

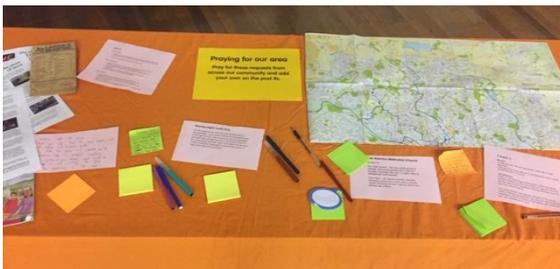


2020 so far...

It feels difficult to summarise what we've been up to as Thrive since the start of the year...such a contrast between how we began and what things look like now! But much remains the same; our love and care of children, young people and families and seeking ways to express that and connect as community. Back in September we felt called to commit to prayer and gathered in January to pray together – some of the resources we used are shown in the below couple of photos. We would ask you to join us as we listen, plan and imagine what our work will look like as the school year begins again this September.

Please pray:

- For children, young people and families as they navigate their way, with all that there has been to mark, celebrate and grieve
- For wisdom as we make decisions about how we gather and spend time together again, and that we would hear God's voice
- For those young people who have a transition to make and had a disrupted end to primary or secondary school, or sixth form



Messy Church

We had a brilliant time together at Messy Church in January, when we celebrated being part of God's Big Family through Thrive. We marked it as a launch afternoon for Thrive, so it was good to welcome the trustees of Thrive and other members of our partnering churches to come and join us for a fun packed afternoon

of friendship and sharing together. It was great to be able to celebrate where we are as we look forward to the future.

Just before lockdown we had made the decision to settle Messy Church at the single location of Stainbeck Church, rather than alternating between the Methodist Centre and Stainbeck Church. We are hoping this will help more of the families located in the area of Stainbeck to attend more regularly.

During the last few months we have been sending out Messy Church at Home activities to families and are hoping to finish this term with Messy Church in a bag deliveries. Both of these encourage families to explore faith together, which is something that is an important value of Messy Church – it's been good to find ways to encourage this though we're missing gathering together.

Totally Tuesday

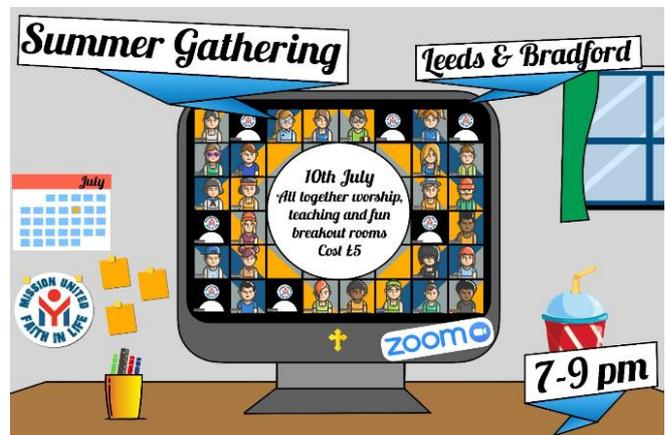
TT are a fun bunch to spend time with, whether in person or online! It has been great to have a very steady group of young people and we've enjoyed being able to build on that each week. Back in the Spring term our sessions were themed around some of the names of Jesus, as well as exploring riches and fame – we were split as a group whether we were aiming for this or not! Since lockdown we have had some game nights online, as well as a baking session, and been keeping in touch with families each week.

We sadly had to cancel our residential which was planned for May, but hope to be able to get back to running these when we can, as they're such a highlight of the year.

WOW

We've also been meeting online with WOW through one fortnightly small group and some socials. For those who feel able to meet in this way, it has been a great way of keeping in touch and seeing people's faces. It's been interesting to learn how to use technology and figure out which games work online...and which don't! Just before lockdown, we had had a rethink about the structure of WOW and how it could happen in a way that gave the young people choice about what they were opting into, so that's something that we'll be putting into action when we begin to meet again.

Back in the Spring term a few of us attended a Mission United residential, which brings together young people from across Leeds and Bradford. We had a real range of experiences and it suited some who went, and not others, so it was helpful to learn from. Last week this went online for an evening event and it was great to gather with young people and youth workers across the two cities to worship God, hear stories of faith and join an activity group – baking, games, Minecraft, escape room or craft.



We have a particular need for two leaders to help with WOW, as we're welcoming a large group up from Totally Tuesday. The group are aged 12-15 and meet from 7:30-9pm on a Wednesday night, spending time hanging out and being part of a small group. No prep required, unless you'd like to – just turn up and get involved. Please get in touch if you're interested in this.

Schools

We have continued to take part in assemblies at Mill Field and Chapel Allerton primary schools, which are always fun and go down well with the kids. It is a real honour to be able to share stories from the Bible, and a bit about how God sees the children.

We are sad to not have been able to run any transition sessions with the year 6s this year, and are praying for them as they move to High School. We may get to meet some of them again if they go to Carr Manor school!

The Year 7 small group finished at the start of this year, with the encouraging support of Carol from RAISE. It was again a good experience to see the group grow in understanding and acceptance of each other, as they spent time with people who they might not ordinarily have a conversation with. We unfortunately weren't able to continue with the one-to-one mentoring that would usually follow this group, as schools closed around that time. It will be good to return when we're able and say hello to those girls, as well as getting to know a new group who won't have had the usual transition from their primary school. One of the strengths of what we do at Carr Manor is that we build sessions around the needs of the group, so it will be interesting to see what they come with when we start, and how we're able to use that time together.



Thank you!

Many people bring much to the work of Thrive and we are so thankful to you...and you...and you! There has been a huge amount of work behind the scenes this year from the trustees, as we establish ourselves as a CIO and seek God for the work of Thrive, so encourage them and cheer them on.

Thank you for your support of us and children, young people and families who are encouraged by the work of Thrive. And please pray for us as we look towards September and find our way with that.

Hannah Dey and Helen Greenwood, July '20
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