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Believing their worth

Autumn Newsletter 2014

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter!

Thank-you for taking the time to read up on our latest news! We greatly value all of our supporters from individuals who pray for the work we do, to those who are able to support our work financially, to congregations who faithfully stand with us as we serve the young people of our community.

We hope you enjoy catching up on all that's going on in the various areas of our work. After a transitory term before the summer when we were one youth worker down, SAYT are pleased to announce that we had new team member James join us in September. Below, James introduces himself and discusses what it is that inspires him in his work; we update you on our schools work, the new manager of the Sevenoaks Youth Cafe tells us about some of her aspirations for the cafe, we update you on our detached work, our church visits and our latest fundraiser event, and share some snaps from the past term!

Meet James!... Hi, I'm James, the newest member of the SAYT team! I hail from Northern Ireland but have spent most of the last five years working and studying in Durham before getting married and moving to Sevenoaks this summer. I'm really passionate about working with young people and seeing God work in young people's lives, and I'd love to share four reasons why:

Reason #1 – I have seen God work in young people's lives! If this isn't a motivator then I don't know what is. I'm not saying that every time I've met a young person I've sat back and watched as God changed their life, often God's work is much more subtle than this, but there have been times when there can be no other explanation but divine intervention.

Reason #2 – The more experience I get as a youth worker and the more young people I meet, the more I realise how privileged my own upbringing was. I was brought up in a stable, loving family, and although we didn't have lots of money we did have everything we needed. So many young people I meet don't have such a comfortable home life, and I want to do whatever I can to support and encourage them throughout what can be the toughest time of their lives.

Reason #3 – I could name at least three youth workers from my own teenage years who were instrumental in helping me achieve my potential and become the person I am today. I've seen the impact youth workers can have, and I hope and pray that I'm able to serve the young people I meet as well as I was served by my own youth workers.

Reason #4 – Young people can change the world! Not only are they the future leaders of nations and the church, but many scholars claim that the twelve disciples Jesus chose could all have been in their teens or early twenties (with the probable exception of Peter), and we all know what they went on to do.

Praise God for... bringing James to us and for his gifts in connecting with young people **Please pray for ...** James as he settles in to a new rhythm of living and working.



Out and About! ... We love to share what we are up to at SAYT, to meet new people and encourage any young people or youth workers in the area.

- We will sharing about the work at St Lukes on Sunday 16th November in their morning service,
- On Thursday 20th November we will be doing a presentation on our work at the AGM of Churches Together in Sevenoaks District.
- On Sunday December 14th we will be speaking at St Mary Kippington's morning service.

Do come along if you can, on one of these occasions.
Or...Why not invite us to your group or church to tell you more.... Just give us a call or drop us a line!

Meet the New Youth Cafe Manager!... Hello, let me introduce myself, my name is Gail and I have recently taken over as the Manager of HOUSE in the Basement which is a Youth Café based in Sevenoaks. My Background has been mainly in Social Care, but for the last 10 years I have been involved within the education sector, focussing on alternative curriculum with young people struggling to survive mainstream education. I have plenty of new ideas for the Café, although we are open to all 11-18 year olds, at present our members are nearing the age of being "too old" I really believe that by engaging the younger end of our market, the café will grow and become a valuable and safe place for young people to socialise within. I hope to do this by having specific events aimed towards the 11-13 bracket, examples include a nail session for the girls and maybe a fifa15 tournament for the boys, however they are free to choose which event they try! I aim to visit the local Schools and Youth Groups to spread the word and offer incentives for young people to join. Working with SAYT has been an important part of the Café's history, allowing young people to use the Café whilst getting the benefit of SAYT youth workers, this is a partnership which I hope to continue as all participants benefit. The HOUSE gets more users, SAYT outreach team meet their young people and can continue the work they are doing with them. And the young people have a safe and warm environment in which to meet with them with the added benefit of getting a warm drink or snack inside them.



Schools Work!... A new term means a fresh start in our work with schools, a lot can happen over the summer and groups tend to mix around before settling in to the new school year.

The SAYT team continue to have a consistent lunch time presence in Knole Academy and Trinity School once a week. For Knole Academy this consists of taking over a classroom and inviting students to pop by and see us, stay and spend their lunchtime with, playing various games and getting to know the students. In Trinity School, with the help of Josh Amott – Bessels Green Baptist Church Youth Worker – we spend the lunch time both in the playground with the young people, and hosting a quieter space for chat and games indoors. Our time in schools is such a core part of what we do in coming alongside the students and getting to know them where they're at. We also continue to hold assemblies in Combe Bank School and Trinity School and are currently awaiting a new set of dates for assemblies in Knole Academy. **Please praise God that...** we continue to have these valuable opportunities to minister in schools **Please pray that...** we use our time there wisely and are sensitive to the Spirit's prompting.

Greatness Park Detached! . . . Though the seasons change our work at Greatness Park continues as always. The last couple of months have seen a kind of new era begin, as many of the large group of young people we have seen regularly for years begin to grow older and move on and new younger faces appear, although we are of course blessed with regular visits from some of our older crew! We hope and pray that they will take on the responsibility of being good role models for their younger peers and not serve as mischief instigators. We've also been blessed with generous gifts of cake which are greatly appreciated (by both the youth workers and the youth)! **Praise God for...** for the opportunities we have to chat with these old and new faces! **Please pray that...** the new group of younger people feel welcomed, comfortable and safe within their new surroundings, and that the harsh winter weather to come would not impact negatively on our work in this area.

Quiz Night Fundraiser . . . October brought with it our annual Quiz Night Fundraiser evening where we gathered friends, family and supporters to help raise money and support the work of SAYT. We had a fun-filled competitive evening with a full hall of teams all battling it out for the top spot of Quiz Victors! This was topped off with a hearty supper of Chili Con Carne, a game of Heads or Tails and a Raffle Prize Draw. Thankyou so much to all those who came and spent the evening with us, it was a great success and we look forward to next years' re-match! **Congratulations to 'Let's Get Quizzical', 'Magnificent Seven' and 'Quizteamagularia' for winning the SAYT quiz trophy!**

Want to know how to get involved?

There are many ways to get involved with serving the youth of your area.

- Are you able to make or donate biscuits, cakes or finger food for our Thursday evenings sessions? We would be happy to collect from you! We feel it's just another great way in which we can show the love of Christ to them.
- Do you feel that you might be able to be a trustee at SAYT? Our trustees support us as youth workers and input the direction of the work we do.
- Do you have a couple of hours free on Thursday evenings and feel that you could volunteer with us from 7-9 on the Greatness Recreation Ground? A few of our volunteers left us at the start of the summer as said above and we are keen to meet with people who feel they could give a couple of evenings a month and help support us in our work in that area.
- Most importantly of all, your prayers for our work and for the young people we work with are needed.

The support we receive in our work through your prayers are sincerely valued and appreciated, thank-you for your faithfulness. Please continue to pray for our work and for the Lords direction and covering in all that we do. If you would like to receive our monthly prayer points, please email info@sayt.org.uk.

If you would like us to come and give a talk at your church or group we'd be more than happy to. Why not pop in for a coffee and a chat to meet the team?

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