



## New areas...New faces

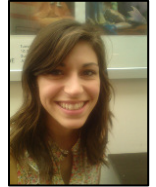
Nottingham Youth for Christ has just completed ten years of impacting young people across the area. There have been many times in those years where there was a sense of excitement and after ten years you could be forgiven in thinking that it was time we settled down. That doesn't look like happening though as NYFC have just started partnering with churches in two new areas of Nottingham to help them impact a generation. In Radcliffe-on-Trent we have started working with St. Mary's in helping them and other local churches connect with the young people in their area. Jo Dolby has come onto the team to help develop the work in that part of Nottingham. Jo



has already started to build links with South Notts Academy and is helping develop the good work the churches are already doing in the area.

Another exciting opportunity has also taken off in the South Nottinghamshire villages. Currently working with part of the Anglican deanery NYFC have started developing links with Harry Carlton School in East Leake.

Rebecca Mockett has come on board to help develop the links with churches and start working in the school. Alongside these two new areas and new faces on the team we have another new member. Mona



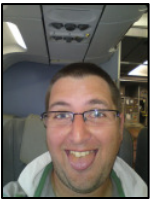
Chee has joined as key worker for Bilborough. Mona will be responsible for the development of our work with churches in doing mission in that area.



Another exciting development is that we now have an administrator. For those of you that have been following NYFC over the past few years, you will have noted the need for some support for the team, so you will be pleased to know Gill Linton-Smith

has joined us to oversee the administration. As you continue to read we hope that you get as excited as we are here with what God is doing through Nottingham Youth for Christ.





## Director's Blog

**Richard Dawson has been the director of Nottingham YfC for the past 10 years. You can follow his regular blog at [www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/blog](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/blog)**

Well at the start of each academic year I am always surprised by how much change is going on in the life of NYfC. Surely after ten years I shouldn't be surprised at the change that has become inevitable. I used to always be excited about getting my new timetable at school. Wondering who was going to be in my class and what teachers were going to teach me and which rooms I would have to find. Now it comes to September and we look forward to finding out who's on the team. Which young people's lives are going to be changed as we aim to bring love and hope into their lives? This year, as I say, is no different. Although we have no year out volunteers this year, which does have an impact on how much depth we can have in each area, we are broadening our horizons and starting to work in new areas across Nottingham. After launching our first new area for 8 years in Arnold last Christmas, we are now starting to partner with Churches in Radcliffe-on-Trent and villages around Harry Carlton School in South Notts. On top of that we are adding some

long term continuity in Bilborough and a much needed administrator to our team. Some exciting opportunities are ahead of us and that has only happened because there is a culture of adapting to new challenges and working in fresh ways to connect with young people. Sometimes I think life would be a lot easier without change, but it wouldn't be as fun and we wouldn't have seen so many young people impacted with God's love.

Over the summer we also saw a number of young people impacted on our mission trip to India. These young people not only saw change in other peoples lives through the water we provided and the outreach camps we led but also in their own lives as they were challenged with what they experienced. Let's be thankful of how God uses us and be ready for everything He has in store for us.

Our address :

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

And our web site:

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

## Arnold update

Since last Christmas Sara has been working across Arnold working with other church youth leaders to help them in both encouraging young people in the churches as well as helping them reach out into schools.

## Making a noise

In early September St. Mary's Arnold, along with a number of other youth groups in the area got together to be part of 'The Noise Project.' This is an initiative where young people bless the community in different ways. As part of the work NYfC partnered with in Arnold they cleared an overgrown area that was going to be turned into a community garden, they helped clear a nature reserve and they also helped put on a youth festival on the Saturday afternoon along with the local council. Richard started the few days off with a time of teaching helping the young people engage with the project and see why as Christians making a difference is a vital part of being a Christian. Sara helped with the other leaders to work alongside and help develop the young people in each of the projects they were involved in.



## In the community ... in the schools

Earlier on in the year Sara was part of a team who were involved in running some youth provision at Arnold carnival. There was free nail art for the girls and a football cage for the boys. One of the benefits of being involved in the carnival was the fact that Sara was able to connect with a number of young people she had met in school, which helped her develop relationships. You know relationships are starting to grow when you see young people smiling at you as you walk into the classroom or see them in the corridor. This gives a real sense that we are walking on 'Holy Ground' as we look to connect young people with the Christian faith, with so many young people asking questions.

**Would you like to help with engaging young people with the Christian faith? We are looking for volunteers to help with lunch and after school clubs in Arnold.**

If you think this is something you would like to be involved with either go to [www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/support](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/support) and download an application form, contact the NYfC office on 0115 9782111 or email us at [office@nottinghamyfc.co.uk](mailto:office@nottinghamyfc.co.uk) for further details.

