

**Ivybridge
Youth For Christ
Annual Report
2009**



Chairman's Report

I feel that 2009 has been an important year in the development and future direction of Ivybridge Youth for Christ since we have been much more focused on vision, strategic planning and implementation of that plan. We have looked carefully at the pathways to reach young people before they come to Ivybridge Community College, the various groups they can tap into once they are students there and the activities and discipleship courses we can offer outside school times to challenge their thought processes and bring them to a point of faith. This has been backed up with work to raise the profile of the charity through visiting churches, giving presentations, mailings, publicity and fundraising events – all crucial in helping people to understand what we want to achieve and ensuring the work is funded in the short-term and perhaps more importantly to enable plans for 2010 to gain fruition.

As Chair, I would like to thank all my fellow trustees, the Council of Reference and all the volunteers for their creativity, dedication and commitment to Ivybridge Youth for Christ. Last but by no means least very special thanks to Elis and Helen who as staff always go the extra mile and continue to seek God in all they do. It really is the team effort in large and small ways, the practical in balance with the spiritual teaching and prayer that can actually make the difference to a young person's life. Seeing people from so many different churches and backgrounds working together is such an encouragement and sends out a really positive message so why not come and join us – there are many ways in which you can be a part of this exciting vision for our young people.

Gill Cowsill

Director's Report

2009 was a challenging yet exciting year for Ivybridge Youth For Christ. In April we assessed what we do and where these activities fit into our vision to **take the Good News relevantly to every young person in Ivybridge and the Surrounding Area**. The whole process was very useful and as we end 2009 we are seeing the first fruits of this more concentrated approach to planning. Young people are accessing groups and then progressing onto different opportunities that we are able to offer.

The 4 main areas that we work in continue to be ***Reaching out, *Developing Young People into Leadership, *Social Justice Issues and *Supporting Churches**. We have looked at each piece of work that we are involved in under these 4 headings and decided on their main purpose and how to take young people further in their journey of faith from that point.

1. **Reaching Out: Taking the good news to areas not always reached by churches, eg: schools, parks, beaches etc.**

Ivybridge Community College

Rock Solid – Years 7 – 9: The lunchtime club at ICC started the new year with a social action campaign – collecting loose change in water bottles for ‘Turn on the Tap’, a campaign by Samaritan’s Purse to raise money to provide clean water for people in Africa. Raising awareness of justice issues remains core to what we want to instill in the young people.

Sessions in the summer term included ‘justice’, ‘the future’, ‘individuality’ and ‘the church’, all of which came from the Youth For Christ Rock Solid material. At a request of one of the members we watched a video on Christians and Sexuality – a mature discussion followed about the topic.

The summer term ended with a Bowling trip. This went very well and is always good for building relationships.

During this year there have been several instances where support for young people has been needed outside of the group. In one instance we were told by friends of someone feeling suicidal. We sought advice from another more experienced Director and with our support the young person felt able to go to the doctors and along with the Welfare Department’s help she was able to tell her parents how she was feeling. In another situation Ash, our SWYM trainee, was able to support a young person struggling with depressive feelings and lack of self-worth. He showed initiative and maturity by acting responsibly and remembering his accountability to others.

At the start of the new academic year in September 2009, we were very encouraged with the Rock Solid 'class of 2008-09' making the transition to the older group – Mettle and a new group of Year 7's arriving in Rock Solid. This group found its feet over the term and the last session ended with Christmas games! We look forward to getting to know the new members better in 2010, both through Rock Solid and its termly trips and also through visits to The Net and involvement with Youth Alpha.

The Net: The highlight of the year for Rock Solid was the Spring trip to The Net – a youth worship service in Plymouth - for Taming the Tiger. 4 of the young people made commitments which we followed up with their local churches. As a result, I visited the Ivybridge Catholic Church to talk about the charity. In July there was a barbecue, worship and testimonies were given at The Net. Ivybridge YFC has now made this bi-monthly trip a regular in the calendar. In October I was given the opportunity to make a presentation of what Ivybridge YFC does to the young people at The Net and the year finished with the December event leading to another young person making a 1st time commitment.

Mettle – Years 10+: In January 2009 we made the decision to allow this year's Year 9's to join early. This was primarily to make the group viable and consistent because those in Years 10+ were not attending regularly enough to maintain a group dynamic.

