

Aldridge Youth Fellowship Report

This year, AYF has continued with its usual activities: Friday nights, After Café on a Sunday, jam sessions on a Tuesday, camp in July, and our weekend in Whitemoor in January.

At AYF each Friday night, we have an activity chosen and led by the young people, a talk by either the leaders or young people, and our young worship leaders have led us in worshipping God together. In our talks this year, we've looked at Matthew 5, the fruits of, and people who encountered Jesus. We also have Kairos, led by Maxine and Rachel, which is a group that meets before AYF.

After Café has moved from Sunday evening to Sunday lunch time. We saw an increase in attendance with the change of time. We have lunch together, play a game, and study the Bible or a faith-related topic. This year, we've done 24/7 Prayer's 'Origins' youth course, we've looked at how we answer big questions about faith, and are now studying the gifts of the Spirit.

In our jam sessions, young people come together to worship God and grow in the skill of playing music together. These are always good fun, even if often chaotic!

Last summer, we returned to Devon for camp, having found it an ideal location last year. Our first day was hindered by torrential rain, which made setting up very difficult. However, our working party was made up of absolute heroes and we got the job done. The week went from strength to strength following that difficult start. Our evening talks followed the life of Isaac and our morning Bible studies looked at the theme of 'Grace & Truth'. We look forward to returning there for camp this summer.

In January, the group went to Whitemoor Lakes for a weekend away. This year, we had guest speakers from the Message Trust. The speakers shared their story and encouraged the young people in building their story with God as they live life with Him. This was an inspiring weekend, which also had plenty of time for fun together.

Please hold us, both young people and leaders, in your prayers. We have had only one year 8 in Dynamic this year and have a few year 9s who have come to YF, but not many, so please pray that we would reach these years groups. As ever, it's hard being a teenager and each generation faces new challenges, so please pray that God would keep our young people close and protect them. There have also been real difficulties and spiritual attack over the course of the year. Grace & truth continue to be key themes to pray for, as this is a generation growing up in a world where those two things are hard to find, often even in the Church. We know Jesus is full of both though. I look forward to seeing where God leads us and the young lives transformed by His grace and truth. May many more come to know Him, for His glory.