## Beeston update:

Each year, like a lot of schools, Chilwell school have an activity week the last week of their summer term. As part of this years week NYfC were asked to put on an hours roadshow event at Trent youth centre. It was for all ages (11-15) and so we decided to run it based on what they thought of themselves and how well they truly knew themselves. It was really interesting to see all the young people faces as we looked at the physical make up of their bodies. When those components worked out at about £15 they were asked a question. Do you think you are worth more than that? Was what they discussed in their groups with answers varying from extremely confident to those not so sure. Giving them opportunity to hear that God loves them and they were created for a purpose was a real honour and it was great to see so many young people engaged in what we were talking about. What a great message to leave with young people before they started their summer.

## Not always straight away

When you are involved in any kind of work often you want to see instant results and at Nottingham YfC we are no different. Sometime that can be disheartening because you don't always see the impact of your work until much later. NYfC have been working in Chilwell and Beeston for over 10 years now and about 6 years ago we ran a Youth Alpha course and with it a weekend away. Earlier this year Richard got invited to a baptism out of the blue. Daniel Wood came on that weekend away and had now decided to get baptized. It was a real honour to be there on that day and it just goes to show you can't always see fruit straight away. What is also exciting is that from another youth alpha course that Becci Raine ran last year along with local volunteer Steve Dalley we have been able to start a nurture group for girls in Inham Nook. These are all girls that have been attending 'The Base' over the past year and have wanted to know more about God. Emily Swinburne, key worker in Inham Nook and volunteer Emily Spencer have started to run 'Deeper' which will look at faith in a way that will engage the girls in new and exciting ways.



## Captain who?

Over the past few years NYfC have partnered with The Pearson Centre in helping young people connect with the Christian faith. Over the past couple of years Richard has been honoured to be the chaplain of 17<sup>th</sup> Nottingham BB. From September this year he was asked to step up to become Captain of the company. Richard is really excited about this opportunity and in seeing more boys engage with the Gospel message through it.

## Bilborough update:

Nottingham Youth for Christ have been working in Bilborough for ten years, working with young people in many ways. We have a great relationship with the secondary schools in the area as we do lessons, assemblies, lunch clubs and after school drop in sessions.

## Climb every mountain

As part of our Friday after school club 'A Place to be me', NYfC partnered with the local council to bring in their mobile climbing wall. Ant explains the idea behind it. "There is a culture amongst young people that they have to be nasty to each other and not say nice things even if they like each other. The climbing wall task gave us an opportunity to get them to work in teams and achieve something together, rather than a survival of the fittest attitude which most of them think they have to have. It seemed to work and the young people really excelled." Nottingham YfC are passionate about building young people up into all they were created to be and it is really exciting that we are able to be creative in the different ways we attempt to do this. Also in Bilborough we had the opportunity to put YfC's football cage into Nottingham University Samworth Academy (NUSA), which was a great way to serve the school, but also be creative in the way the young people learnt about team work and why we are Christians.



## Lovely baking



One of the other success stories of our work in Hadden Park school is the girls allowed group. Running after school on Thursdays Girls Allowed aims to build young girls up into all they were created to be. For years 6 – 8 it is also part of the transition work the school do with their young people. On top of the regular arts and craft sessions the girls do they are also given the opportunity to do some baking, helping them get to grips with the kitchen and last term we gave them the opportunity to look at issues around self worth through bringing in a dance instructor. All the girls had an amazing time and were really challenged about how they felt about themselves. After one session Sara had a conversation with a girl about wearing make up to help her feel pretty. She realised that she needed to feel good about herself whether she was wearing make up or not.



# Curry for breakfast?

This summer Nottingham Youth for Christ ran their third mission trip to India. Partnering once again with Reap India we travelled over to Andhra Pradesh. The team of young people from right across Nottingham made the journey to the sub-continent for a trip that would change their lives.

The team for Mission: India 2011 consisted of: Gill Benson, Tom Cable, Grace Clarke, Sarah Chirnside, Richard Dawson, Jordan Holmes, Connie Pullan, Becci Raine, Jennifer Taylor, Jess Towle, Taylor Watson and Katherine Wright.

While over in India we were involved in 6 outreach meetings, 5 medical camps and dedicated 6 Bore wells. We also visited a couple of schools, an old people's home, a day care centre and a leprosy colony.



