



NEWS UPDATE



CONTACT US

Thrive Youth Ministries Office

Rear of Whitnash Methodist Church

Murcott Road East

Leamington Spa

CV31 2JJ

01926 257118

info@thriveym.org.uk

KEEP UPDATED



thriveym.org.uk/e-bulletins

thrive
youth ministries

FOLLOW US



@thriveym



@thrive_youth_min



@thriveyouthmin



thriveym.org.uk

a local mission partner of



**Scripture
Union**

printed May 2023

"I hope that this booklet will give you an inspiring snapshot of some of the ways that we have been trying to reach our vision recently.

Whenever I am asked about what **Thrive** actually does, it can be difficult to know how best to answer as our work is so varied. Our heart is to see churches transformed by investing in the next generations. Our vision is to see every church within our area of Warwickshire & Coventry with a thriving youth ministry, which inevitably requires also a thriving children's work.

I am so delighted with all that we have been able to do, as we have come alongside over 60 churches in the past twelve months or so and seen churches who have not done any youth work for many years, start to rectify that.

I am grateful to all our kind and generous supporters and partner churches; we couldn't do this without you, and I hope that you share in the delights contained here. If you don't yet support Thrive, perhaps this booklet will inspire you to get involved!"



Andy Castle

Thrive's Founder & CEO



HELPING CHURCHES

A lot of what Thrive does is to help churches improve what they are already doing to reach out and disciple young people. We also want to inspire churches to try new ways to connect and engage with those not currently involved in what they provide.

In 2022, **Thrive** helped churches set up 18 brand new projects, events or initiatives that reached at least 320 children or young people across the area, who would otherwise not have been in touch with the church.

Some of these projects have not taken root - yet. Some need to be altered, enhanced, or paused in order to let another, better approach or initiative take over. Youthwork is never straightforward, and so we are unlikely to get it perfect first time. If it was easy, there would not be an issue with churches doing youthwork and we would see an abundance of teenagers in our churches already! These projects have enabled churches to make connection with those they wouldn't have otherwise.

TRY NEW INITIATIVES

We have seen churches that haven't done youthwork for 20+ years, having the courage to take steps towards the young people who walk through their churchyard, attend a church primary school or live near them. These are first steps. What will the next steps be?





GIVEAWAY!

One of the challenges in starting a youth ministry is engaging with young people who are not yet part of a church family. Scripture Union has a statistic that 95% of young people have no contact with the Church. So how do we introduce young people to church and, more importantly, to Jesus?

Thrive is helping Christians from local churches to reach out to young people in their communities simply by giving out refreshments to those who pass their church front doors as they walk home from school. 'Giveaways' have created an opportunity to connect and engage, to share something of the love of God, and slowly to build meaningful conversations with local young people.

Thrive's mission enablers noticed that many young people from three local secondary schools walked past St Nicholas Church in Warwick every day. So, we are helping members of the church to interact by giving away ice creams in the summertime, and hot chocolate in the winter! It's providing new, regular contact with the same young people week by week.



"It has been brilliant to see how such a simple act of kindness can make someone feel valued and cared for. We pray that this small ministry will grow into something that is shaped by the young people themselves in the coming months."

Rev. Eira Hale


Curate, St Nicholas Church, Warwick



"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers"

Hebrews 13:2



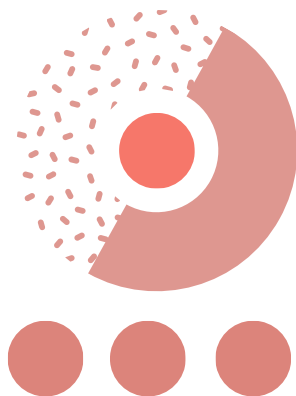


In 2021, Thrive launched our new 'Manifesto' to enable churches to develop youthwork that is relevant and engaging for young people in the 21st Century .

Our framework guides a church through a process of discerning how God wants them to reach out and share the Gospel of Jesus, in a way that is authentic to their setting and focuses on building relationships, not just staging activities for young people. Through these relationships, we want each person to discover that they can have a personal relationship with Jesus.

So far, eight churches are engaged with the process, and we've seen new initiatives start, connecting with young people that would not otherwise be hearing about Jesus.

