



Christian youth in partnership across the Abingdon area

Past events in detail....

Launch party & worship event (june 2004) @ Peachcroft Christian Centre

The team launch the Abingdon youth network under the name 'Desire' and host a worship event and party with BBQ, bouncy castle, youth led worship band!

Onehundredhours Gig & Party (2nd October 2004) @ Christ Church on Northcourt Road, Abingdon

This was the second event organised under the banner of the Desire network. This was a great event! Great music, bouncy castle, and loads more. About 170 young people attended from the Abingdon area. The evening was a lively mix of fun activities, live performances by the band Onehundredhours, a contemporary Christian video presentation, and a gospel message from the lead singer of the band.

Youth celebration event (15th October 2005) @ Peachcroft Christian Centre

"ARE YOU READY TO STEP OUT OF THE BOAT?"

Article by: Viki Gale, Abingdon Community Church

As soon as we arrived at the hall to set up we sensed that this was going to be a great time. The youth seemed to be chatting and expectant that the Lord would turn up. As the band got going, the worship lifted our thoughts to God and the youth seemed to be at one worshipping the Lord.

As part of the event young people presented two dance routines that were really thought provoking. The music they chose was contemporary and as they danced their well rehearsed routines it showed what hard work and prayer can do.

The speaker from Newbury bounced into the room and held our attention from his first words with his wit and energy. He encouraged us to be radical for Jesus and used many personal stories to illustrate his point. There was a time of prayer at the end and we went away encouraged to tell our families and friends.

The event was supported by seven or more youth groups from across the area. We even had some youth from Didcot who joined us for the first time, which was also encouraging. About 55 youth came to the event.

During the evening some of the Desire leaders had the opportunity to talk to the dozen or so youth from the local estate who were hanging about outside the venue. In fact we spent most of the evening talking to them, which was great. We had some lively conversations and some searching questions were asked!

So what did some of the youth have to say?

"Fantastic speaker, he held my attention with lots of funny stories."

"The band were immense."

"We felt we touched God in the worship."

Get your skates on (6th May 2006) @ Christ Church on Northcourt Road, Abingdon

'A Youth Leader's Perspective' By Viki Gale. Voluntary youth worker, Abingdon Community Church.

When the weeks of planning and promoting the event finally came to an end, the event on May the 6th went as well or better than those in Desire could have hoped for.

The ice rink, café and PA were set up on the night before and Saturday morning greeted us with blue skies, sunshine and a feeling of expectation. We had to do some last minute set up and debriefing, then we started the day with the volunteers standing together to pray and commit the day to God. Through out the day there was a wonderful sense of unity and care between the helpers from different churches working together to make the day a good one for the children parents and youth that came.

In the morning primary aged children came with their parents or helpers. People were queuing outside the entrance way at 9am, from that time onwards we had a steady flow of children and adults coming in. The ice rink was very popular and sessions were quickly booked out, an extra session had to be added to avoid too much disappointment. The inflatables were also very popular as were the parachute games. People were able to relax and chat in the café and there was a happy buzz about the place.

The general feedback from parents and children was that they were having fun and wondered when we were going to do it again. People who had not been into a church building for a long time commented on what a lovely sense of joy there was, and a realization that there were Christians who were actually quite normal and interested in being involved in the community.

As the morning session came to an end so too came the rain and Andy Murray's brilliant wet weather plan came into use, the outside equipment was brought in and dried off with towels (fun) Then the teenagers began to come, those who came have commented on the happy atmosphere there seemed to be about the place. Friends enjoyed skating together or having fun on one of the inflatables, doing circus skills or having a drink and a snack while listening to live bands. There were also outside games as the weather dried.

Comments that I have heard made have been,

"It was such fun", "It was one of the best days of my life",

"It was wicked" , "It was great to see so many kids of different ages and from different schools get on so well together"

"It was cool"

Mr Nervosa Event (6th October 2006) @ Trinity Methodist/URC Church

'MR NEVOSA - THE NEUROTIC ILLUSIONIST' By Amy Galloway. Student Youth Worker, Abingdon Trinity Church, Abingdon.

Friday 6th October saw the appearance of Mr Nervosa, a Christian Magician complete with power-saw, to amaze the youth of Abingdon.

The event was preceded by weeks of assemblies in various schools in the town for advertisement. In some assemblies an 'expensive' pot was broken in an attempt to do a magic trick. The illustration was then used that we all can feel broken and no use to anyone, but God values us just as we are. Of course we then needed to say that Mr Nervosa would bring magic tricks that would actually work!

