



NEWSLETTER  
Spring 2010

# Aren't all young people excited ...

## ...about Christmas?

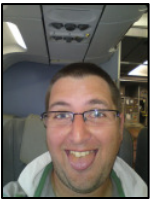
One day a week we work in the learning support department in Chilwell School where we help the young people improve their reading skills. If they are struggling we normally take their mind off it by chatting about something a bit more relevant. At the end of last year the obvious question to bring up was what they were looking forward to at Christmas. I was shocked when one of the girls I was working with said that she wasn't looking forward to Christmas and that the whole thing was very upsetting. I asked her why she felt like this about something I thought every young person was excited about. "My dad moved to Canada and my mum is now thinking of moving over there. That would then leave me and my brother staying with our Nan". As I listened she told me more about the situation, she was holding back tears, trying not to show how upset she really was. There were moments of silence and at times I didn't know what to say, but I really believe God was there and that having someone who she could open up to was really key in helping with the emotions she was going through.

## ...about baking with God?

Thursday nights at Girls' brigade we are often found in the kitchen either cooking or baking. One night we were making a Victoria sponge when one of the girls asked me if I had always believed in God and had I always gone to church. I told them that I became a Christian when I was a teenager and that my faith had really changed my life. As we were chatting over mixing the eggs, flour, butter and sugar together, they told me that they believed in God, but didn't go to Church. It was a great conversation, where I was able to encourage them in thinking about God and what He meant to them. It is really good to know that young people aren't afraid to talk about spiritual things, and it was really encouraging to know that although young people aren't attending churches in high numbers, they are still open to God working in their lives.



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## Director's Blog

**Richard Dawson has been the director of Nottingham YfC for the past 8 years. You can read his regular blog at [www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/blog](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/blog)**

Isn't it funny how we work so hard to get something, then over a period of time we start taking it for granted? For example we do a lot of work in schools, leading assemblies and lessons and helping support teachers in the classroom, yet 2 of our volunteers this year have come from countries (Canada and Germany) that don't have the freedom we have for Christians to go into schools. As I ponder on this, it makes me think how much I should appreciate the opportunities to work in the places we go. I have just had the privilege of doing several assemblies, looking at the topic of fairness, in the new Nottingham University Samworth Academy. The response from the teachers and young people was great. I think that it is something that young people are passionate about, maybe not globally, although some are, but in their own lives. They have this 6<sup>th</sup> sense of what is right or what is 'their right.' I think we all have this sense but it is really exciting when you see young people

realize that it isn't just about them but about the world around them. Having our relationship with Eare India helps. by being able to take a young person somewhere different to what they are used to. But I also think that looking around our own communities and seeing a need, there is something that, if it can be grabbed hold of, can not only bless the community but also give a sense of value to a young person's life. What is better than to know that you have made a difference to someone's life? Whether it is doing some gardening or helping someone across the road. So when I take a look at my life, my family, my house and my ministry, am I going to take it for granted or am I going to see what I truly have and bless someone else because I have so much?

Please note our new address:

**Unity House, 35 Church Street, Lenton, Nottm. NG7 2FF**

And our new web site:

**[www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk)**

## The connection from across the pond continues:

After Erin spent last year with us, we felt it would be rude not to have someone else from North America, this time we went further north to Canada. Meet Kristy.



Hi! My name is Kristy Buck, and I'm from Ontario, Canada. I found out about Youth for Christ from a friend at my church in Canada who did the year out program a few years ago. The more I looked into it, the more interested I became in doing the year out program myself. I've always loved working with young people, and the past few years I have been really involved in youth work at my own church, but I kept feeling like God wanted me to do more. After I finished school, I felt God was really calling me to be a part of Youth for Christ and I decided to apply. I'm so happy I did! My first month with Youth for Christ has been great. I'm so excited to

see what God has in store for me and I pray that he will use me these next six months to really work in the lives of the people I meet and work with here in England!

### Here Kristy tells of some of her initial experiences:

Myself and Emily were running a session at the Girl's brigade and it was all about self worth. Along with helping them realise how important and valued they are we also looked, in the session, about being made in the image of God. After the session we had so many questions from the girls, about what it means to be a Christian and how to know that God is real. It was great to be able to share some stories about our faith and how it had made a difference in our lives. The young people really listened and took on board what we were talking about. Having come from another country you never know how people respond to talking about faith issues and I know it won't all be that easy, but I am encouraged by the desire of these girls.

