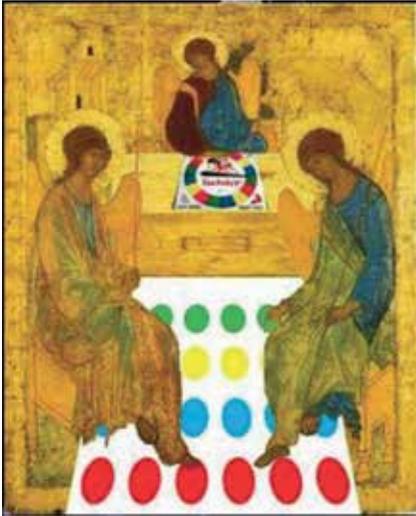




**FRONTIER
YOUTH TRUST**
MISSION WITH YOUNG
PEOPLE AT RISK

/News



In April we held the FYT Gathering and while I was there, I was part of a group playing a board game, with great intensity and mind-boggling concentration! We got ourselves lost in the game. In being together, we were sharing in a way that was genuine and joyful all at the same time. This sense of being present with others was something that I felt at several times over the weekend. People

were able to share time and dwell with each other in a Kingdom way. I realised we were experiencing how God is present in our communities and that, as we share time together, we are part of the outworking of the community of the Trinity.

It reminded me of a subverted version of Rublev's Icon of the Trinity, which itself shows the community and relationship that coexists within the Trinity, where the game of "Twister" has been added. I find this simple depiction of God in community with him/her-self, and the invitation we have to join that play and relationship, deeply profound. Playing together, with God in relationship, we share in delight at each other, as does God with us and the three parts of the trinity together.

When we share experiences of learning, playing and reflecting together, we develop a spiritual bond. We cultivate a supportive, inclusive community when we're together, which sustains us when we're apart and in our own contexts. Beyond the opportunities to improve youth work practice, discover new ideas and find new perspectives, this is the gift of the FYT Gathering, The Table and Learning Days – a community for youth workers to belong and feel connected to, wherever they are in the country, whatever the challenges before them.

Thank you for investing in this community and supporting us as we support others.



Alastair Jones
CEO FYT

SUMMER 2016

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GROWING COMMUNITY



Having settled in to the AIMCentral building, the AIMCommunity team are finding new ways to reach out. Matt Evans tells us more.

“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder” – that’s how the saying goes. But what if we said it can be found through the lens of a camera? This is exactly what some young people at AIMCommunity have been exploring recently.

During the spring half-term, 7 young people, along with some of their family members, joined the staff team for a creative photography walkabout. The young people had entered a competition to capture photos that encapsulated the theme “Our World Is Beautiful.” One of the young people has since won the local completion, the regional competition and has just heard that she has won the national stage of the competition! (Her winning picture is featured here, top.) Whilst winning is commendable, what is to be even more celebrated is the journey that we undertook together as we explored the wonder and beauty of Bournemouth. It is a great example of one of the ways community is growing at AIM.

Ever since we planted ourselves in AimCentral,

formerly the East Howe Youth Club, we have been seeking

ways to bridge out into the local community. One

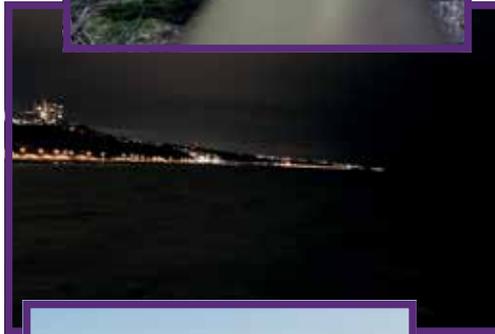
recent initiative has been the launch of the “Old School House Café” – a community café based in the main entrance hall of AimCentral. This has created great opportunities for members of the AIM team to deepen relationships with parents and carers, as they drop off young people for creative sessions.

Opening the café has also led to a spin off youth project, which has developed the name “ToasTea Mornings”. Young people can hang out and grab some breakkie before school begins. It’s the

perfect way to start their day and to develop community with them too.

We’re excited by ideas in the pipeline for complementing the existing creative and mentoring opportunities available for young people and developing an all-age creative hub. The

dedicated space we now call home has massive potential and we plan to use it to the best of our abilities.



Matt Evans



GATHERING STRENGTH

What were you doing in early April? Had you been out in the secluded South Yorkshire woodlands, just outside Sheffield, you may have stumbled across the StreetSpace Community hosting their sixth annual Gathering. The Gathering is where FYT brings together pioneer youth workers for a weekend of sharing, learning and community.

