

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS



This year rather than send separate Christmas Cards we've incorporated a removable one into this Newsletter. This is partly due to our desire to be more environmental friendly as an organisation but is also a financial decision in the wake of this last year.

Thank you to all that support us financially, but if you are doing any Christmas or January sales shopping this year, please consider using these channels as a way to raise funds for LiNX without any additional cost to yourselves.



This is a shopping link. Just visit easyfundraising.org.uk and then support LiNX Christian Youth Trust. There is also a link on our website.

The shops in the scheme (Sainsbury, Argos, M&S etc.) then give a percentage of the net purchase to charitable organisations at no cost to the customer.



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But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:10-12

LiNX Prayer Diary

January

Week Beginning

- 3rd • Pray for the lunch clubs & CU's starting again this month.
- 10th • New Peer Mentoring groups at Paignton Academy.
- 17th • Healthy Relationships lessons with Charlie at TGGs this week
- 24th • For the small groups & mentoring at Torquay Academy
- 31st • Bible lessons with Year 10's at Paignton Academy.

February

Week Beginning

- 7th • Pray for the After-school Drop in at Hele Baptist Church.
- 14th • Pray for all the RE lessons taking place over this term.
- 21st • Prayer for the volunteer mentoring training starting this month.
- 28th • Pray for Tim leading basketball club at Torquay Academy

March

Week Beginning

- 7th • Pray for Charlie in her Handling Stress lessons at TGGs
- 14th • Tim is sharing with youth workers from SWYM this week.
- 21st • Pray for the mentoring sessions at St Cuthbert Mayne School
- 28th Pray for the Easter lessons taking place over the next few weeks.

April

Week Beginning

- 4th Pray for the mentoring taking place at The Spires College
- 11th Pray for all school staff and students as they head into Easter holidays.
- 18th Pray for a time of rest and reflection for the LiNX team this Easter.
- 25th For schools as they start back this week.

LiNX Celebration Evening

I think it's fair to say that, yet again, it's been quite a year! At the 2020 celebration we reflected on a year of two halves, with the first half being business as usual and the second in a national lockdown. This year we celebrated that despite the constantly changing landscape, with further lockdowns, continuously changing restrictions, and each of our local schools requiring different input from us, we continued to reach and support young people! If you missed the celebration broadcast, you can find it [here](http://www.youtube.com/yePRbJVjo4w) (www.youtube.com/yePRbJVjo4w).

The work of LiNX certainly looked more different than ever before, as we got to grips with ways to improve our filming techniques, our use of Zoom and Teams, and creative ways to still get important messages across about life and faith. In fact, Matt was able to deliver some of his lessons to multiple classes at the same time in this way, 'virtually hosting' a local minister to explain why he's a Christian, and answering questions from the young people through the 'chat' function – how times have changed!

Since September 2020 we have...

Taught 133 hours worth of classroom-based lessons



Since September 2020 we have...



Provided 84 hours worth of after-school clubs and drop-ins

Since September 2020 we have...

Delivered 275 hours of face-to-face mentoring and...



... 36 hours of online mentoring and 59 hours of small group work

Since September 2020 we have...

Spent 96 hours working with other youth work providers over the summer.



Since September 2020 we have...



Posted 356 times across our social media channels.

Since September 2020 we have...



Created over 5 hours of online video content for use in schools and churches

Another area we saw a lot of need in was mentoring and listening support. This was also possible to offer over video conferencing software, which enabled Charlie & Philip to still 'meet' young people during the lockdowns and provide the care they needed during a difficult time. That said, some of the schools also welcomed us back in, remaining masked and distanced, but still present in the school with the young people whether in one-to-ones, small groups or lessons.



We are, of course, really pleased to be going back physically into all the schools this term, delivering much of what we did pre-covid. However, we're also thankful that we do have a fresh perspective on much of what we do, and I truly believe that our 'creative edge' has been sharpened through this challenging season.

Finally, as I said a number of times during the live broadcast, we are so truly thankful for all of your

ongoing support, both in prayer and finance. We really couldn't do this important work without you. I regularly say at church visits that we are an extension of the local churches, and the backing of the local church means so much to us. Please join us in believing that 2022 holds many more

opportunities to reach and support young people with the love and kindness of Jesus Christ.

Tim Funnell



We need you to be a mentor!

The team spend significant portions of time working with schools pastoral teams to identify and support young people that are struggling, using our **TRANSFORM** Mentoring Programme (6 x 30 minute sessions).

The biggest challenge we are currently facing in delivering this vital support, is that demand for mentoring is outpacing our ability to provide it. Partly, this is because there is a crisis in young people's emotional health, but also because the techniques, resources and strategies we have developed over the years are remarkably successful. We get results! Young people consistently report that after a few weeks of being mentored by LiNX they are better able to cope, and have better strategies to manage their emotional health.

It's a privilege to be regularly approached by schools to mentor young people, but heart-breaking when we can't keep up with demand. However, we have a solution, but it requires your help...

