



Weldon Youth Work

Weldon Parish Youth Work update

Reporting to Weldon Parish Council and PCC June 2023

We were delighted to have entered a football team this month for the NAYC 5-a-side football tournament for 10-13 year olds. There were 8 Northamptonshire youth groups in total in an event that took place at Benham Sports Centre in Northampton. One of our newest young leaders did a sterling job as our dedicated coach and several parents supported by providing transport and cheering our team on from the sidelines. It was a valuable experience and, despite some ups and downs, the team played really well together and all ended the night asking for more! For some young people this event was their first such experience and offered a significant opportunity to compete and work as part of a team within a safe and supportive environment. We were extremely proud of them all.

Our newest volunteer recruit has now started on our team, having been through our DBS screening, shadowed our workers and completed our Safeguarding training. She has settled in well and comes with skills in both the arts and sports and an ability to engage with our young people. We continue to look for additional volunteers to support both our club but also our many community events and activities. We currently have 7 volunteers as well as 6 young leaders. Some additional male volunteers in particular would be very welcome!

One of St Mary's church members has been leading some craft sessions at youth club this month and has been sewing items with our young people to sell at a Youth Club stall at the village fete in August. Young people have sewn bags, chickens, hair scrunchies and tissue holders among other things and money raised will go towards St Mary's community work. Any surplus items will be put into our Christmas boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Other craft this month has included a glass art session delivered by the NAYC as well as the usual loom bands, mindfulness colouring, origami and bracelet-making. Chess and pool have been popular this month as well as our sessions of football, tag rugby and cricket. The Sumo suits also made another appearance which provided a taster for those coming along to our Youth Games in the Amphitheatre in August.

I have had several enquiries as to what events will be happening over the summer so, in addition to the Youth Games I have also secured a subsidised kayak session with Nene Extreme in August.

In my 'church hours' - Our youth church has met less regularly this month due to exams but we have held one session run by our family worker, which involved reflection/prayer stations and helped to equip the young people with additional strategies to deal with stress and anxiety. We also ran an inter-generational youth church session at the very end of May which involved team building, prayer, and shared food.

Kirstie Lloyd-Uzoegbu
Weldon Parish Youth Worker

