

# Youth Co-ordinator AGM Report 2008

One of the most encouraging aspects of the past year has been the extent to which God has strengthened the youth work by helping us to establish a more (& sorry for the dodgy management speak!) 'joined-up' approach. The crossover between various groups has meant that we've been better able to give the young people a sense of 'belonging' as we seek to help them discover the love that God has for them in a personal way. 'Belonging' is certainly a high priority in...

**Aldridge Youth Fellowship:** This year has been an interesting one – numbers on the books have swollen to 180-odd, with around 80-120 coming each Friday night. This is a fantastic testimony to the witnessing of the young people themselves as they invite their friends to the group to which they belong. However, the sheer volume of people is a challenge, as it's been difficult to ensure that every member feels an integral part of the group – your prayers would be appreciated as we attempt to ensure that everyone receives a warm welcome & consistent follow-up each week. Read more about AYF elsewhere, but this follow-up work is currently best done in...

**Squash**, our three Sunday night discipleship groups. Around 60 young people regularly attend these, where they lead & participate in sessions that strengthen their walk with Jesus. We also hold a weekly **Bible Study** with the older Squash – it's a great group & a real highlight of my year. God has taught us so many new things about his love for us through his Word, & it's been exciting to see the young people be so keen to study the Bible. Many in Squash/Bible Study also come along to...

**Random**, the lunchtime group for pupils at Aldridge School on Tuesday & Wednesday lunchtimes. Held at No.4 Tynings Lane, it's all about belonging & building relationships with the young people. Each week we feed & water around 70 young people. From here, many have found their way to AYF where they can have the opportunity to discover God's love for them in a deeper way. Many thanks to John Grice & Anna Crook for their help, & special mention to Alex Harris for his table laying skills! Random (& AYF) also has cross-over with...

**Pathfinders**, the Sunday morning group for Yr's 6-9, & for me it's been good to meet with many of the young people at least a couple of times a week. Our original camping weekend away was rained off in June, but a makeshift set up in church ensured a good time was had by all! Many thanks to Alison, Div, Jon & Kath for their leading, & to Catherine, Dan, Emma, Hannah & Lottie from AYF (again, more cross-over!) for their help & encouragement. The cross-over between groups is further aided by...

**G-Crew**, the Monday after school club for C&J Year 6 which Gavin, Josh & I help Sue run. Around 20 young people regularly come to this, & it's been great to build some initial relationships which can hopefully be nurtured further through Pathfinders, Random & mainly Coolbox & **Freezer**. Freezer has been a real blessing as this has joined up the midweek evening work for years 7-8 & has helped to improve the sense of belonging for these year groups. It's also a further link into AYF, which brings us full circle...

Please do give thanks to God for the continued growth in youth work & the fruit we're seeing in the lives of our young people. Pray that many more would come to a living faith in him, & that we can effectively bring his good news to the young people in our community.

A quick mention for another couple of highlights of the year for me: **Reel Faith**, which is always fun to put together, & also some good evenings with **Men of Aldridge**. And I'm done!

Thanks for all your love, encouragement & support over the past year...

Cheers!

Matt Wallace