

Connecting People June 06

Rob Burns



The end of the year brings mixed feelings. I'm going to be sorry to see these guys go because they have been a great group. They have worked hard and played hard! They have gelled very well together which has brought a real unity among them and led to an encouraging atmosphere about the place.

I'm also glad to see them move on to things they maybe wouldn't have been ready for this time last year. You will read below that they are following varying paths next year - University, full time youth work in both church and secular settings, other creative ministry work and of course two of them are going back to America with a heart for mission in Wales. Praise God for them and pray that He will use them to invest in others as they have been invested in.

Karen Fisher



Happy Summer! It's really sad to think that as a team we are coming to the end of what has been a brilliant year. Personally I have learnt loads about myself, pushing to the limits of tiredness and also being able to chill out. I've really found a joy in doing administration for the church and I'm starting to wonder where this might take me. I've done things I've really enjoyed – mentoring and youth clubs – and things I'd rather not have done. With the team, who are so encouraging, we've got through it all and come out the other side more servant-hearted.

Thanks for your prayers and support over the last year. They have helped us get along, find jobs and clarity for next steps. In August, after a bit of a break, I will be taking up a post as Youth Worker for St Hugh's in Luton. I'm very excited about going back to the town I lived and studied in during university. Please pray for me as I embark on my first trip to the Soul Survivor festivals, and as I start and develop a programme for a church that hasn't had a Youth Worker for 2 years. I am desperate to put all the skills I have learnt this year into practice in a different place.

Please pray that as we leave this year, a passion for the work we do still exists. Also pray that the team really enjoy and are encouraged by our last few weeks. I know I'm going to miss Cardiff and Glenwood as I move on, the welcoming and grace-full atmosphere has been a shining example to me. I pray that next year's students will be challenged as much as I have.

Ruth Davies



Hi everyone,

Well I've been having a great time; recently I've been involved in a water fight, made junk robots and worn my poshest dress to church on Sunday morning for the Lovely Jubbly awards. Lovely Jubbly was our holiday club and it was brilliant! Hopefully we will see lots of new children coming into our Wigglerz and Buzz clubs throughout the week, it was great to see so many parents bringing their children on Sunday and we pray we will see more of them. My involvement with the alternative curriculum boys from Llanedeyrn has come to an end as they begin

their exams; we ended with a quad biking session and praise God because we all lived happily ever after. I still have plenty more video projects to be getting on with and as much as I think the year has flown by and is soon coming to an end, I still have many more things to learn (such as mastering the art of the children's talk, puppet included). I have had a wonderful time here and learnt so much. As sad as I will be to leave I'm looking forward to using my skills in church back home in sunny Swansea. Thank you to everyone who was interested enough to read this

God Bless x

Bonnie Dixon



Hello everyone,
I am about to return to the States. Please pray that the Lord would help guide me with the next step of my life. Being over here in Wales has been a truly wonderful experience and I've really enjoyed every moment of it!!!
Thank you so very much for all of your prayers.
God Bless You All.

Nick Heavyside



Hi everyone! Firstly I want to say thank you all so much for your prayers, they have been greatly appreciated. Over the year I have been challenged and have learnt a lot, I couldn't have got this far if it wasn't for your prayers. I have grown so much this year through getting out there and working with young people, I now feel a lot more equipped to deliver good quality youth work and to really make a difference in young people's lives. The whole year has been so much fun too; I have absolutely loved it and wouldn't change my experiences at all. I feel like all I want to do is thank God, so this time my prayer requests are:

- to thank God that this year has been so good,
 - to thank God that I have grown and learnt so much,
 - to pray that I can carry on and apply everything I have learnt,
 - to be prepared to take risks for God, which means being prepared to get it wrong again.
- Thank you so much again for your prayers and support.

Josh Boston



Thank you all for your prayers. Throughout the year, there has been quite a bit of growth in the youth I work with at the Church of God, and I have been able to see very encouraging events that are evidence of directed prayer that has been made on our behalf. For this I thank you and ask that in these last weeks you pray for a blessing on the continuing work that I am giving over to the COG's new youth workers that were and are being trained by me. I ask that you pray that I may hand the reins over to the two who are taking over in a seamless fashion, and that the lessons I have been giving and living will remain present in these young

people's lives. Thank you again for your prayers and for your continuing spiritual support.

Rachel Drury



Well, I'm now coming to the end of my year at Glenwood and it has been such an amazing experience. I've learnt so many things from my time here, things which I am sure will serve me well in the future. But it's not over yet and there's still so much that I'm doing and so much that I would value your prayer for. Please pray for the children's and youth work that I do, that I would keep up my momentum and give my all and also for the Seduction tour coming up over June and July. The Seduction is such an awesome presentation and prayer for the whole team would be fantastic and for me specifically as I go back to performing the sketches for it (I'm finding myself a little rusty on them)!

Finally, your prayers for my preparation for next year would be so much appreciated. I'm starting my secondary PGCE course up in Edinburgh at the end of August and have so much to organise before then – forms, finance, accommodation. And finally, thank you so much to all of you who have been praying and supporting me throughout this year – I couldn't have done it without you.

Ruth McAdam



Thank you for your prayers and support throughout this year. Things have gone amazingly well, often despite my own doubts and apprehensions. I feel I have learnt so much about my relationship with God, myself and others, and so much more that I'll probably only realise the true benefit of in the future. I am challenged to dream, trust and love more because God is BIG enough.

As we come to the end of this year please pray:

- that the end of term events, weekend away and summer camps run well and challenge the young people in their understanding and faith in God
- for preparation and provision for the next "phase" in my life – going to Reading

University in October

- that we would continue with continued focus, energy and passion

Matt Jones



Hello! :-) Well, what a great year this has been! God has truly transformed the youth work I do, the leader I'm becoming and most of all, the person I am. Some of the things I've done this year include leading youth groups, leading worship, public talks, Bible study and helping in Youth Alpha courses.

God has used this year to equip me and direct me into the next chapter of my life.

Over the next 3 years, I will be doing a degree in Youth & Community Work where I will be working in a placement church. God has made it very clear that this is to be Bethlehem Church Life Centre in Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend. This is a new, fast

growing, community-focused and Spirit-led church, that shares the same passion and vision God has given me! I pray that through the following few years, God will develop this amazing church so it flourishes, and that I can play my part in that.

Overall, the most valuable lesson I've learned is that God knows us better than we know ourselves! Only through trusting and waiting have I discovered that He guides us far beyond what we can imagine.

Paul Francis



Another year is almost over – and another team is about to disperse and move on. I have to say that this has been a great team and it's been a pleasure and privilege to have them around – I'm going to miss them! They have all thrown themselves into whatever has been asked of them – they have served the church and each other well. Pray as they move on that the Lord will continue to use them in all that they do. I know that wherever they end up - be it Edinburgh or Boston (USA) they will be a real gift to the community and local church.