Once we had completed travelling on a 2 hour mini bus trip, 8 hour flight, 2 hour flight and a 7 hour train journey, we arrived at our base camp in Tenali. Sudheer and Santosh were amazing hosts and made us feel as comfortable as possible in the humidity. For the next ten days we were going to make a huge impact on a large number of people's lives, but also for us the biggest impact would probably be on ourselves. Here are some of the teams comments on the trip.



*"one of the hardest things to cope with was that we had gone to serve but they constantly wanted to serve us"*

*"..the work that Sudheer and the team do is inspirational.."*





*“..it has been really good to see how God has worked through the team in so many ways..”*

*“..I have been really challenged in realising how much I have at home, so often I will take things for granted and being here has made me realise how much I actually have.”*



For every single person on the team it was not only about changing other people’s lives with the gifts of water and medicine we took, but also about looking at our own individual faith journeys and how God used each one of us. While we were out there we kept a video diary, which you can view on our blog [www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/blog](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/blog) and scroll down to August or you can check out our new youtube channel just search for Nottingham Yfc. You can find out more about Reap India by going to [www.eareministries.com](http://www.eareministries.com) and having a look at all their different ministries. It was a great privilege to be part of another team that has made such a difference in other people’s lives that have so little and it will be great seeing how that impact will effect the teams lives as they come back and bless their own communities here in Nottingham.

## New areas

As mentioned on the front page Nottingham YfC are partnering with churches in two new areas of Nottingham to help them connect more with the young people in their community. Here we hear from Jo who will be working closely with St. Mary's Radcliffe-on-Trent and Rebecca who is working closely with the Anglican deanery in the surrounding areas of Harry Carlton school, East Leake.

### Radcliffe-on-Trent

The work I will be doing in Radcliffe-on-trent will be about helping the church engage relevantly with young people in the community. I am really excited about being able to observe what is currently going on and develop a strategy alongside the local church that will engage young people. Initially building relationships with those young people currently on the fringe of Church and with those who have no church background at all, we will look to see how we can move these young people on a journey of faith. We have already spoken to the school and they are very positive about us working with the young people in The South Notts Academy and what we can bring in terms of resources into the school. I am already about to start working in the RE department with a group of year 10 students and then with another group later on in the year. **Jo Dolby**

### South Notts

Having been away to a very rural university, I understand some of the pressures and frustrations that come from living in this kind of community. That is what makes me excited about connecting with young people across the villages in South Nottinghamshire. We are already developing links with the local school to see how best we can serve them and I am really excited about the start of a Rock Solid club to help young people look at different life skills. There is also the possibility of doing some mentoring work with a group of girls looking at topics such as assertiveness, self-image and friendships. It will be great to be able to help these churches connect with the young people and see how we can develop the work. **Rebecca Mockett**

**Do you live in either of these communities and would like to join the local churches and Nottingham YfC in partnering to build and develop young peoples lives in these areas?** If you think this is something you would like to be involved with either go to **[www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/support](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/support)** and download an application form, contact the NYfC office on 0115 9782111 or email us at **[office@nottinghamyfc.co.uk](mailto:office@nottinghamyfc.co.uk)** for further details.

## Other news from around NYfC

As you may or may not know the majority of our funding comes from individual supporters and churches who give regularly, unfortunately our current amount of regular giving doesn't cover our month to month outgoings. We have been fortunate this year to receive a gift from the Sunday school development fund which after many years of supporting churches across



Nottinghamshire through funding for resources and trips had decided to close as a charity. We want to say a huge thank you to the trustees for the gift that will help NYfC continue to inspire young Christians in mission and help us 'Take Good News Relevantly to Every Young Person in Nottingham'.

**If you would like to help NYfC through financially supporting us please download a form from [www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/support](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/support)**

## Singing from the same hymn sheet

Just before the summer started we received a phone call asking about the kind of work Nottingham Youth for Christ were involved with. Not unusual you would think, but it is not often you receive a call from Songs of Praise.

So on a dry August day NYfC along with some young people from local churches worked alongside the local council in Bilborough helping to clear and tidy a couple of elderly people's gardens. The result of this will be seen on October 16<sup>th</sup> when Songs of Praise is from Nottingham again. One of the things that we have noticed over the summer is because of the nationwide

riots and a number of other incidents, young people have had really bad publicity and we feel that as churches we could be the ones that could help change that perception. It was really encouraging to hear from the people whose gardens we worked on and from the council workers on how impressed they were with the work the young people did. The young people themselves did admit that if they hadn't been involved in the project they would just have been doing nothing or maybe even something they shouldn't, so please do tune on October 16<sup>th</sup> and feel proud that young people in Nottingham want to make a positive difference.



