

Below are some statements from young people and their parents & carers that demonstrates the difference the Youth Ministry has made to young peoples' lives:

Confidence in sharing their faith has grown

Bringing friends to church and youth groups

Young people wish some sessions were longer

Huge improvement in mental health

Personal confidence has improved

They are interested and questioning

How valued the leaders are by the young people

Able to speak more confidently with adults

Can stay away from home which was insurmountable before

Huge positive impact on self esteem

Leading church services with confidence

Captured via an online survey during October 2022.

Our ambitions for our Youth Ministry 2023 - 2026

- Continue to expand and grow our current programme of activities with existing and new young people
- Develop our outreach work with young people who hang out in St John's churchyard
- Develop a mentoring programme with local schools
- Develop further opportunities for young people to contribute to worship and discipleship

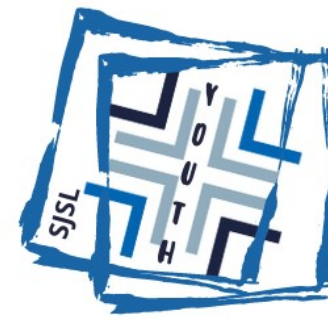
To realise these ambitions we need £90,000 (£30,000 per annum) to fund the role of Parish Youth Worker until 2026

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Prayer
- Regular giving
- Making a one-off donation
- Organising a fundraising event
- Supplying grant funding



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YOUTH MINISTRY

IMPACT STATEMENT 2020-2022

Our Vision is to create spaces where young people thrive; have fun, realise identity, love God, influence society, become disciples of Jesus. We do this as a family, journeying together with lots of laughter and encouragement!



This work has been enabled by our Parish Youth Worker & volunteers.
Thank you to all those who contributed to funding this post from 2020 - 2022:

Individual private donors

Harrogate Church House Trust Liz & Terry Bramall Foundation

[Youth Ministry | SJSLTogether \(stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk\)](http://YouthMinistry|SJSLTogether(stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk))



A message from the Parish Rector, Rev. Simon Dowson:

“For many years St John’s and St Luke’s have been at the heart of the local community, successfully connecting with people across the generations and serving them in a variety of ways and back in 2019 it was felt that in order to especially connect with and serve better the young people of the church and the community, the time was right to appoint a youth worker. Such was the support for this appointment that an amazing £60,000 was raised allowing us to move forward with our plans. And the fantastic reality is that, as this leaflet makes clear, the person appointed has been hugely successful in her role. The youth of the church are better served than ever before, and through our connections with schools and our mentoring work, we feel young people beyond the church are also really benefitting. And yet good youth work doesn’t bear lots of fruit overnight because it is essentially relational, and so we want to put in place funding that will allow the role to be secured for the next three years and beyond, so I sincerely hope that after reading this leaflet, you will feel able to generously support our youth ministry and in particular the funding of our youth worker. Thank you.”

ACHIEVEMENTS 2020-2022

Response to covid

- 30 one-to-one sessions with young people on their doorsteps or walking in local countryside.
- Intergenerational phone befriending project set up involving 9 young people and 9 older residents in the Parish – these links still continue today and it was featured in the local newspaper.



Recovery from covid

- 117 Youth meetings established and run – all with regular sustained attendance.



- 3 residential: Scargill House at Kettlewell (12 young people); Easter Sunday sleepover & walk to Almscliffe Crag for Easter morning sunrise (12 young people) and attending Satellite, a national youth festival (24 young people).

Special projects

- Arranged a visit from the Message Bus - 28 young people attended.
- Facilitated a 12-week Youth Alpha Course involving 9 young people.



Work within wider community including local schools

- Undertook 39 hours of collective Worship in local primary schools.
- Co-hosted 'It's your Move' event on The Harrogate Stray for 60 Young people supporting their transition to secondary school.
- Facilitated a lunchtime support group at St Aidans, to support young people in making friendships.
- Partnered with other local churches, pooling resources to enable young people from across Harrogate to have the opportunity to go to national events.

Young people taking the lead

- Involved young people in planning activities through discussion groups, and on-line surveys.
- Enabled 18 young people to plan & lead a contemporary Carol Service.
- Four young people have undertaken training to lead part of the weekly youth groups.
- Young people have proactively organised and participated in fundraising activities raising £250 for transport to Satellite and £275 for the Open Doors Project.

Volunteering to support the work of Parish Youth Worker

- The Parish Youth Worker recruits, trains and provides ongoing support for volunteers as well as ensuring that safe working practices are followed, including safeguarding.
- There is a team of 9 core volunteers committing time on a regular basis supported by a further 8 volunteers, totalling 17 Volunteer Youth Workers.

Case Studies from Emma, our Parish Youth Worker



(Young people's names have been changed to protect their privacy)

Growth in confidence story

“When Jane first came to our youth group she was exceptionally quiet and shy. She would be a regular attendee but would never participate in any of the discussions even when prompted. To help connect better I started meeting her for one-to-one walks. Jane was definitely more talkative on those occasions but for quite a few months, she was the same during the group sessions.

However, after a few months of walking and still attending both groups weekly, Jane gradually began contributing during group discussions at the smaller of our weekly gatherings. She clearly noticed it too because she would tell me afterwards that she was pleased with herself because she'd contributed. This began spilling over into our larger weekly group, Ignite, when she started volunteering answers and opinions there too. I began asking her to get involved with things at church, like doing a reading etc, but she would always say no. However, amazingly, after about 20 months of knowing Jane, we were planning a 'youth takeover service' where the whole Sunday morning service was going to be done by the young people. And Jane volunteered to be the person leading the whole thing, from beginning to end, standing up at the front of church! Both myself and her Mum were amazed and suffice to say her Mum was in tears! So next we are working on Jane becoming a small group leader.”

Growth in leadership story

“Oscar joined the youth group from a young age as he and his family had always been part of the church. Oscar had a strong faith and was confident in joining in with discussions. I decided to set up some peer leader small groups and asked him to be a peer leader. After some training, he then took on the running of a small group. At first I would give him material each week to lead but after a few months, he began coming up with his own and then took on the planning of the group too. With encouragement, he also began reflecting on how the sessions had gone. Oscar also became the young people's representative on church Parochial Parish Council.”