### And our other overseas team member, Lukas, tells us how he is meeting young people with other language barriers:

On Thursdays I am usually in RE lessons. In one lesson we had the topic of 'injustice'. After the teacher had introduced the topic the young people were set questions to answer. One of the girls in the class was an 11 year old from Hungary, who had come over to the country just a few weeks previous. She didn't speak any English and didn't understand what she was supposed to do never mind the subject. As I was walking around the room I saw she was writing letter for letter what was on the board, not really knowing what to do. I sat down next to her and fortunately she had a dictionary which was really helpful. We also found that the use of stick men, arrows and symbols are great when you don't understand each other. At first she was very quiet, just communicating by nodding or shaking her head, but over the next 20 minutes this little girl became more animated as she started to understand. It was quite obvious how much she enjoyed learning something that just half an hour ago was totally alien. Now whenever she sees me round school she says 'hi', and has also said she is going to try and get to our new after school club in the next few weeks. Once you can communicate it makes you feel part of somewhere, I am glad a German has helped someone become a bit more British.

## **Bilborough update:**

One of Nottingham YfC's key mission areas is Bilborough. We work in both Hadden Park High school and the new Nottingham University Samworth academy. Here are some stories about what has been happening over the last few months in the area.

### **Dave works in the music dept at NUSA. Here he tells of one young lad he has been working with recently :**

One lad, who is especially angry and sometimes aggressive, would swear at me and wouldn't accept any help from me when I offered. I, and others, have been praying for him, and the last two weeks since then have been great! He has asked for help from me, and has thanked me afterwards, which really shows how his attitude has changed. This situation has shown me the importance of praying for the kids I work with, especially the ones who might be hard to pray for!



### **Chantelle has been working in the area for the past 18 months and is starting to see the benefits :**

Over the past few months we have seen a number of young people either come to faith or grow in their faith. Because of this we decided to start a nurture group to help young people know what it is to become a Christian and chat through some of the issues of having a faith. We have decided to use the freedom in Christ resource and it has been great. We have now been running for four weeks at a local church. So far it has been really good! There is a weekly attendance of sixteen young people who are really enjoying the spiritual journey of believing and knowing God. They look forward to coming every week and continue to invite their friends. Our heart and passion is that young people will see the role faith has in our lives and see what a difference it can make.

### **Catherine is one of our local volunteers, here she shares her experiences of working with young people**

When I was asked if I wanted to volunteer at 'Girls Allowed' I was in India with NYfC, and when you're having that experience you say yes to anything! As I prayed, God reminded me that when I was younger I had so many pressures from every direction leading me to be a certain way. I became really excited that I could contribute to give girls a place where they are encouraged to totally be themselves and flop out. Even though I only spend about 2 hours with them a week it's been great to become part of the group as well as watching them grow in confidence with each other. I especially remember when we did a couple of themed sessions and I was really moved by the way they felt comfortable to speak out some really personal thoughts and listen to others sensitively. It was fab! And they have definitely challenged me to be more generous with my sweets!

## Beeston update:

NYfC have been working in Chilwell and Beeston for nearly 9 years. Emily and Lukas tell us some of the things they have come across.

### Why makes someone change?

There is one young girl I work with in and out of school. Just recently she has started to misbehave quite a lot especially in school. This wasn't the girl that I had known over the past few years, so when I saw her I was able to get alongside her and ask her what had changed. We spent the next half hour chatting and she opened up and told me that she was struggling with things at home and she was having family problems. I was able to encourage her and explain that getting into trouble at school will not be helpful to her. She is now going to see a counsellor which is a real step forward and with the support we are able to give her, hopefully she will become more like the girl I first knew. **Emily**



**Want to help young people feel valued?**

[www.nottinghamfc.co.uk/support](http://www.nottinghamfc.co.uk/support)

### What do you think you are worth?

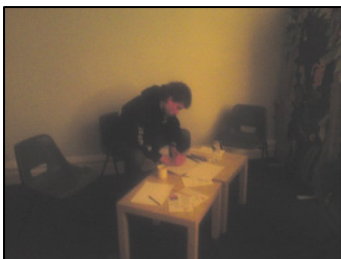


A few weeks ago we were taking several lessons in one school on the theme of 'identity'. What defines our value and what makes us who we are. To introduce the topic we looked at the breakdown of the body in a chemical way, and how much you would be worth if you sold it in terms of water, carbon and iron. We produced a figure of £15 and then asked them to discuss in groups whether that was a fair value for each one of them. Most of the group were discussing in pairs or threes, but there was one lad who was sat on his own. I went over to see what his thoughts were on this topic. His response was overwhelming. He said 'To be honest I don't even think I am worth £15. No one would pay anything for me.' To be in a place where we could then tell him that he is worth so much more and that he is unique and priceless, was just where we needed to be. **Lukas**