## Eq:mission... 30 hours to impact a community

Nottingham YfC are passionate about giving young people the opportunity to experience mission. Giving them the opportunity to see how God can use them can be an invaluable discipleship tool. Our 30 hour missions give exactly that opportunity. Turning up at the NYfC office and then being taken somewhere across the country, not knowing where until they arrive and then blessing the community, praying on the streets and running a church service are all things that may or may not happen. Here Helena Page tells us of her experience:



***“In March this year myself and five other youth members, again sat in the mini bus not knowing where our next Eq: mission was going to take us, and where did we end up? Warrington. When we got into Warrington on the Friday night we went to a local YFC youth service and some of us went up on the stage and told the local young people about a time when we “stepped out the boat” like peter.***

***After this we had a time of reflection on the day. This was really interesting as we got to listen to what people had to say. On this weekend we were working with the local Bethel Free Church where we handed out leaflets to a free barbecue and also helped the church to do a community questionnaire. On the Saturday we helped the church by running the barbecue and by taking the service on the Sunday morning. As we did this we got to know the local community and their views, beliefs and what they had to say. We all felt really encouraged by doing this mission as we all connected with God in different ways and we all grew in faith by doing it.”***

Eq:mission happens twice a year, once in February and once in November. To find out more about the next eq:mission trip, go to [www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/eq](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/eq) although it won't tell you where you are going!

## Other ways NYfC resource churches across Nottingham.

Nottingham YfC are passionate about resourcing churches in the area, not only in events like eq:missions but also in materials to help them develop their young people. To help us do that Emily Swinburne is now overseeing our Church Resource work. To get in touch with Emily contact the office or email [Emily@nottinghamyfc.co.uk](mailto:Emily@nottinghamyfc.co.uk)

Here is one of the quality resources that you may find helpful:



**Amazing resource that can impact your Young people !**

3 Massive issues that young people may face as a Christian:  
Identity, Breaking free of the things that hold them back, taking responsibility for their relationship with Jesus.  
Freedom in Christ Looks to tackle these Issues.

**For more great resources check out  
[www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/resources](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/resources)**

Telephone: 0115 9782111

email:office@nottinghamyfc.co.uk

Website: www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk

Address: NYfC, Unity House, 35 Church Street, Lenton, Nottingham. NG7 2FF



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## Nottingham Youth for Christ want you...

Nottingham Youth for Christ have a number of opportunities to serve young people and make a difference in their lives. Starting from September there are some exciting opportunities for people from within the local churches to be trained up and equipped to impact this generation. Here are a few of the opportunities currently available, please contact the office for other opportunities within NYfC.

(Please get in touch with us for an application form.)



**Day: Mondays**

**Time: 3.00-5.00pm**

**Venue: Inham Nook Methodist church, Chilwell.**

Nottingham YfC run a drop in called 'The Base' every Monday. We are looking for committed people to join the team and connect with young people, whether through making toast or playing table tennis.

**Day: Thursdays**

**Time: 6.15 – 9.15pm**

**Venue: Hadden Park High School, Bilborough**

Nottingham YfC run 'A Place to be me Plus' as part of our work in Bilborough. A drop in session for ages 13+, we are looking to enhance the team with people who just love young people and are willing to take some time out of their schedule to help make them feel valued and worth something.

**Day: Fridays**

**Time: 3.00 – 5.45pm**

**Venue: Hadden Park High School, Bilborough**

Another one of NYfC's ministries in Bilborough is 'A Place to be me'. This runs for 11-14 year olds after school. Not only do we have the table tennis table and pool table out, but we also engage in lively discussions and look at issues that young people are encountering.

## So who are Nottingham Youth for Christ?



**Richard Dawson**  
Director  
Chilwell / Beeston  
Key worker



**Sara Reynolds**  
Arnold Key worker  
Bilborough  
sessional worker



**Emily Swinburne**  
Inham Nook  
Key worker  
Church Resource  
Development worker



**Rebecca Mockett**  
South Notts Key worker



**Mona Chee**  
Bilborough Key worker



**Jo Dolby**  
Radcliffe-on-Trent  
Key worker



**Ant Stevens**  
CYM Student



**Charli Wood**  
CYM Student



**Gill Linton-Smith**  
Administrator

## Local youth work volunteers

(from L-R)

Emma Stephenson, Nathaniel Fittro, Emily Spencer, Chris Seager, Ceri Hendy,



Would you like to join our youth work team? Check out [www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/support](http://www.nottinghamyfc.co.uk/support) to download an application form