



NETWORK
YOUTH CHURCH



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Brampton, Longtown and surrounding areas



Annual Report

March 2021

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Since last year's annual report there have been many changes in the way we do things. Many events and plans got put on hold and are still on hold.

There is no doubt that Covid-19 has impacted the work of NYC as it has meant postponing the weekend away, not running our groups/activities as normal, and not been able to go into schools. It also impacted funding, and this meant I was then furloughed due to NMS (who currently fund the role) needing to pause funding the project to survive during the pandemic. This meant I was not around, and I was unable to do any youth work at the beginning of the first lockdown.

However Carlisle Diocese were able to bring me back off furlough and cover the cost until the NMS were able to step back in. They did this so we could continue to work with young people during lockdown. Once back at the end of April I was able to start reconnecting with the young people who had previously attended groups, and despite the many restrictions on what we have been able to do, NYC have continued to meet with young people and run groups and events.

Young people meeting online

Once we had put in place the necessary safeguarding steps and gained consent, we were able to start meeting with the young people on Zoom. We initially set up 2 groups to mirror the Wednesday and Friday groups that had been meeting in person. One of these groups continues to meet each Friday and has been running every week including through the summer.

The NYC leaders across Cumbria and in fact youth workers across the country were finding it harder to connect with

Thank you

Over this last year doing youth work has been made more difficult due to the pandemic, but Network Youth Church has continued to look for new ways to support young people in the community and create opportunities for young people to be church in a way that is relevant for them.

NYC would very much like to thank those who support its work both financially and through prayer. This work would not be possible without this support and the support of those who give their time volunteering.

What is coming up...

Easter lessons:- NYC will be joining NISCU to run a number of Easter lessons in primary schools across the area. We will be using technology to join them in the classroom while we stay at home!

NYC will continue to run some more workshops, we hope to do them on areas like photography, cake making and survival skills.

these are just some of the things coming up...

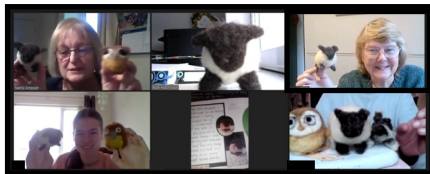
We are also very much looking forward to being able to meet up again in person and being able to go back into schools.

The new year

The new year brought with it another lockdown, but NYC have been able to continue the online groups these include Night Light and the Art & Craft Groups, and we have stayed in touch through sending out Post Cards and activity packs to do at home.

Workshops

This year we are hoping to do several different workshops for young people (11-18). This will give young people a chance to have a go at something new or do something they have an interest in. We are looking to cover a variety of different activities. The first workshop was needle felting and took place online at half term.



Youth Alpha online



We are currently jointly running a 6 week online Youth Alpha course with youth leaders and young people from across the Carlisle/ Brampton area. There are over 30 young people attending the course.

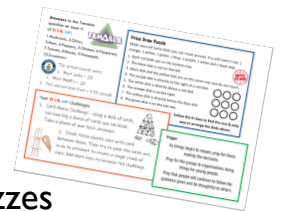
Countdown to easter

This year as part of lent NYC areas from around the county have decided to do a countdown to easter. Each Sunday young people get a package from NYC with activities and things to think about relating to Lent and Easter. Around 280 have gone out in total across Cumbria, and 54 in our area.

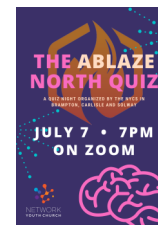
young people online than expected! So while I continued to help keep the NYC Facebook page going and the Zoom sessions. I also tried some other things.

Post cards

Look Up is the NYC postcard that I started to send to each of the young people we had contact details for. The postcard included quizzes puzzles, and challenges, along with a bible verse and prayer section. It was a great way to keep in touch with the young people who did not want to join in with the online work and let people know what was going on with the youth work.



The Ablaze North Quiz



At the beginning of July, we joined Carlisle and Solway NYCs to do a big Quiz on zoom. We had 47 young people plus leaders on the night. We divided into 7 teams and enjoyed a variety of quiz rounds; Pictionary, Movies, what happens next and more. We also enjoyed a short talk from Bishop Emma.

Transition lessons

Again, this was something that we could not do in the same way as usual, but NISCU and myself were able to deliver some lessons to the Year 6 students. We were able to do this remotely with the schools who allowed us to use technology to join them in the classroom. I was also able to deliver the scripture union 'It's Your Move' books to the schools in our area.



Summer

The lockdown began to ease and we were able to be out and about more and started to run activities outside. We ran some different activities outside such as an evening where we learnt how to play the game Kubb, as well as some craft sessions. We were limited to how many we could run by the weather. Alongside these activities we also started to hand deliver the postcards and visit the young people. It was good to catch up with many of the young people.



Autumn term

As the Autumn term started and young people went back to school, we continued to do doorstep visits, along with some detached work in and around Brampton. By doing this we connected with young people on the street and in the park.

Art and Craft groups

October saw NYC start a new Art, Craft and Faith Group, and met together inside for the first time since the initial lockdown. The group would run for a specific number of weeks at a time and give young people a chance to think and chat about the Christian faith while enjoying doing art and craft activities. However it wasn't long after its launch before a second lockdown changed its location and the group had to move online, the young people did their art or craft project at home while at the same time being online with each other,



this meant we are able to see each other, as well as chat together about life and faith.

We then followed this with a two week Christmas Art and Craft Group, and in the New Year ran a five week Wellbeing Art and Craft Group to support the young people in the lockdown.

NYC is currently running a five week Art, Craft and Faith Group that is looking at the events around Easter while doing art or crafts related to the topics we are thinking about.

Night light Juniors at home.

To continue engaging with the Night Light Juniors group we started sending out packs containing games, crafts, activities sheets and other goodies, so the young people could do some Night Light juniors activities at home.

Advent Calendars



We delivered advent calendars to young people. This was just another way to stay in touch. Each day contained a chocolate and then either a quote, challenge or Christmas bible passage.



The Ablaze North Christmas Quiz

Following the success of the July zoom quiz, we decided to do a Christmas zoom quiz. This was another great event with over 40 young people, lots of laughing, music & trivia rounds, bible sketch show and Christmas crackers!