**Like to see all the things NYfC are involved with?**

[www.nottinghamfc.co.uk/life](http://www.nottinghamfc.co.uk/life)

## NYfC's half night of prayer



Nottingham YfC are that passionate about young peoples lives being changed that we have started a new initiative. Our half night of prayer is for people to engage and not only pray for the ministry of NYfC but also for young people across the city. The event happens at our office at Unity House in Lenton and runs from 7pm

until 12am. For upcoming dates of future half nights of prayer contact the office or check out [www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/prayer](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/prayer) . You can also download our latest prayer diary from the site. Did you also know that NYfC have a twitter stream for regular prayers. If you have access to the internet you can follow us on the twitter site adding @nyfcprayer to the people you follow.

Would you like to pray for the work of NYfC?

[www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/prayer](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/prayer)

## EQ – a regeneration

Over the past 6 years NYfC have been privileged to help young people share their faith in their schools and colleges. Just like any good Doctor Who fan will know there is always something valuable in change, so eq has returned better than ever. There are now going to be 2 streams to our eq ministry. The first is **eq:uip** This is an event that will happen 3 times a year and will be a worship / teaching event aimed at training young people in sharing their faith.

The second is **eq:mission** This will happen twice a year and will entail travelling somewhere across the country, no one knows where, delivering social action, sharing their faith and doing mission.

All eq events and trips are open to young people aged 14 upwards.

For more details on the next eq events and mission please check out our website [www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/youngpeople](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/youngpeople) and go down to the eq logo. Alternatively you can contact the NYfC office - details on the back page.

eq

# A new resources from the YfC team



**...for churches**

## **Uncut**

UNCUT is a 6 session DVD-based evangelistic resource, based on the idea of 3 story evangelism. Your story, my story, God's story. UNCUT has been designed to move young people on the margins from 'drop in' settings into 'church' and discipleship. It is particularly good for unchurched young

people with low attention spans, as it incorporates low, medium and high focus activities and games.

To watch a clip from the UNCUT DVD visit: [www.reflex.org/uncut](http://www.reflex.org/uncut)



## **Youth Alpha new leaders guide**

Nottingham YfC are youth alpha advisors. We aim to help groups wanting to run youth alpha courses by helping with training, resources, being guest speakers or running an away day for your young people. Youth Alpha have just released the new leaders guide. There are many differences between this edition and the previous one. The biggest is that there is no more “three streams” approach. Youth Alpha is now one resource, with one version of each talk, but with more options of illustrations. Many of these will link with the Youth Alpha website ([www.youthalpha.org/lgmedia](http://www.youthalpha.org/lgmedia)) and from there to other forms of media online. The idea was that it was to be accessible for teenagers to run. This is the primary audience we have written it for.

**Check out our website for other resources including:**

**For churches :** Rock Solid, RS2, Mettle, Freedom in Christ

**For schools:** explore: The Christian Faith,  
explore:the life of Jesus, The crux: extended schools

**[www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/resources](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/resources)**

# Nottingham YfC exists because.....

...we have local people praying for us.

(Sign up to receive our monthly prayer bulletins.)

...we have local people giving financially for the work.

(Complete the form below or contact us for more info.)

...we have local people giving their time for young people.

(Please contact the office if you have time or skills you could offer)

We are really passionate about seeing young people becoming who they were created to be and giving them opportunity to hear the Gospel message in a relevant way. We continue to be asked to do more exciting things across the area and we would love to grow to our potential. If you would like to join us on this journey then please fill in the form below, and help our dreams become reality.

I would like to make a donation of £5\_\_; £10\_\_; £25\_\_; £50\_\_; £100\_\_ towards the work of Nottingham YfC. (Please make cheques payable to NYfC.)

Please tick here if you would like NYfC to claim the tax on your gift ....

... I would like details on how I can give a regular financial gift to Nottingham YfC.

... Please put me on the Nottingham YfC mailing list so I may receive any relevant communications.

... I would like to receive the monthly prayer letter.

Name .....

Address .....

Email .....

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