Do you know the difference between Asda Smartprice, Cadbury's and Green & Black's chocolate on a blind taste test? That was one of the questions on the opening night quiz. We split into teams to meet new people, and the winning team got first choice over which meal they cooked for the weekend, from a menu splendidly created by FYT's own Dylan Barker!



We spent most of the weekend talking about our youth work practice – sharing some great ideas and resources. One group I was a part of discussed the challenges of being both distinct and also part of something bigger. Another group set up a 'sex box' to collect questions and topics youth workers had found tricky to explore with young people. At the end of the weekend, the group provided us with some good answers to the questions. Ultimately, though, the focus

of people's feedback wasn't about the new ideas they were going home with, but the sense of encouragement and solidarity they had found:

"I feel like I've found a spiritual home. The last week has been absolutely crap but being here with the StreetSpace Community has left me feeling loved, empowered and better prepared for what's to come."

"StreetSpace is incredible! It has helped our project to not feel so isolated in our work on the margins, providing both practical and pastoral support. Without it, it would be a lonely battle." A StreetSpace Haiku:

"Setting a ship
to sail to another world,
helping us journey together"

It's a privilege to be able to provide this space for others and to be part of such a supportive community. Thank you for your support in helping us make this happen. All our Gatherings are funded through donations. If you would like to contribute, please go to www.give.net and search for Frontier Youth Trust.



FAMILY TOGETHER ON HOLIDAY

One of Out4Good's (O4G) core goals is to give young people not just accommodation, but a home and a sense of belonging to a family through relationships, shared activities and communal meals. Rachel Fletcher describes the difference going away together has made.

In April, O4G ran our first two residentials, one for the boys we house and the other for the girls. We took each of the two groups for a two night stay in Pevensey Bay. The young people planned their trips, which helped them to develop skills needed for working to a budget, researching activities and working together. This was a fantastic opportunity to spend more time with the residents away from the demands and pressures they face in Colchester. We spent valuable time getting to know our young people better, and building stronger relationships with them which will assist us in moving forward in the work we are doing back in Colchester. In addition, it built relationships and



community amongst the residents who attended, increasing peer support within the houses, as they got to know each other better.

We asked the young people each to tell you about their holiday at Pevensey Bay:



"We had a really good time on the residential. I hadn't been away for ages, so it was good to get out of Colchester for a few days and just chill out. We went to places I hadn't been before, such as Brighton for the day and a couple of hours in Eastbourne town. We went out for dinner at the Toby Carvery, also we went shopping and we chilled on the sofa watching films and doing some karaoke. It was nice to just be able to chill in the beach house and be able to just look out on to the sea. The weather was really nice so being able to go out onto the beach was a bonus. We enjoyed spending time all together." (Jasmine)

"I had fun going to the Toby Carvery - my dinner was bigger than Julie and Adam's. Then we went back to the place we stayed and chilled out watching TV and having chats. The next day we went to the Bentley museum, then to see the birds. After that we went to the railway museum and went on a train ride. The next day we got up early to clean up the place before going home. On the way home, me and Adam had a little game to see who can spot Eddie Stobart lorries." (Daniel)

This trip was only made possible because of the generosity of supporters of Out4Good who allowed us to use their holiday home, and the many others who have donated which allowed us to provide activities whilst we were away. We were overwhelmed with the success of these residential and hope that we will be able to do more in the future, taking the time out to get to know each other better really helped build community amongst the young people and staff.



Out4Good is grateful to receive funding from Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund

PRAYER DIARY

Thank you to those of you who pray regularly for FYT. The 'cut-out-and-keep' weekly diary below highlights some of the areas where we would really value your prayers.

Please pray and give thanks for:

SUNDAY

Give thanks for a great Gathering and for opportunities to provide support and encouragement to youth workers across the StreetSpace Community of Practice.

MONDAY

AIMCommunity would like to recruit people to help with their administration and driving young people from schools to AIMCentral. Please pray that the right people come forward to support them.

TUESDAY

Give thanks for Mark, our new recruit to the O4G team. Please pray for his as he settles in to FYT and to his role of Project Worker.

WEDNESDAY

Recently, a number of our StreetSpace community have been supporting young people following violent incidents in their communities. Please pray for these youth workers as they support and pray within their communities.

THURSDAY

Give thanks for opportunities for collaborative work in the North East and pray that strong and fruitful partnerships would develop as a result.

