

# Aldridge Youth Fellowship

[www.aldridgeyouthfellowship.co.uk](http://www.aldridgeyouthfellowship.co.uk)

“Through Friendship,  
Through Fellowship,  
To Christ”

AGM Report April 2008



The year seems to have flown by, but there's been so much to thank God for over the last 12 months. **AYF** meet regularly on Friday nights in the church rooms, doing a mix of games, activities & hanging out, followed by our epilogue time of teaching & worship. Numbers range from 90-odd to last week's high of 132, though that really is the comfortable capacity for the church rooms! The young people are brilliant at inviting their friends along, & are an integral part of helping their friends settle into Youth Fellowship & further their own faith journey.

An increasing number are attending & taking part in the evening services - we often see around 40 young people in church, which is really encouraging. After church, we meet for our three **Squash** groups for fellowship, discussion, study & prayer, & around 60 teenagers attend these each week. Over the year, we've used many of the *Nooma* series of DVD's which have proved to be a popular resource.

July saw a record 134 of us brave the mud, wind & rain for our annual canvas **Camp** on the Gower in South Wales – at least until the weather forced us back to Aldridge to finish camp at home! Spirits remained high throughout despite the mud, & we had a good time looking at a variety of people that Jesus met in the Bible. Many thanks to the muscle of the working party, & special thanks to Dave, Chris, Rob & Vicki, Gerry, Jason & Chris for their driving, help & humour!



This February we had our yearly weekend away at **Cloverley Hall**, where our old curate Mike Jones led some fantastic sessions on the theme of 'Awaken'. The teaching was spot on, the concert a good 'un, & we all found it to be a most helpful, encouraging & fun weekend.

**Other highlights** included a very special day when Matt & Becki got married in October; a number from YF getting baptised & confirmed in December; 'The Cockbill Concert' at Aldridge Youth Theatre; the sponsored container lock-in for Open Doors in July, & a good group of YF going on both the Men's & Women's Weekends. There are also many YF'ers who help regularly at our Sunday morning groups, Coolbox, the Hothouse, Random & school CU's – a great example of service with a smile!

The **leaders' team** is an essential part of AYF & the dedication & commitment shown is remarkable. Special thanks to **Ian Bryant** who has been a valuable member of the team but has now hung up his YF boots (& got his weekends back!) **Chris Blunt** has come on board & it's great having him with us. As a team, we feel very encouraged by the wider church & much appreciate the love, concern & prayer support that you give us. It's been a pleasure to see first-hand what God is doing in the lives of our young people.

Please do continue to pray for all that goes on in & around AYF – especially for the new Year 8's who have just joined; the size of the group & the joys & issues that brings; the Year 13's as they look forward to Uni & work; for Camp coming up in July, for the leaders' team, & above all for our young people, that they may come to a deeper understanding & faith in the love that God has for them.

**AYF Leadership Team:** Katie Appleby, Chris Blunt, Jon Callear, Annette & Rob Cook, Becki & Matt Emery, Trevor Francis, Gemma & Matt Wallace.