



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

/News

SUMMER 2018



TWO OUT OF THREE

You will have read in the last issue of News that we have been exploring our calling; and as a result, we are focusing all our time and resources on building a movement of pioneering youth work. It is our vision for Frontier Youth Trust to be home for pioneer youth work, to improve and increase practice on the ground, and to call others to the margins.

Frontier Youth Trust is appointing a leadership team to inspire, equip and lead a movement of pioneering youth work. John has been appointed to the role of Movement Leader, building a home for pioneering youth workers; and Dylan, in the role of Movement Enabler, will be curating opportunities to resource and equip those working with young people. To join us, we are appointing a Movement Advocate – a champion to work on behalf of our movement, speaking out about the issues and themes on the margins to call others to join the party.

Both John & Dylan have already been working in the StreetSpace Community and we are excited about the shift of focus to building a movement of pioneering youth work. We both encountered Frontier Youth Trust as a youth work students. At the time we were running traditional Sunday school operations – and wrestling with the purpose of Christian youth work. Frontier Youth Trust gave us the language to name our discomfort and helped us identify another way of working with young people. Here we found fellow travellers who spoke the same language and who were wrestling with the same theological questions.

We hope you agree that this is an exciting time for Frontier Youth Trust and we look forward to collaborating with you to shape a movement that's building a better world for young people.

Shalom,
John & Dylan

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HOME

A PLACE TO BELONG AND BE RENEWED

At the beginning of June, at the aptly named Frontier Centre in Northampton, StreetSpace (Frontier Youth Trust's community of pioneer youth workers) gathered for a weekend of training, reflection, rest and mutuality. We know that youth work on the margins can be isolating, so it is our desire to be a home for pioneer youth work – a place to belong and be renewed – from where a whole movement of mission with young people on the margins can be inspired. A few of our guests and contributors share their experience.



WALKING BAREFOOT

Nicola Cooper, from Borderless Youth Project in Bicester

I feel very blessed, challenged, accepted and held by the group of people I met at the Gathering. I arrived feeling very vulnerable and it took me a while to settle... but I left feeling inspired and comforted. While at the Gathering I really felt God say that we are those who are holding space for young people. The space we hold gives energy, warmth and comfort to others.

I spent most of the weekend with my shoes off (yes it was hot), but I also feel 'at home' when I'm barefoot and can feel the ground beneath me. I was reminded that in being barefoot there is a vulnerability too. I wonder how often we are really, really feeling the ground we are walking on, feeling a connection to it, to the physical space we occupy and the people within it? Taking risks, being vulnerable, walking barefoot so to speak! I know this is something that God has challenged me about and I need to do more of.

Thank you for this time together this weekend, the FYT StreetSpace community are wonderful and I feel privileged to be part of this community as we all share in the journey of working with amazing young people in this beautiful, heartbreaking, hope filled place we call our home.



IT GOT REAL

James Ballantyne, outgoing FYT Youth Work Development Advisor, and youth worker in Hartlepool

The pressure was on. This year, as my final contribution as part of the staff team, I was part of the team planning the FYT Annual Gathering: our national meet-up of pioneer youth workers. The themes of the weekend reflected our current FYT strategy: to create a Home for pioneer youth workers, to improve practice, and to be a prophetic voice. On this, we decided to continue the conversations that we had started in 2017 (and before) on gender, sexuality and inclusion, and releasing our new inclusion statement (now available online). In a matter of hours, we created a place of home, with cushions and lights, and coffee and comforts; like crumble and custard, and board games and mealtimes. Yet we also held a space of challenge, of hurt, and reality. Real is far more beautiful than pretence. It reminded me of how Jesus said, 'Foxes have homes, I

have friends' (I paraphrase). His friends were his home. It is friends that make homes. And so in this way we also created a place of family as well as home: cooking, and washing up, outdoor spaces, the sound of babies, toddlers, children and teenagers. Space to raise your game, space to try and fail, space to take a risk. For me, one of the highlights of the weekend was the children and young people who came with their parents. A toddler that had space to be free, while parents kept a long lead and a watchful eye from 35 surrogate aunts and uncles. And young people, given the chance to be both youthful and adult, were able to dream the possible. Invited to share a personal story, a personal prophetic challenge, and even to play the comic and host the evening entertainment. It was in this sense of home, of family, that it all got real.

STEP AWAY AND BE WELCOMED

George Ballantyne, 15, from Hartlepool

It was such an amazing weekend. Being part of the Gathering has given me a chance to express how I really am as a Christian without being judged for what I am. It gives me chance to step away from such a difficult life at school to a such a different atmosphere where I feel welcomed. Thank you again and I hope to see everyone again in the near future.

RISK

A LEGACY OF IMPROVING AND INCREASING PRACTICE

Frontier Youth Trust has been helping people take pioneering risks for over fifty years: risks to reach young people on the margins in innovative ways. It is our desire to encourage youth workers and churches to step out of their comfort zones to meet young people in their community, improving and increasing practice on the ground.

It is with sadness that some excellent members of our team are moving on from their roles this summer, and so we wish to celebrate their outstanding contributions to Frontier Youth Trust and pioneering youth work.



**JAMES BALLANTYNE
AND DAN POTTER**

James Ballantyne and Dan Potter finished short-term posts at the end of May. With capacity short after Alastair's departure last year, they have been helping to resource our community of youth workers with training and coaching. In their short time with us, James and Dan supported youth workers in the North East and South West respectively to start new work with young people, they hosted regional training events, and worked on our national Gathering.