FRIDAY

Please pray for isolated and struggling youth workers, that God would give them encouragement in challenging circumstances.

SATURDAY

Please pray for wisdom and inspiration across FYT, so that we get better at making ourselves known and available to those who need us.

TALES RETOLD

Through our work with young people on the edge, we've found that the Bible can often be inaccessible. The metaphors can be hard to grasp, especially for those who come from a non-book culture. StreetSpace projects up and down the country have long been re-contextualising parables and stories and a generous grant from the Westhill Endowment Trust has enabled us not only to gather these stories together, but also write more.

At talesretold.org we are collecting together retellings of Bible stories, which we hope will be a great resource for all who work with young people. Here's an example – a familiar parable retold by Cathy, who works with young people on an estate in Weston-Super-Mare.

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The Kingdom is like ten cheerleaders, who took their pom-poms and went to support their marathon runner. They took up their position and started cheering. Five of the cheerleaders were disorganised and brought one bottle of water for the event, and the other five took two bottles of water. When the runner was delayed the cheerleaders started to get thirsty so stopped to drink a bottle of water. Then they continued to cheer.

After a while the crowd got excited and the cheerleaders knew the athletes were nearby. "Share your water with us so we can all keep on cheering" said the disorganised cheerleaders to the others, but the others said "no we need that so we can keep going, go and find some of your own". Whilst they were still looking, the other cheerleaders shook their pom-poms and cheered the runner on, all the way over finish line.

The runner was so pleased with those who had cheered, they were invited to the after race party. The five disorganised cheerleaders tried to go along too, but the marathoner said to them, "you were no use, you didn't cheer for me when it counted – you don't get to join in the celebrations now!"
.....

We'd welcome submissions, so if you a Bible story that you have retold, or would like to contextualise to fit the young people that you support, please do email it to us at info@fyt.org.uk





ADVENTURES IN THE NORTH EAST

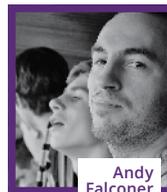
It's summer and I'm on a rollercoaster! The view is great, but I have no idea what's coming up. I'm not talking about a trip to Lightwater Valley. I'm talking about the start to our work on StreetSpace in the North East.

Since October, we've had a frantic few months, growing a hub of pioneering work in Middlesbrough and building capacity to support pioneers across the region. New opportunities like this fire me up. In a town decimated by recent cuts and job losses, we've already started new detached youth work in five communities sorely in need of hope. We're connecting with people of peace all over the Boro and seeing community emerge within our early conversations with young people.

Our core project on the Whinney Banks estate is developing street work alongside a superb family centre. Like so often in life, this is less an example of something entirely new

and more us trying to resonate with the flow of the Kingdom already at work. During a recent youth bus visit, there was a beautiful moment when the Year-6 group we see a lot decided to make drinks for each other and for passers-by: messy, chaotic, but a glimpse of a better world. That sums up the North East hub, too. We're still finding our feet, working out where best to invest time, making a mess but we're already beginning to see fruit.

Over the summer, we're cranking up the hours of street conversations and working with other local youth workers on a collaborative holiday initiative. We'll see what emerges in the coming months – patterns of rest for a start! – but I feel sure we won't be short of things to update you on next time.



Andy Falconer

ALASTAIR'S BIKE RIDE

For much of the Spring, Alastair Jones our CEO trained for the hardest thing he thinks he has ever done... 3 marathons, multiple other runs and bike rides have nothing on Cumbria's Fred Whitton Challenge described as the hardest cycling challenge in the UK.



Alastair said, "Frontier Youth Trust believe Another World is Possible and I'm doing this brutal bike ride to support our work with young people at risk."

Sunday 8th May was a glorious sunny day and in spite of dehydration he completed the 112 miles with 12,000 feet of vertical climbing on up to 30% gradients of Hardknott, Kirkstone and Honnister passes (to name just a few). The sponsor

page will remain open for a few more weeks if you would like to sponsor him - <https://my.give.net/Cycling4FYT> - or you can also send any donations to the FYT Office.

Thank you so much for your support and encouragement.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We're celebrating with John and Cathy Wheatley on the safe arrival of baby Samantha Judith at the end of May. Congratulations on the start of your family!



MOVING ON

Fabiola, our Finance Officer, will be leaving us at the end of June. We're grateful for all her hard work and wish her all the best for the future.

FOR REGULAR NEWS AND UPDATES:



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

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