Following Ash's training conference he suggested a series looking at John Chapter 3 verse 16. The verse was broken down sentence by sentence and the truths of it were written down. Questions are then asked about each truth. For example: Fact: God loves the World. Question: Why does God love the world?

Other highlights of the term included watching the movie Amazing Grace and a short film called Dust produced by Nooma. We were also visited by a 17 year old American Baptist who shared his testimony.

From September Mettle once again looked at NOOMA Dvds and topics from Youth For Christ such as 'stress' and 'peer pressure'. We also studied climate change. Mettle's social action project was to fill a shoebox with gifts for the Samaritan's Purse appeal. The Christmas session was a Fairtrade Chocolate fountain with Fairtrade bananas and other fruit, which was very popular!!!!

The group has really benefited from the early introduction of the year 9's and as we look to 2010 we look forward to seeing Mettle develop further with more emphasis on responding to the questions and issues they would like to discuss.



Rock Solid bowling



Mettle



Taming the Tiger trip

Shining Lights, Stowford – January 2009 was exciting as the group were learning about Amy Carmichael, a lady who, after feeling called to be a missionary, went to India and was involved in rescuing young girls from oppression. At this time a large group of lively year 6 girls joined Shining Lights. The teaching in the summer term was on the story of Jonah. In June we were visited by a Christian ventriloquist.

The new academic year saw 20 children sign up for the club as we looked at the topic 'The Fruit of the Spirit.'

Relationships have really grown with Ivybridge Evangelical Baptist Church in Ivybridge and we are thrilled that they will be taking over this work from January 2010. Ivybridge YFC seeks to provide a service where the local church cannot, so when a local church is more able to take on some of our work, then we are thrilled to pass it over.

Shining Lights, Woodlands – This club was restarted by a member of the Salvation Army in January 2009 and for the remainder of Ash's placement with us he was able to help with it. The group now has enough volunteers to function without our help but I maintain contact with its leader and hope to initiate a support meeting for local children's workers at some point in 2010.

Arrows – is now well-established and the annual events of the pancake party, summer barbecue and Christmas party went well. Regular sessions included a dramatised Easter Story, a series on 'The Apostle Paul's journeys' and a look at 'Heroes of the Bible.'

Yealmpton Methodist Church has a new community pastor – David Allen. David and I have been in discussion about our involvement in Arrows. 2010 will hopefully see the team develop with Ivybridge YFC able to step back and develop work in other areas.

SHINE! – In January SHINE! kicked off the year by looking at Jesus as both a servant and leader and as a result decided to 'serve' the school by doing a small environmental project – weeding the school.

In Spring Ivybridge YFC led the family service in church and some of the SHINE! Members came along to help sing a song – one of those members came with her family who don't normally attend church. Community links were built up through this visit. The group also watched excerpts from the movie Miracle Maker and studied topics such as temptation, friendships and Lent.

Unfortunately, the summer term was interrupted by illness, absence and school events. Nevertheless, the group still managed to run sessions on Friendship, Failure and Forgiveness when we did meet and the children were as keen as ever.

In the Autumn term, The Combined Benefice of Holbeton, Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo worked hard on a plan to co-ordinate a teaching programme between school groups and church groups and from September SHINE! studied 'Prophecies concerning the 1st coming of Christ' along with the rest of the Benefice did. Children attending SHINE! were very keen to ask for and eventually to receive personal copies of the New Testament of The Bible.

Assembly work: At Holbeton this year, our assemblies took as our themes: Valentine's Day, Remembrance Day and Advent amongst others. I also led 3 classes on the school's 'X Factor' day – talking about the Cross of Jesus as the event was at Easter time. Brixton's assembly on Amos received very good comments from the Headteacher. Wembury - I am thrilled that we have once again been able to do an assembly in Wembury Primary School. I was also able to link with Guy Airton from St. Matthew's, Elburton on an assembly. He helps with the Christian Union in a Plymstock secondary school. Newton Ferrers . I did my first assembly for Newton Ferrers in June. From September this has become a regular part of our routine being involved in 'First Friday Assemblies' – where on the 1st Friday of the month the whole school and parents have an assembly in the church. 'Light' and 'Christingle' were the 2 topics at the end of the year.

In 2010 we hope to consolidate our primary school assemblies administration and offer assemblies to a wider selection of the Ivybridge Community College feeder schools.

