working with young people, keeping young people in groups of no more than 15, so the team (like others) have had to be extra creative. They have used the opportunity to grow problem solving and leadership skills by challenging young people to devise new games and activities that fit within the rules. The upside is smaller, slower-paced groups have seen an increase in pastoral conversations, offering valuable time for young people to express and explore the rollercoaster of emotions this year has brought.

## A DIFFERENT FOCUS

In Bicester (nr Oxford), movement member Nicola Cooper noticed that much of the emergency support in her community focussed on those who were shielding. With a heart for young people, Nicola reached out into her local community (using social media) to fundraise for wellbeing packs for young people. Through this, many who have little contact with young people or the church have been engaged in a practical way to support young people. Plus Nicola has made new connections, and raised awareness in the community of how the pandemic has impacted people of all ages.



Please continue to pray for youth workers and young people across the UK. Many continue to experience significant disruption to their education. Many are experiencing loss: of employment, of loved ones, of college and university placements. Many are without the support of youth workers to walk alongside them.

The leadership team at FYT have been encouraged and inspired by the incredible stories of hope, creativity and generosity that have emerged from across the FYT family, and we continue to pray for our members serving their local communities in locally relevant ways.



# REFLECTING ON LOCKDOWN

Here is a reflection tool created by our Movement Enabler, Dylan Barker, to aid his own reflections during (and after) Lockdown. We thought you might find it helpful too.

## LOCKDOWN LABYRINTH

Labyrinths have often been walked to focus one's mind on God. This lockdown labyrinth has been designed with this extraordinary time in mind. Rather than a journey to the centre, this labyrinth's twisting turns and long corridors mirror our current circumstances. This journey will hopefully take you to a new understanding of where you already are. Trace the path with your finger and consider the questions as you journey through the labyrinth.

### HEADING IN

- 1 What are you embracing about the time ahead, what are you resisting?
- 2 Some rhythms of life have to be let go, which are you pleased about, which are painful?
- 3 Where is 'safety' now?

### IN THE MIDST

- 4 How is your body and soul feeling?
- 5 What expectations of 'normal' are you letting go of?
- 6 We serve God when there is work for us, and when there is none. Who is God calling you to be or become at this time?
- 7 What is your 'daily bread' now?

### HEADING OUT

- 8 What do you want to leave behind/let go of?
- 9 What have you learnt about yourself and God at this time?
- 10 What new questions are arising for you?
- 11 What gift from this time will you take with you?



# YOUTH WORK TRAINING IN A DIGITAL AGE

Frontier Youth Trust has a long history of supporting, training and resourcing youth workers in mission – but recent constraints from Covid and the social distancing guidelines, plus pre-existing constraints on youth workers' time, travel and budgets, has hampered our plans. So, for a while now, we have been quietly working on plans to make our training and resources available on the internet. The lockdown has shown that people are willing to embrace digital training methods, reducing time, travel and cost, and making material much more widely available.

We are pleased to announce, with the support of The Jerusalem Trust and the Garfield Weston Foundation, we are launching a new digital training programme for those working with young people on the margins. Our initial offering will include:

- Detached (Street) Youth Work Building on our experience of working with young people on the street with the StreetSpace project, we will respond to the Social Distance guidelines by equipping more churches and youth workers to engage young people in an outdoor setting.
- Diversity Last year we launched the incredibly popular Diversity Dice resource in partnership with QSpace (available now at [fyt.org.uk/shop](http://fyt.org.uk/shop)). This training will build on the resource equipping churches and youth projects to curate inclusive spaces.

More information coming soon at [www.fyt.org.uk](http://www.fyt.org.uk)

# AIMCommunity: WISHING YOU THE VERY BEST...

We would like to wish AimCommunity all the very best as they transition the project into an independent local charity serving young people in Bournemouth.

AimCommunity is an innovative, creative arts education and mentoring project based in Bournemouth. Through AimCentral, their hub at East Howe Youth Centre, the team deliver a creative arts mentoring programme for young people. AIM continues to be an essential provider of music education and youth work in the Poole and Bournemouth areas, re-engaging young people who have become disengaged with mainstream education.

Frontier Youth Trust have been a home for AIMCommunity over the last few years

as they have worked with young people in Bournemouth, and sought to gain their own charitable status. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. Under the leadership



## INTRODUCING IAN

Hello, I'm Ian and I started working for Frontier Youth Trust on 1st April this year. April Fools day is a great day to start a new job in it's own right, but even more comical in the midst of a worldwide lockdown!

My role is an "activist" in the South West region where I seek to connect and resource pioneering youth work. I trained in Youthwork at UWE Bristol and then with CYM, followed by an MA in Urban ministry. I am also a Baptist Minister. I freelance in radio, working for the BBC in Bristol, Gloucester and Oxford from my home in Bath on the Whiteway estate. Amongst other pioneering conversations I am involved with

the setting up of a new community radio station run by young adults at the local youth hub.

I believe that youthwork is contextual and each context is different. I have a strong drive for inclusion, wanting to value all people as uniquely loved by God.

If you would like to chat about the challenges and signs of hope in your work with young people in the South West of England and South Wales email [Ian.Spence@fyt.org.uk](mailto:Ian.Spence@fyt.org.uk).



of Richard Newland they offer excellent youth work practice, giving young people opportunities to both express themselves, gain certification and develop life skills. Their committed team and new incoming trustees have worked tirelessly to bring together a strong and stable foundation from which they launched as a new independent charity on 1st January 2020. We will continue to walk alongside each other, cheerleading for them and calling together for a better world for young people. We thank God for all they have taught us and for all the adventures that now lay ahead of them in this exciting new season. Please do continue to pray for them.

You can find out more about AIM Community and continue to follow their journey at [www.aimcommunity.org](http://www.aimcommunity.org)

# PRAYERS

## FROM THE CHAIRS

Everyone has been affected during this time of uncertainty, and none more so than young people. From missing out on a large part of the school year, to varying levels of support, extra stress around exam results, financial strain on families and an increase in mental

health issues – young people need support now more than ever. Youth workers have also been facing difficulties: navigating changes in how they deliver their work, some have been furloughed, some will be facing funding cuts or job losses.

**With so many challenges we ask for your prayers for:**

A positive start to the school year for all students, but also remembering those not in education or unable to access it.

Those for whom home is not a safe place.

Young people suffering from mental health issues, brought on by, or exasperated by, the pandemic.

Youth workers – delivering youth work in what are difficult circumstances and with increased restrictions.

The Leadership Team – as they navigate through this difficult time and explore the best ways they can support the wider movement.

The FYT movement – that it will be a place of mutual support and communication.

May I take this opportunity to give our sincere thanks for your continued support of Frontier Youth Trust, we recognise that many are facing their own difficulties and financial uncertainty. We greatly value all you give to help FYT continue its work and we pray that you and your families stay safe during this time. **Lori Passmore – on behalf of the Co-Chairs**

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