At the heart of the Manifesto is exploring some of the myths of youth work, those things that sound right but when properly explored do not line up with the Gospel, such as 'youth work is best done by young adults', 'youth work is all about an exciting programme', and 'youth leaders are high energy and charismatic'.



OUR MANIFESTO

for 21st Century YouthWork



We aim to help churches realise that it takes the whole church, not just a few committed people, to properly welcome and disciple the next generations.

The process is not easy as it challenges long-held assumptions, but it's an essential journey for all churches to go on if we are to see more young people coming to a living relationship with Jesus and our churches *thriving*.

For more information visit
www.thriveym.org.uk/manifesto



Thrive's youth weekend returned after a three year delay due to the pandemic, with 125 young people and youth leaders worshipping together.

Basecamp provides youth leaders with a fun weekend residential where they can bring their young people and focus on building relationships with them, as they worship, pray and dangle from a zip wire! We arrange everything - the programme, the transport, the accommodation etc - so they are free to be alongside their group.

The Basecamp experience was described as:

"Amazing, so great. It's really helped with the friendships in our youth group. And for my relationship with the young people too. I feel like I know them much better as a result of the weekend."

Lizzie Russell, Youth Minister, St Paul's Church Leamington

Young people had a wonderful time chilling and creating good memories together. The weekend was full of activities, games, teaching, and worship as the theme being 'set ablaze' was explored. It was great to see young people deepening existing friendships and also making new ones!

We had a jam packed programme and there were opportunities to try new challenges such as abseiling and climbing, all carefully led by qualified instructors from the centre. Even a few youth leaders gave the activities a go!

"Amazing! The activities and worship and teaching were really great and encouraging."



Feedback was **100%** of attendees would come again

"It was very fun and among the best weekends I've had."



"My highlight was being able to have the worship jam with people from all different churches."



Thrive Juniors is an afternoon event designed for primary aged children and their leaders.

Thrive Juniors was a cheerful time of activities, prayer, discussion, and worship with 120 children and leaders! It was wonderful to see children engaging and connecting with God. The children (and adults too!) considered how God sees our hearts, loves us, and chooses each of us.

It was encouraging to see many churches including young people as leaders with their children, as well as some involved with the worship band, the Puppet Team, and a fab drama based on Samuel 16 - how God chose David. It was so good to see the young leaders getting involved in children's ministry and, most importantly, enjoying it!

"Our church was so glad to be able to be part of this event and are grateful to Thrive for enabling the children from different churches to come together in this way."

Rachel Budd, Heathcote Parish Church



“God sees and likes you for who you are, and not as other people see you.”



“It’s what’s inside our hearts that counts.”



“We learnt that God looks at our hearts at what others don’t always see.”



PRAAYER AND PIZZA

A church who had just six children in school years 5&6 and no church youth work; are now about to start a new youth ministry.

St Peter's Church in Wellesbourne asked Thrive to help them start a club designed for their children, to give them something exciting especially for them. 'Prayer & Pizza' gathers them together each week for pizza and games, with a clear focus on the Bible and time for prayer. It has been wonderful to see how they have grown in their faith and deepened in their connection with the church as they have moved up into secondary school and the church has had to develop into youthwork.

"Fiona and the Thrive team have helped us as a church really grow our work with the top primary / bottom secondary age group. Numbers of young people have doubled and we can see that they are growing in faith."

**Rev. Greg Bartlem, Vicar,
St Peter's Church, Wellesbourne**





"I enjoy learning about God and playing the games and the pizza. I also love how we can pray without having pressure on you."



In 2022, we made the decision to open the group to school years 5,6 and 7, due to the fact of having a small number of year 7's at the club. A year later, our numbers have grown and the group now has a good number of current year 6 & 7's that will transfer to year 7 & 8 in September. They will then form a brand new youth group that we hope will grow in the church.

If you have been excited by the possibility of having a group like this start in your church, please do get in touch with **Thrive**. We can help work with you to achieve this. What you need is to find something that will appeal to your children.

How **thrive** youth ministries serves local churches

There are four main ways that we are trying to help churches develop their work with children and young people.



Mentor leaders



Inspire the Church



**Raise up more
leaders**



**Invest in the next
generation**

www.thriveym.org.uk