



Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ
Trustees Annual Report and Accounts
September 2024 – August 2025

Registered Charity Numbers:

1193801

Registered Address:

54 Grosvenor Road
Tunbridge Wells
TN1 2AS

Trustees:

Charlie Hill

Kay Dunlop

Anne Hinds

Pauline Joyce

Tony Joyce (Chair)

Stuart Lyell

Susanne Lyell

Our Vision

We're about seeing young people's lives changed by Jesus

We meet young people where they are across the town: in school Christian Unions, prayer spaces, assemblies; and in Church weekday and Sunday youth groups.

We invite them to find out more about Jesus: at the after-school drop-in, at The Youth Centre, at Unite Youth, at Deeper Youth and by coming to Satellites Camp.

Through fun and friendship, our paid staff, volunteers and trustees demonstrate the love of God, declare who Jesus is, encourage a decision to follow Him and disciple the young people to live their lives to the full.

Chair of Trustees' Report

We give thanks to the Lord for another amazing year and His bountiful provision. With heavy hearts we said goodbye to Berti, who was called with his family, to be a missionary in Albania. He went with our thanks and blessing, but it left us with an element of trepidation. How would we fill the void that he left behind?

Over the past 16 years or so TW YFC, like our weather, has enjoyed changing seasons. We trusted in the will of our Lord Jesus and laid down this challenge in prayer. We advertised 2 part time roles and had a number of applications. Two of those who applied were Hannah and Savanna. What a blessing they have been to us at TW YFC but more importantly to the young people that we serve. Lord, be praised for sending them to us. Things are changing and we are doing things differently, and it's so exciting watching our ministry grow.

During the week the Youth Centre is a hive of activity with young people dropping in for food and a drink after school. Many of them stay until 5pm enjoying craft, chatting or playing games with our youth workers and volunteers.

Each day there is a Bible verse in the window with a word missing. The young people are challenged to search in the Bible and if they can find the missing word, they receive a sweet. We realise that the offer of toast, drinks, and cakes is often the first thing that draws them into the centre, however we then see a positive change in so many of them over the weeks. Some of the young people now attend our Unite events and The Noise, and several of them have given their lives to Christ.

If even one young person gives their life to Christ, our ministry is worthwhile. We have been blessed so many times by young people committing to the Lord. Please pray for their continued journey of faith.

We give grateful thanks for our youth workers, our volunteers, our bakers, our trustees, those who pray for our ministry and for those who give money so generously.

With increased interest from schools and churches, our ministry has grown year on year and consequently our costs have also increased, but we firmly believe that the Lord will provide to meet these financial challenges. I appeal to our supporters to once again consider increasing your annual giving. If everyone were to increase their giving to TW YFC by just 10% this would have an enormous impact on the support that we can offer to the young people of Tunbridge Wells.

May our Lord Jesus Christ keep you and bless you.

Tony Joyce
Chair of Trustees

Centre Director's Report

Reflecting on this last year has shown me how God is faithful and provides even when we can't see an immediate way ahead. September 2024 started with an away day for our staff and trustees to prayerfully develop an exciting, new 3-year strategy for the charity.

In March Berti left his role with us as he and his family were being called by God to Albania (his homeland) as missionaries! This left a big hole in our paid staff team and meant that, for a short while, some of our work had to pause. Lesley continued in her Discipleship Lead role and increased her hours to 3 days a week.

With the numbers of people training in Christian Youth Work at an all-time low we wondered how we were going to find someone new to join the team. After much prayer and discernment, and considering our new strategy, we decided to advertise 2 part time roles: a Schools' lead and an Outreach Lead. We had some great candidates apply and Hannah joined the team as our new Schools' Lead in June 2025. (2 more roles will start in September 2025!)

We have been supported by a team of 15 committed volunteers who help at the after-school drop-in, Unite Youth, The Noise or Deeper Youth. And some help at all our events! We simply can't run The Youth Centre or our events without their dedication so thank you. I must also say thank you to some very committed bakers who provide cake for the drop-in.

Some other highlights this year include taking the team and some volunteers to the National Youth Ministry Weekend, celebrating TW YFC's 15th Birthday and taking a small group of young people to a Christian Festival - Satellites.

Through all the changes and challenges of this year God has guided us; and our work has touched many young people's lives, with 20 making a decision to follow Jesus!

Praise God!