Ivybridge YFC joined with the Gideons to give out bibles to Ivybridge Community College Year 7 in March promoting Rock Solid at the same time. It was a fantastic answer to prayer when Gideons were allowed to go into King Edward VI Community College, Totnes in June. About 500 children from year 7 and 8 received a New Testament and I was able to talk about the Bible and how it is uniquely Popular, Powerful and Precious. A local church (Totnes United Free Church) were keen to partner with us in setting up a Christian Union but unfortunately the Head could not give the go ahead. I was unable to attend the Kingsbridge Gideon's session in December but encouraged Anji Chant of Kingsbridge to attend.

Teaching at ICC: In March 2009 Ivybridge YFC was asked to represent Christianity at the Spirituality Workshops for the 6th form. We enlisted the help of Mark Lawrence of SWYM and we spoke to about 75 young people during 3 sessions.

Street Outreach: Helen has joined the street outreach team which operates from Ivybridge Methodist Church (IMC). Live Football at Easter was attended by Ash and one young person. The young person loved it and was very positive about the 'God' side of it. Following Ash's suggestion the next Live Football was held in

October in Ivybridge and I was responsible for the church building and took part as one of the leaders. 2 Ivybridge YFC members attended out of the 35 young people in total and 2 young people made commitments during the week.

GODrama: In January 2009 GODrama officially started following the pilot workshops in May last year. Ginette, Sue, Ash and Chloe volunteered. The group is very dynamic and their first performance was at our AGM. CompassionArt in June was a massive highlight of the year with a number of young people taking part in a very moving evening. From September the group worked hard on finalizing their anti-bullying sketch which was the original reason for forming. It was a difficult time and with volunteers needing to stand down from December the group's future is uncertain. GODrama does not fit easily into the 4D strategy for the charity and therefore might be better suited to being run by a local church or at another stage in our development.

Alpha: In September 2009 we were asked to run a 'youth' table at an Alpha course being run by Ivybridge Methodist Church. 9 young people completed the course. Of these 5 went to the away day and one young person gave testimony at this. Joining with the adults for the course was very successful and plans are being made to continue discipleship of these young people in January.



Live Football



Compassion Art GoDrama



Alpha

2. Developing Young People Into Leadership

During January to July 2009 Ash completed his SWYM gap year placement with us; being mentored by Steve Hope of Ivybridge Evangelical Baptist Church. Ash left Ivybridge YFC in July having completed his course with SWYM. After a summer of uncertainty Ash now looks forward to joining Moorlands Bible College in September 2010.

Whilst working on income generation it has not been possible to have another gap year student. We do maintain contact with young people who are at university and held a successful Christmas meal for them on their return to Ivybridge. Facebook enables good communication quickly with this age group.

Developing young people remains a central part of our vision.

3. Social Justice Issues

This year we have focused on social justice issues during existing groups rather than at separate events. As well as the campaigns mentioned previously, we have promoted fair-trade and used fair-trade drinks and some ingredients in the homemade cakes! Social justice remains something that is close to our heart and we will endeavour to keep it integral to all our work in 2010.



Ash's Leaving Barbecue



Social Action Project

4. Supporting Churches

Ivybridge YFC exists as a missional arm of the local church and as such tries to work closely with them.

In February Ivybridge YFC was pleased to start a monthly Christian youth workers forum – the meeting is low key giving an opportunity for youth workers to build relationships, share ideas and frustrations. Each one has been different but all equally valuable. They arose following Youth Alpha of 2008 where 4 churches were represented. Workers are finding the meetings encouraging.

Ivybridge hosted the Healing on the Streets conference in February and Helen and I were asked to represent Ivybridge YFC at a leaders' lunch. Teenagers joining prayer teams are not encouraged due to the nature of some of the information being prayed about.

In March, I attended the licensing of Rev. Jonathan Cruickshank of the Combined Benefice and was invited to formally welcome him on behalf of all denominations. In July, I was able to help with several children's work meetings of the Combined Benefice which aimed to coordinate the links between school and church activities.

This year we have been building our links with churches through visiting on Sundays roughly once a month. St Austins (RC) Priory near Ivybridge, Ivybridge Methodist Church (IMC), St Werburghs, Wembury and Ivybridge Evangelical Baptist Church have all had presentations regarding the work. I was also able to help IMC with its Big Sunday Breakfast group during that visit. I attended the Yealmpton Methodist Church Centenary celebrations.