LiNX have developed a new training programme! We want to equip local Christians to become mentors alongside us in schools and would like to invite **you** to apply to our join the programme.

Any interested applicants will need to be available for at least an hour a week during school hours (usually 9am - 3pm); need to commit to the full training programme; and DBS checked to work with young people (LiNX can arrange this if required).

Applicants will be trained as listeners and equipped with a wealth of skills and resources. LiNX will also provide ongoing support for as long as you offer mentoring to Torbay Schools.

Mentoring is incredibly satisfying and extraordinarily rewarding, it is incredible to be part of a young persons journey to reach their full potentials.

If you are interested in joining the team in supporting young people in this way, details on the application process are opposite.

Vacancy - Volunteer Mentor

Role Description

In partnership with LiNX staff the Volunteer Mentor would be connected with individual young people in a Torbay Secondary School with the purpose of following the **TRANSFORM** mentoring programme. Mentors will provide listening, support and appropriate resources to enable the young person to develop better strategies to manage their emotional health.

Role Specifications

- Demonstrate ability to communicate, connect and engage with young people effectively.
- Available and willing to commit to at least 1 hour a week during school hours (usually 9am-3pm) for a minimum of 1 academic year.
- Successful completion of the LiNX Volunteer Training Programme - Dates and time to be confirmed.
- Provide or willing to apply for DBS checks to work with young people.

Application Process

To apply, email your name and contact details, along with a brief outline of any experience working with young people and details of 2 references (1 of which must be a church leader) to transform@linxyouth.net with the subject header of "Volunteer Mentor Application".

For more information or to talk to someone about the role please contact the LiNX Office.

Telephone: 01803 557044



RE Lessons

Since the school closures last year, whole class lessons have been some of the last things to return to our work. However, they remain a core part of LiNX's interaction with schools and a big part of our mission to serve schools by providing innovation and expertise in this way. Here are just a few stories from Charlie and Matt of their recent experiences in the classroom.

Teaching RE (or Philosophy & Ethics) has always been one of my favourite parts of the job, with opportunities to engage with young people, ask questions, debate and think about the Christian faith. I'm really grateful for the trust that schools put in me to deliver the lessons and the value they put on the content I get to teach.

This term, at Brixham College, a regular lesson has been with the new Year 7 students asking the question "Does God Exist?" The lesson involves thinking about empty jars, badly performed miracles and a photo of God (sort of). Providing opportunities to talk about Christian proofs of God in creation, experience, prayer and the Bible as well as some personal testimonies from my self and local church leader Jon Petts (from Brixham Community Church). In the same term this lesson has been followed up with a lesson on "Christmas" and a deep look into some of the elements of that story grounded in this idea of God's existence and desire to connect with humanity.



I've also been able to lead some lessons with the Year 10 & 11 GCSE classes, which are always great opportunities to go deeper with students that have specifically chosen to study the subject. These always provokes BIG questions and deep discussions particularly with topics on "Christian Marriage" and "The Crucifixion". They often provide opportunities to revisit much of what I've done in the previous years, and it's always encouraging to see how much students actually retain from those lessons.



Matt Turner

This term, Matt and I have been doing some RE lessons at TGGGS. We saw all the year 9 groups to discuss the issue of forgiveness. The lesson included an activity called 'Can you forgive everything?' where the students ranked several wrongdoings under 5 headings:

Interestingly, and not surprisingly, most of the groups decided that the most unforgiveable wrongdoing was to run over someone's dog on purpose!

We then looked at a real-life case study about a lady called Gee Walker whose son was murdered, yet she chose



Gee Walker

to forgive the perpetrators. It was very interesting to discuss Gee's reason for forgiving and link that in with the first activity. If you would like to see more on this story yourself, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgQyBLWFDDBI



We ended the lesson by looking at what Jesus said and did about forgiveness using bible verses from Matthew 18:21-22, Matthew 6:9-15, Luke 5:17-26 and Luke 23:34.

We have also done a 'Grill-a-Christian' lesson with 2 year 10 classes where the girls are given the opportunity to ask us questions about Christianity. As they had just finished looking at 'Relationships and Families', most of the questions were on this subject area including, as always, our opinions on homosexuality and gender issues. However, we were also asked about creation, science and how and why we believe in God. These lessons are such a great opportunity to share our faith and to help the students cement their learning. We are very grateful for the opportunity.

Charlie Haywood



We would like to be able to stay in contact with you and keep you informed of future LiNX activities and information regarding the wider work of LiNX. If you would like to receive this information please complete and return the form below and we will contact you:



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(tick as appropriate)

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1a Clifton Road, Paignton, DEVON, TQ3 3LN

You can unsubscribe at anytime by contacting the LiNX office.



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MAY THE PEACE AND
BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS BE
YOURS; AND MAY THE
COMING YEAR BE FILLED
WITH HAPPINESS
FROM ALL OF US AT



Matt Philip

Charlie Tim

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The logo graphic consists of several overlapping, colorful geometric shapes (triangles and polygons) in shades of blue, orange, yellow, and red, creating a dynamic, abstract background for the text.

LiNX