On the night of the event, Trinity Church Hall was decked out with funky lights and a stage. Doors opened at 7pm when we were greeted by a queue of youth outside. Before Mr Nervosa's show there was time to play some games and visit the café whilst listening to some live jazz music. The café sold hot and cold drinks, various sweets and home made cakes. Particularly popular were the hot chocolates covered in cream, marshmallows and topped off with a flake. Nice!!

On his flyer Mr Nervosa described himself as a crazy neurotic illusionist which certainly fitted with the interesting Russian accent he had. The show started with him successfully not harming a young person when their arm was put through a hole and sliced with some very sharp metal! Just to tense the nerves of the young person, they were asked to sign a form declaring that in the case of it going wrong Mr Nervosa was taking no responsibility!!

After some spoon bending and other magic tricks, came the highlight of the show. A young person was asked to lie on a table, then the audience held their breath as Mr Nervosa stood there in a blood splattered apron, waving a real live power-saw in his hand. Luckily the youth lived to tell the tale of having a saw through his middle.

The event was hugely successful with over 100 young people attending and all having enthusiastic responses to Mr Nervosa. Some responses from the youth were "That was well good", "Wicked!" and "Lots of my mates came, that was cool".

Lift the Label Fashion Show (24th March 2007) @ Peachcroft Christian Centre

Whose hands have touched the clothes you are wearing? Have you thought how your consumer choices bring you into contact with some of the poorest people in the world?

The Lift the Label fashion show was a fantastic night of fashion and accessories, food and entertainment...with a fairtrade edge!

Well over 120 young people came to the event from all over the Abingdon area. There was a great buzz and the catwalk lit up and the thumping dance tracks pounded through the speakers. Through the night there was a mixture of fashion styles from a range of fairtrade fashion houses – everything from dinner wear, sports clothing, and beachwear!

We would like to thank the following for their assistance with this fashion show:

Companies featured tonight on the catwalk:

Bamboo Clothing www.bambooclothing.co.uk

Bishopston www.bishopstontrading.co.uk

Freeset (bags) www.freesetbags.co.uk

Howies www.howies.co.uk

Hug www.hug.co.uk

People Tree www.peopletree.co.uk

Tam&Rob www.tamandrob.co.uk

Toybox www.toyboxcharity.org.uk

Traidcraft www.traidcraft.co.uk

Highstreet stores starting to get on board with fairtrade clothing were also featured on the catwalk: Next. Gap. New Look. H&M, M&S, Monsoon, Accessorise, Levi.

Lazertag Arena (12th May 2007) @ Christ Church on Northcourt Road, Abingdon

"laser arena lands here...." Wow what an event! Over 500 people came to this event and in spite of the slightly damp weather everyone seemed to have a great time.

The main feature of the event was a 10m x 10m inflatable building! Into which you went to play LASERTAG! Great fun! At the church site there were also several other inflatables – a bungee run and a gladiators duel inflatable! These were busy throughout the day and everyone enjoyed the challenge of defeating their opponent!

One of the halls hosted drumming workshops through the afternoon, and other rooms on site housed the fairtrade market and stalls. As ever the café was well attended and the home made cakes were particularly popular!

End of year youth celebration (15th July 2007) @ Peachcroft Christian Centre

The Desire team organised this youth celebration event to mark the end of the school year. We had a great night with a guest speaker from CMS (Church mission society), some great youth led worship, and a fantastic café...serving some legendary hot chocolate mountains (spray cream, flake chocolate, marshmallows...the works!)

Half night of prayer (5th October 2007) @ Abingdon Baptist Church, Ock Street

As we entered this new academic year we had a sense that God was calling us to gather for a half night of prayer rather than organising another outreach event at this point in the year.

The evening was a mix of prayer and worship led by young people from the local churches. Throughout the building there were different areas dedicated to inspiring prayer for our local churches, youth and local schools, plus a well stocked café! We had a great night and many of the people who came to the event felt that they had been really encouraged by gathering with like minded Christians from all over the region.

SATURDAY 5TH JULY 2008 - DESIRE NETWORK BREAKFAST

Desire breakfast at Manor Farm in Marcham - 9am 'til 10.30am.

At this breakfast meeting there will be time to get to know one another, encourage each other, and to spend time praying and discussing future plans.

SUNDAY 13TH JULY 2008 - END OF YEAR CELEBRATION EVENT

At the Peachcroft Christian Centre - 8pm 'til 10pm

Guest speaker, youth led worship, cafe, and more. Watch this space for more info in the future!