I was able to support SWYM cluster with worship and teaching on Healing on the Streets and was able to help them at a time of crisis with staff in the Spring.

We look forward to 2010 and furthering our relationships with local churches.

Kingsbridge

Anji Chant is looking at setting up a YFC Centre in Kingsbridge and I have been supporting them with this process. In January 2010 there will be a church leaders' meeting to this end. It would be great to have another YFC centre in the area.

Behind the scenes the charity continues to develop its Support Systems:

Our **Relationship with National Youth For Christ** continues to grow; In February Liz Etherton visited to meet Helen and I, and some of the trustees because of the financial pressure we were under. National Staff Conference was very good this year and I was able to network well. I also attended the South West Focus Day in Ilminster and a training day in Halesowen about raising personal support.

Prayer remains crucial to the work and we had lots of fun this year with our monthly prayer meetings returning to Ivybridge in the Spring. In the summer, we walked up Western Beacon which overlooks Ivybridge and the surrounding villages and these were very special occasions. This was followed up with a prayer meeting on a supporter's yacht in the summer break! During Live Football the prayer meeting met in the building to cover the event. In November we started our tour around the villages again, starting in Wembury. Plans to visit 'The Tube Station' in Polzeath emerged.

Fundraising: A 7K grant from the Power for Life Fund in March relieved a lot of financial pressure. The team worked hard in the Spring/Summer to raise more money with 6 new regular supporters. This has been a constant pressure throughout the year and work continues to be needed to raise the cash income.

A scrapbooking evening in October raised £35 and was very enjoyable, blessing all ages of the community. A Word for Christmas at the end of November raised £290 and the Advent Market was fantastic with young people helping with preparation and face-painting. We ran a craft activity for children and had good feedback that it increased the enjoyment of the event for them.

Administratively we have finally set up a youth database which will be invaluable for ensuring young people are aware of what is on offer. Our website can now receive donations online which is a valuable addition. Helen has worked hard to produce scrapbooks and photo posters of all our work to date and young people and supporters alike have enjoyed looking through them.

CELEBRATE:2 – AGM 2009

On 3 March we held our 2nd AGM which was a celebration with worship and drama from the newly formed GODrama. It also featured a live link up with Júnior, 2008's Brazilian volunteer, which went down really well.



Prayer Meeting!



A Word for Christmas GoDrama at the AGM



The **Trustees** continue to be invaluable and in March an away day was held with to discuss Strategy with Liz Etherton. This was excellent. There was also an extra meeting in May to work on finance and communication. Rachel French stepped down as Secretary, replaced by Bill Weldon; Rachel remains as a trustee.

The **Council of Reference** remains a very supportive body of people. David Allen agreed to join during the summer and will be a valuable addition to the team.

As we approach 2010 I do so with a sense of growing excitement. The charity has been in existence for a few years now, the team is more established and we are looking forward to a year where we build upon the great things that God has been doing. In all this, we remember that He is our strength and that it's to His name that we give the glory.

Elis Norton
Director

IVYBRIDGE YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Income & Expenditure Account
For the year to 31/12/09

INCOME	Notes	<u>2009</u>		<u>2008</u>	
		£	£	£	£
Donations – Gift Aided		11786		12976	
Donations – Non Gift Aided		17059		10169	
Gift Aid Tax Rebates		3114		3657	
Fundraising & Sponsorship		536		584	
Sale of Refreshments		-		81	
Bank Interest Received		1		36	
Nomad		-		750	
HMRC incentive payments		75		250	
Other	A	<u>80</u>		-	
Total Income			32651		28503
EXPENSES					
Salaries inc Emp NIC	B	24894		24354	
Telephone		669		772	
Computer Costs		164		201	
Postage		193		180	
Photocopying & Stationery		260		287	
Travel Expenses	C	807		1263	
Insurance		252		236	
Resources		252		364	
Events inc Refreshments		543		527	
Conferences		289		398	
Equipment		138		268	
Sundries	D	62		740	
Training		833		462	
Nomad outreach	E	-		1029	
Youth Alpha	F	<u>19</u>		<u>228</u>	
Total Expenses			<u>29375</u>		<u>31309</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period			£3276		£(2806)

