

- Est 2011 -

BRIDGNORTH

YOUTH & SCHOOLS PROJECT

YEAR 11 REPORT

www.bridgnorthyouthandschoolsproject.co.uk



A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

Welcome to the BYSP year 11 report. I hope you find it encouraging and informative.

At the start of this year we celebrated ten years of the project, which was such a wonderful, reflective experience, especially as we got to hear stories from young people who had been impacted by the team.

This last academic year (2021 - 2022) we worked with 224 individual young people, which is more than double when based on last year's post covid 107. During the year, 172 individuals attended sessions at The Bridge. In addition, we also met approximately 122 young people in Bridge-led summer community events.

We taught 214 young people in primary schools and 324 in secondary RE lessons. We also mentored 12 young people, taught 18 young people in 2 self-esteem courses and had 13 young people regularly attend Stir on a Sunday evening.

Staffing-wise, we said goodbye to Becki at Easter after nearly five years in her post. We also took on Katie Harris as a mentoring specialist and then Elaine Bennett to coordinate The Bridge's new cafe. I was also thrilled to welcome Beth Abbott and Mark Williams, who joined us for events and to help bring cohesion to the team when Becki moved on. Of course, Michelle and Connor stayed and continued to do their excellent work as well.

There are many things we do in the project, but at the core, we're here to introduce young people to Jesus. That's why we were commissioned in 2011, and why we continue to work with young people today.

John



STATISTICS

224 INDIVIDUALS

These are young people who chose to spend time with us, in clubs, events and The Bridge.

538 TAUGHT

These young people received an RE lesson, a workshop or a transitions lesson across years 6 to 11.

172 ATTENDED THE BRIDGE

These young people attended sessions regularly throughout the year.

16 ATTENDED STIR

Stir is a group where young people learn more about faith in Jesus. Many of them also attended events and came to the summer camp.

25 ATTENDED ANCHORED

Anchored is our new Children's event. This was early in the school year, and a great success.

15 VOLUNTEERED

Helping young people to give their time is important to us. Teaching them to volunteer is a key to their success.

WHAT'S IN A NUMBER?

If you've ever seen a BYSP report, you'll know instinctively that we love numbers, and that we try to record everything we do.

Of course the challenge with any statistic is trying to figure out what it means. For us these statistics (and the many others we collate) represent meeting every young person, following them through their entire education journey, and giving them opportunities to grow mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Building good, fruitful relationships is a top priority.



SCHOOLS WORK

"Thank you, that was brilliant. The young people got such a lot out of the questioning at the end. You've provided a fantastic and exceptionally valuable experience for the pupils at the school."

"BYSP lessons make the students think about world issues and moral dilemmas. The team member encouraged all the students to participate in lessons and allowed them to express themselves freely"

This year we've taught a range of primary and secondary school lessons, talking about Christian Beliefs, Christian Festivals, the sanctity of life, salvation and coping with the transition to secondary education.

We've also mentored young people in the school environment, taught workshops, held a recurring lunchtime club and helped as a bridge for one student between one school and another.

Despite ending the year with a smaller team, we're still thrilled to say we worked with ten schools, including Oldbury Wells, Bridgnorth Endowed and the education centre.



ANCHORED

“Great event, brilliantly conceived and professionally delivered. Good to have a focus on a particular Bible story, simple enough to have impact.” Volunteer / Parent

“My son wants to go back to Anchored again and he definitely enjoyed it as he won't stop talking about Bridgnorth. I would like to thank you for having him.” Parent

Anchored is a brand new children's work initiative for the purpose of inspiring children with activity, music and bible stories. The idea for the event came from one of our older teenagers.

What I love about the vision is that it comes from such a pure place of passion and that's why we've got behind it.

The event attracted 25 young people, who played, sang, got involved with crafts and most importantly, learnt something new about Jesus, and God's love for them.



STIR

"On a fortnightly basis, my children are encouraged to discuss their faith and to pray . This, along with Church and living out our faith in our home, has been invaluable in terms of 'keeping them going' after Covid. Our son has also developed Leadership skills through regular mentoring and puts these skills into practice at Stir and also at other events within the community. Amy Williams"

This year I've focussed on developing my Sunday Night Stir Group, increasing their opportunities to grow. Nearly everyone in the group is at a critical moment in their faith, and all of them have grown.

The most thrilling aspect of this year is that we took a large group from The Bridge to Stir Gathering at Easter and saw young people give their lives to Jesus and also receive the Holy Spirit at the Satellites Festival. I can't remember many other times in Bridgnorth when we've seen such incredible personal breakthroughs in the lives of young people.



THE BRIDGE

"My 16yo son attends the Bridge and my eldest son also attended for many years.

Thanks to Mr Prockter and his team both my children have found support with their mental health problems. They would not be the confident young men they are today if they had not attended the Bridge, they were accepted for who they are and felt inspired to help others."

The Bridge had a wonderful year with 172 individual young people attending sessions on a Tuesday and a Friday. We had 15 extremely dedicated young volunteers, some of whom are skilled enough to run sessions with minimal supervision from us.

We also launched a brand new initiative called The Calm Cafe, which opens every Saturday. To prepare for the cafe's launch, The Bridge also underwent a serious make-over and also welcomed a mentoring specialist, whose role it was to offer mentoring in the cafe for young people in the community.

In the summer, also we held a series of community events, including Shropshire Council Funded holiday session provision.

MEET THE TEAM

There really is nothing we can achieve without our team, and every one of them will tell you that our work only functions with the dedicated volunteers who come and serve along side us.

As time has gone on, the largest volunteer workforce in BYSP is young people, which is excellent. However, we need you as adults too.

Ways to get involved

- **Work with Elaine on Saturday lunch time in the Calm Cafe.**
- **Work with John on Sunday night in Stir**
- **Join Connor and Stacie on a Tuesday or Friday night in The Bridge**
- **Work with Katie and John as a mentor for young people.**



KEITH BOWLEY
Chairman



JOHN PROCKTER
Manager



MICHELLE ANDREWS
administrator



SHARON LEWIS
safeguarding



ELAINE BENNETT
The Calm Cafe



STACIE EMERY
Bridge Team



CONNOR RAYBOULD
Bridge Team



KATIE HARRIS
Mentor Specialist