Karen Cox,
Centre Director

The Youth Centre

The Youth Centre is open from 3.30pm – 5pm each day after school for secondary school students to pop in for toast, cake, drinks, games, chat, questions about faith and craft.

We had 3 new volunteers join the drop-in team. Some young people served and washed up to complete the volunteering part of their Duke of Edinburgh award.

The year has had its challenges with a long-term leak in the roof (now found and fixed) and a major flood in the basement office resulting in the drop-in space becoming the office for some time! We also supported 2 young people through very difficult times.

We welcomed the Police, talking about firework safety, and Andy from Kenward Trust who warned of the dangers of drugs and alcohol, and celebrated the Subbuteo World Cup and the Women's Euros.

We gave out 4 loaves of toast most days - over 30,000 pieces over the year! Lesley continued to make beautiful window displays and the young people helped make some of the decorations. We were able to help lots learn how to find a Bible reference through the Bible verse in the window. Young people can claim a sweet for finding the missing word in the verse.

At the end of the summer term one young person told us about a dream he had had about the cross with the sun behind it – it made him curious about Christianity and so we gave him a Bible and some resources to help him read it over the summer.

Churches

We have many events and activities which complement and support the youthwork that already happens in the local churches.

We also host fortnightly prayer meetings, and monthly coffee gatherings for youth ministers to meet together and pray for each other.

Outreach events, such as Unite Youth and The Noise aim to combine fun and friendship with the gospel, making them ideal events for those from The Youth Centre or for young people to invite their non-Christian friends to.

Unite Youth was well attended each month with around 40 young people coming for fun, food and faith. The talks covered topics such as 'science and faith', hope, and mission, with MAF's flight simulator being a real highlight!

The Noise, our Easter community action event was brilliantly hosted by Pembury Baptist Church. Around 30 young people came each day to go out and help the community by painting picnic benches, restoring a summer house, making a sensory wall, relaying the forest school path as well as the usual litter picking! They also had time to play games and walk right through the Bible from Genesis to Pentecost!

A brand-new event for this year was ONE - a project to gather the churches in Tonbridge. St John's Hildenborough hosted a pancake party and talk, and St Stephen's hosted a summer games evening followed by worship. Both events also had fun and food where the young people could get to know each other.

Our discipleship event, Deeper Youth, continued with 2 events. One was all about the Holy Spirit and the other was all about telling our faith story.

8 Young people from 5 different churches attended Satellites Festival with the TW YFC team. We had an amazing time, worshipping alongside 4,000 other young people, hearing from inspiring speakers and having loads of fun (and a bit of sleep too!) All the young people felt they went deeper in their faith over the week and have made strong friendships in the group too.

Schools

Christian Unions

- Skinners' Grammar - Berti with Jamie from Christchurch Southborough
- Skinners' Kent Academy - Lesley with Nichola from Pembury Baptist Church

Mentoring

- Temple Grove Academy - Berti supported year 6 students

Assemblies

- The Wells Free School - Lesley with Richard from United Emmanuel
- Skinners' Kent Academy - year 7 and 8 assembly.

Prayer Spaces

- St Gregory's Catholic School - Prayer Space for Year 7 reflecting on Christmas and Easter.

We enjoy being able to support our local schools and their pupils and staff through many different activities.

Finance

We have experienced yet another very busy year both in The Youth Centre and with a wide range of activities taking place in local schools and churches. At all times we seek to be as economical as possible with the funds donated to us so that expenditure is balanced with income.

We also saw some significant staff changes this year Berti leaving and Hannah joining the team.

The financial position as at the year-end 31 August 2025 was as follows:
Our faithful regular donors and local churches have maintained their valued support throughout the year, resulting in our overall annual income increasing to just over £84,000.

Our expenditure has risen this year to just under £84,000, reflecting increased activity, although we were still able to increase our total cash reserves from £35,000 to over £37,000.

We give thanks again to God for a balanced budget and such amazing financial provision!

We have a target reserves policy of 6 months of average monthly operational costs, in line with guidance from the Charity Commission to keep between 3 and 6 months of reserves. Our total of cash funds at the year-end equated to approximately 5.29 months, which is very reassuring.

As always, we are very grateful for the amazing financial support from our individual donors, church partners, and those who award us grants, without whom this ministry would not be able to function.

We are very grateful to Stephen East for his time voluntarily spent independently examining the accounts again for us this year.

Stuart Lyell - Treasurer.