DEBBIE GARDEN

At the end of June we said goodbye to Debbie Garden who has been with Frontier Youth Trust since 2011, most recently in the role of Acting CEO. In her time with us Debbie championed the issue of Gender Injustice, hosted hundreds (or so it seemed) of Coffee-Shop Theology events for local youth workers, and mentored a large cohort of emerging youth work leaders. Debbie has also worked tirelessly behind the scenes to put Frontier Youth Trust in a strong position for the years ahead, addressing our operations and organisational culture. We wish her well as she takes up a new role with Worth Unlimited as donor relations manager.



Debbie with John and Dylan

Farewell Prayer

Farewell Prayer
We have laughed together, cried together,
worshipped together, prayed together.
We have hungered together, dreamed together,
worked together, and eaten together.
Now it is time to say goodbye.
Parting is bitter-sweet. Memories food our minds
and hearts.
We say goodbye with gratitude and solemn
hopefulness and relief. Moved together in all sorts
of strange ways.
Eternal God, as we now go our separate ways,
Enlarge our faith that we may see your purpose
unfolding in the happenings of our time here
together.
Be our guide through all that is dark and deep.
Grant us peace in doing your will.
Bless us all as we move on apart.

Debbie, James and Dan have each been an asset to the Frontier Youth Trust movement, encouraging practitioners to take everyday risks in their practice to improve and increase work with young people on the margins.

EQUIPPING OTHERS TO TAKE PIONEERING RISKS



PIONEER YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING

We're pleased to announce that we're recruiting for a new cohort of youth workers to begin training in pioneer youth ministry commencing September 2018.

Youth ministry and pioneering have been allies for a long time. Frontier Youth Trust have been facilitating this conversation for a long-time. Yet youth work training hasn't always adequately reflected this or equipped youth workers to thrive in the new cultural landscape. While, we know there's still a need to teach and apply the core disciplines of youth ministry - informal education, voluntary participation, empowerment and equality of opportunity - youth workers are going to have to go further and further beyond the confines of the church in order to build relationships and work out how to do discipleship in the culture of the young

people themselves.

There's a growing need for youth work practitioners to be trained to hold their own theology lightly, so they might embody or incarnate the gospel in different contexts. This is not new. But what we, in partnership with the Church Mission Society, are seeking to provide, is a new mutual learning environment where the core disciplines interact with a 200 year track record of innovating in cross-cultural mission!

So we're pleased to announce that we're now recruiting for a new cohort of youth workers to begin training in pioneer youth ministry commencing September 2018. It combines Church Mission Society's pioneer training, CYM's experience of preparing Christians for youth ministry, and our experience of working with young people on the margins.

To find out more, visit

PIONEER.CHURCHMISSIONSOCIETY.ORG

VOICE

EXPERIMENTING WITH A PIONEERING APPROACH

At Frontier Youth Trust we want Christian youth workers to be more pioneering, taking a missional approach in their work with young people. Within our movement we already have a lot of talented youth workers who are trying and testing new ways to work with young people. Some of these ideas are so excellent that we want to present them in a way that they might have an impact in the wider youth work world.

We already have a range of resources developed from within our movement that are available online. We'll be adding these to the range this year.

After a second reprint of the original resource 'The Experiments', developed by the Lab in Newport, we will be releasing a second edition this summer. The Experiments is an active-learning approach to discipleship. Participants experiment with a challenge then reflect upon it in the context of scripture. In this new edition, the challenges will focus on some of the actions of Jesus that showed him as both human and divine.

THE EXPERIMENTS 2

PODS

Pods are a sex and relationships resource designed by Debs North, a member of the FYT Movement. Debs, had been delivering amazing sex and relationship sessions to schools in North Devon. We heard about the great work she was doing and have helped by sponsoring this resource to it can reach a wider audience. Find it on our website.

We appreciate your support which helps makes these local ideas into national resources. This in turn, spreads the message of pioneering youth work and mission amongst the local church.

CULTURE BOX

A number of people who join the FYT Movement are wanting to pioneer new work with new groups of young people. This can be a daunting process. So we've developed a resource built on our existing training that will give workers the tools for mapping their local culture and contextualising the gospel into it.

ANVIL

This June we were guest editors of Anvil, the Church Mission Society's journal of theology and mission. Our edition comprises a series of essays written by pioneering youth workers that explores mission and theology through the lens of youth work. It is available to download here - churchmissionsociety.org/anvil-journal-theology-and-mission

FYT @ SOUL SURVIVOR



We're heading to Soul Survivor this summer and we'd love to chat to you and/or the youth workers you know. Come and find us on the stand in the toolshed for access to our new free summer resource and the chance to win some more resources.

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, MARK VERNON

Dear Friends

In the relatively short time I have had the privilege of serving as Chair of Trustees, Frontier Youth Trust has been through some significant changes. The CEO Alastair resigned not long after I came into role and the Board in conjunction with the staff team then went through a creative period of assessing the leadership needs of this next chapter. This has resulted in a conscious shift from an "organisation" to a "movement". The Board and Staff believe that this move more accurately reflects the true mission and vision of Frontier Youth Trust as it supports those working on the margins of the church amongst young people at risk. At the same time the model of a leadership team of three persons was developed.



We are pleased to welcome John Wheatley to the role of Movement Leader, and Dylan Barker to the role of Movement Enabler. I also want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Debbie for her hard work and dedication – especially so over the past year when she was carrying additional responsibilities. The Board are united in their confidence that this new leadership model will bring fresh energy and effectiveness to Frontier Youth Trust.

As Frontier Youth Trust faces a new (and as yet unknown phase) I am reminded of the Lord's words to Joshua as he was on the threshold of leading the Israelites into Canaan: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go".

Please join me in praying for John & Dylan and the Trustees as they continue the journey of ministry amongst those young people most at risk in our communities.

Mark Vernon

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And check the Website: [www.fyt.org.uk](#)

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