

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a church service. A large, glowing orange cross is the central focus, set against a dark blue and purple background. In the foreground, the silhouettes of many people's hands are raised in prayer or praise, some reaching towards the cross. The lighting is dramatic, with bright spots from stage lights and the glow of the cross.

- Est 2011 -

BRIDGNORTH

YOUTH & SCHOOLS PROJECT

YEAR 12 REPORT

www.bridgnorthyouthandschoolsproject.co.uk



WELCOME TO YEAR 12

Whenever I come to write these reports, I find myself saying that the year felt quite unique. This last year is no different.

After a few years with a very large team, year twelve has brought us back to our roots with me as the only employed worker with Connor employed to support The Bridge. Although I ended up working alone a lot of the time, I was thrilled to spend the year working with a great team of volunteers in The Bridge, at the Anchored Event and in the Stir group.

In terms of our work there have been a few highlights that you'll read through the report.

Firstly, I've been pleased with the growing relationship with the new heads and key teachers in our secondary schools. When there's new staff, things can feel quite new, even though we've been here for so long.

Secondly, I'm pleased with the assembly programme I delivered for St Leonards School and the transitions workshops that five schools took this year.

Thirdly, I'm really pleased with how People's Hall embraced the Anchored event. I think Anchored is a great asset to the 'Church in Bridgnorth.'

Last but by no means least, the Stir group was a big highlight. Especially given that Andy James and Ian Seymour have helped to provide a stable leadership base. With their support, we've been able to go to a number of events and the Satellites Summer Festival again.

John





STATISTICS

208 ATTENDED WORKSHOPS

Over the course of the year we held an RE conference for secondary schools, year 6 transitions workshops and took 18 assemblies.

159 ATTENDED THE BRIDGE

59 individuals attended on Tuesday nights, and 139 attended on Friday nights. Some young people attended both sessions.

15 ATTENDED STIR

Stir is a group where young people learn more about faith in Jesus. 10 of the group also attended the Satellites Festival in the summer.

29 ATTENDED ANCHORED

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

18 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

"Religious education adds an extra dimension to a student's learning and events like this offer a safe space for them to explore challenging issues."

Mr Younis: Bridgnorth Endowed

"Thanks so much for coming to take our whole school easter assembly. Having input from you brought a helpful Christian dynamic to the event."

Mr Smith: Oldbury Wells School

On Monday 20th March we hosted a multi school conference called 'An Evil Day.'

This conference was a partnership between Telford Christians Together (Engage Schools) and Bridgnorth Youth & Schools Project.

The day was an opportunity for students from different schools to explore the problem of Evil.

This year we also had a great programme of assemblies and held year 6 transitions workshops for students in Bridgnorth and the surrounding area.



ANCHORED

“My son was safe and had a wonderful time with lovely people. Well planned with a variety of activities that were not only enjoyable, but fun too! What more could you ask for?” Parent

“Great idea and such a good price point with all the growing bills for families we will definitely come again” Parent

The idea behind Anchored is to provide a fun and engaging platform for sharing Jesus with children who we will eventually work with in secondary school.

The beauty of Anchored is that it's a great way to share Jesus, which local churches also care about, and gives us direct contact with families.

By far the most encouraging aspect of the event this year was that we had a massive team who came to support us.

This year we had 29 young people, which for the venue was near capacity for this style of event.



STIR

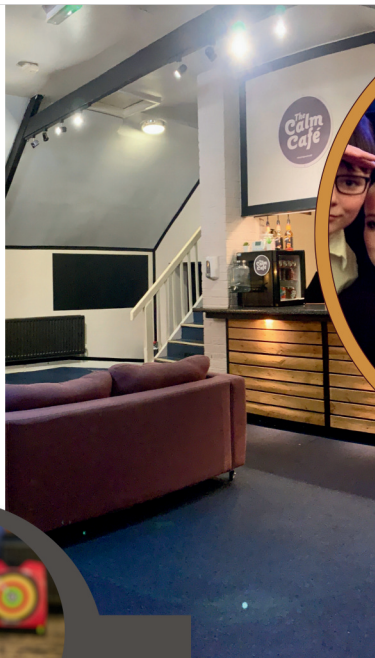
“My son is having an amazing time at Stir and the Satellites camp. It’s just brilliant I’m sure all the young people are going to have an experience that’ll last a lifetime. I remember my youth camps and soul survivor and the effect they had on me. So glad of this opportunity for them all”

Parent

Stir is our Christian discipleship group. We meet once a fortnight to eat, pray, learn and have fun.

We have young people attending from The Bridge and young people who are associated with a number of churches in and around Bridgnorth.

This year the Stir leaders and I have been working on spiritual maturity of the group, taking steps to create greater independence among young people. Events like Stir Gathering where the group meet with other Christians help a great deal, and the Satellites Summer Festival made a huge impact as well.



THE BRIDGE

"I feel like I've achieved much of what I set out to do with my Thursday night small group gaming club. The young people involved have shown a lot of improvement in working together as a team and problem-solving. I'm encouraged by the entire group."

Connor: Senior Youth Worker

At the end of the summer term 2023, Bridgnorth Youth & Schools Project began the process of saying goodbye to The Bridge, as the trustees put plans in place for the transition of The Bridge away from our work. BYSP will always be supportive of The Bridge, and we're grateful for a year which has been full of wonderful activity for young people.

Managing The Bridge has been a wonderful experience, and I think this year has been as good as any other in recent years. One of the key elements of the programme I'm most pleased with is that we've been able to stay open for nearly every week, including every week of the summer holiday.

John

Our aim is to help young people on their journey to adulthood and to take every opportunity to share biblical truths with them through workshops, assemblies, RE lessons, lunch clubs and events. For those who seek to explore faith or to grow in their faith our STIR Group provides fellowship and discipleship to build solid biblical foundations for their future lives.

Now in our 13th year, we want to take this opportunity to say a big 'Thank You' to those who make it all possible by supporting us financially.

To Bridgnorth Baptist Church and Cartway Methodist Church for their continued support each year since the very beginning of the project.

To the Bridgnorth Parish Charity for their support in recent years.

To several generous individuals who support our work on a regular basis.

Without your support we would not have had the opportunity to touch the lives of so many young people both in the schools and in the community.

Finally a big 'Thank You' to John for his tireless work, without which the Project would not exist.

Please do continue to pray for John in his work, and if you feel prompted do consider supporting the Project financially – inflation has affected us all and we currently have a shortfall of about £3000 for the coming year.

Keith Bowley

Chair of Management Board

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