

# ALDRIDGE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

*“Through Fellowship, Through Friendship, To Christ”*

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

## AGM Report 2009

**Aldridge Youth Fellowship (AYF)** meet on Friday nights throughout the year in the church rooms, doing a mix of games, trips, activities & hanging out, followed by our epilogue time of teaching, worship & prayer. The young people themselves organise many of our activities, as well as giving epilogue talks & leading our times of worship. Teenagers from Easter Year 8 up to students join us, so the mix of ages is one of the real characteristics of the group. It's a big group – 180 or so are on the books, & each Friday we see around 90 of those. We see new people come along each week – the young people do most of the inviting themselves & have proved to be very effective evangelists!

The vision of the group is the same as it's been since it began many decades ago – to introduce young people to the love of Jesus through the friendship & fellowship they experience in AYF. One of the greatest privileges for the leadership team is seeing young people go on a journey of faith from their first Friday night when everything is a bit strange, to making their own decision to give their life to Jesus – nothing beats the joy that gives, making all the work, planning & effort totally worthwhile. Whilst many young people have deepened & grown in their faith over the last year, over 20 decided to follow Jesus for the first time – mainly at Camp & Cloverley - with some of them getting baptised/confirmed in November.



As well as Friday nights, we meet together on Sunday nights in two **Squash** groups (Junior & Senior) for fellowship, discussion, study & prayer. Around 60 regularly attend these groups, whilst Katie has established **Uber** as a popular new group for those aged 18+ as they migrate from AYF into adult membership of our church.



130 of us made the annual trip to the Gower for our canvas **Camp** – great weather for most of the time was a welcome change from previous years! It was a truly special time of doing life in loving community under God's care. We looked at some of the different characteristics of God in

our epilogues & the Letter to the Philippians in our quiet time groups – both of which were led by the young people themselves. Camp saw Jon Callear take his leave after a couple of years on the Leaders team – thanks for all the energy & fun you brought to the team, Jon. It was great to have many visitors but also an extended team of leaders & helpers – special thanks to Ian, Ruth, Irene, Jason & Gavin for all they contributed & to Chris & Rob for driving us & our supplies!

February saw our **Cloverley Weekend** go smoothly despite the snow – Rector Richard led our sessions looking at the Kingdom of God, & it was a great time of teaching & togetherness. Many thanks to Monty for driving, & to Dan, Ian, Josh, Kate & Luke for coming along as part of the Leaders team – great to have you with us.

Many teenagers attend church, especially our **Evening Services**, where 50 young people (often half the congregation!) are regulars. They're taking an increasingly active role, ranging from playing in the band & working the AV desk to leading, reading, praying, giving testimonies & recently preaching too – brilliant to see!



Many YF'ers have been quietly **helping out at various groups** throughout the year – including the Sunday morning crèche & children's groups, Alpha, Messy Church, the Hothouse, Random & school CU's, whilst a number of older ones have joined with Men of Aldridge & Embrace events. It's been great to see their continued integration into the wider church family & their understanding of the place of service in the Christian life.

A pillar of AYF is the exceptional **Leaders Team** – their selfless giving of time & energy every Friday & Sunday night is a wonderful thing, with much fruit harvested as a result of their love & commitment. It's also great to be supported by the wider church – a huge thank you to everyone who has prayed, given, encouraged & helped over the last 12 months & played a vital part in helping our young people encounter the love of God in new ways.

Please do **continue to pray** for all that goes on in & around AYF – especially for the new Year 8's; the size of the group & the benefits & challenges that brings; for those with important exams & uni/work life coming up; for the leaders team & the appointment of a new Youth Coordinator, & for all our young people, that they would deeply experience God's love for them & respond to his call on their lives.

**AYF Leadership Team:**

Katie Appleby, Chris Blunt,  
Annette & Rob Cook,  
Becki & Matt Emery, Trevor Francis,  
Gemma & Matt Wallace.