IVYBRIDGE YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2009

		<u>31/12/08</u>			
CURRENT ASSETS	Notes	£	£	£	£
Reliance Bank Current Account		1010		1132	
Reliance Bank Deposit Account		3402		101	
Cash In Hand		6		3	
Debtors & Prepayments	G	<u>919</u>		<u>2157</u>	
Total current Assets			5337		3393
 CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Restricted Fund		-			
Accruals	H	<u>781</u>		<u>2113</u>	
Total Liabilities			<u>781</u>		<u>2113</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>4556</u>		<u>1280</u>
 Represented By:-					
Surplus Income b/fwd		1280		4086	
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		<u>3276</u>		<u>(2806)</u>	
Surplus Income c/fwd			<u>4556</u>		<u>1280</u>

Trustees

Gill Cowsill acts as Chair of the Trustees and has always been committed to youth work of one sort or another. Gill manages the RNIB Transcription Centre in Ivybridge providing audio, Braille and large print for blind and partially sighted people in the South West. Gill worships at Ivybridge Methodist Church.

Rachel French has been employed in the past in 3 different charities working with young people and older clients but has now returned to being a peripatetic self-employed music teacher working from home and in primary schools. Rachel is married to Malcolm and has 4 children, all of whom have flown the nest. All of her family either play or sing. Rachel worships at Ivybridge Methodist Church and is part of the worship group.

Steve Harvey works as editorial manager of Kingsbridge based South Hams Newspapers which publishes a number of weekly titles including the Ivybridge Gazette, Plympton, Plymstock and Ivybridge News and South Devon Times. Steve worships at Ivybridge Evangelical Baptist Church.

Pat and John Reynolds – Pat is the Prayer Co-ordinator for Ivybridge YFC, John is the Treasurer. Together they are volunteer money advice workers at Totnes United Free Church. They live at Moorhaven which offers easy access to their beloved Dartmoor. They worship at the Ivybridge Salvation Army Church.

Bill Weldon is Secretary of the Trustees. He is a retired Anglican Minister who is encouraging youth ministry in Newton Ferrers, Noss Mayo, Brixton, Yealmpton, Holbeton and Wembury. He is married to Dinah and has 3 grown up Christian sons, one is ordained, 2 are married. Bill is a member of All Saints Church, Holbeton.

Council of Reference

David Allen A lifelong Christian, David enjoyed 28 gap years in maritime engineering before graduating from Moorlands College in 2006, and is now Community Pastor at Yealmpton Community Methodist Church.

Denis Applebee (Rev Dr) was converted 60 years ago in the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). He served 3 pastorates in 27 years and was chaplain to World Gospel Mission for 15 years as well as a lecturer in a seminary in the U.S.A. He is now retired. Denis worships at Plymouth Methodist Central Hall.

Stephen Caddick (Rev) is married to Sharon and has 3 daughters. He is the Minister of Ivybridge Methodist Church.

Malcolm Knightley (Major) became a Christian as a young teenager in 1966. Before joining the Salvation Army Training College in 1988 Malcolm worked as a teacher and within the food industry. Malcolm is married to Beverley and they have 4 children. Malcolm and Beverley were ordained in 2000 and for the last 7 years have led the Salvation Army Church in Ivybridge.

Marian Langsford (Dr) has been a GP in Ivybridge for 20 years. She is married to Trevor Griffiths and they have 2 daughters. Marian worships at Living Well Community Church, Plympton.

Janet Streeter has been involved in youth work throughout her adult life. She is married to Gary and they are both involved in several Christian outreach organisations and committees. She has 2 grown-up children and 2 grandsons. Janet worships at Ridgeway Methodist Church.

John Watson (Preb) served as an Army Captain in Malaya before studying a theological degree at London College of Divinity. He was Vicar of St Andrews, Plymouth between 1972-1993 and on the General Synod of the Church of England for 15 years. He was also an adviser to Independent Television and did epilogues for Television South West. He preaches locally and occasionally in U.S.A. John worships at Ivybridge Methodist Church.

Ivybridge Youth For Christ (Registered Charity No: 1118117)

Address: 16 Tom Maddock Gardens, Ivybridge, PL21 0WE

Telephone: 01752 898546 Email: ivybridge@yfc.co.uk

Website: www.yfcivybridge.org.uk