



LiNX

Termly News
Spring 2023
January - April

A New Year in School

Meet Our Newest Trustee



Hi! I'm Jo. I have been a secondary teacher of art since the late 90's, more recently working as a course tutor for South West Teacher Training. I have a passion for encouraging, championing and caring for young people. I have worked with young people in schools and churches as well as enjoyed having a family full of nieces and nephews. I am a member of St Mag's Church in Torquay where my husband, Sam is the vicar. Another part of my work is to encourage creativity in churches by being Branch Leader for a branch of the Christian Creative Network in Torquay. This involves championing creativity, organising art exhibitions, workshops and facilitating events such as open mic nights and craft markets for members. Since launching four years ago we have reached over 250 members. It has been very rewarding. I have also recently become the trustee for Christian Distinctiveness at the Unleashed Theatre Company based in the Royal Lyceum in Torquay. I am so excited by all that the year has to offer and really pray that I can be a useful addition to the Trustees at LiNX.

Jo Leach

The LiNX logo is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. The letters 'L', 'I', and 'X' are significantly larger than the 'N'. The logo is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping a colorful geometric pattern of triangles in shades of orange, red, and teal.

Christian Youth Trust

A large, stylized graphic of the number '25' is the central focus. The numbers are filled with a mosaic of colorful triangles in shades of red, orange, yellow, and teal. To the right of the '5', the word 'ANNIVERSARY' is written in a white, sans-serif font, curving around the bottom of the number. Above the '5', the letters 'th' are written in a teal, sans-serif font.

To celebrate LiNX's 25th year working in Torbay schools we are hosting events throughout the year. Here is an overview of everything still to come.

★ **EASTER PRAYER BREAKFAST** ★

Tuesday 28th March 2023

LiNX Office 8:30-9:30am (Office open from 8am)

Join us to share breakfast together and pray for LiNX and other youth work in Torbay.

★ **WATER SPORTS HANG OUT** ★

Sunday 11th June 2023

Love Sports Beach Hub - Paignton Sea Front 12pm Onwards

Bring a picnic to enjoy an afternoon at the beach with the team and try out some exciting water sports with our friends from Love Sports.

★ **THE BIG 25th EVENT** ★

Friday 7th July 2023

Venue to be confirmed 7:30pm - 10:30pm

Rounding off our 25th Year Celebrations in style with a big bash event including a meal and entertainment.

Ticket and booking information coming soon.

Spires Christian Union

In May 2022 two students at The Spires College approached the headteacher to ask for the creation of a Christian Union in the school. Two staff members and I were then asked to get involved with setting one up.

The members of staff are Jane Badcott who is the school librarian and attends St Mary Mags church; and Maria Higginson who is an IT teacher and attends Riviera Life Church. The two students involved attend Together Church in Torquay.



The CU began on 24th May and, initially, it was just the five of us, so we spent the first half term getting to know each other and planning how to run the CU going forward. We decided that it would be beneficial to invite in some local ministers to answer some of the big questions of faith and provoke some discussion. When the new school year started in September, we were ready with a plan for the Autumn term.





On 27th September Pete Clayton, Together Church, came to talk about the monarchy which was titled 'Should we have a king?' There were a good number of students in attendance (although some came along because they thought the tannoy announcement had said there was a monkey in the classroom.....monarchy...monkey!!)

Jordan Williams, Riviera Life Church and formally LiNX, visited on 12th October to talk about whether church is just for old people and again on 29th November to discuss food banks and looking after the poor. Both discussions were well attended and really interesting. There were some provocative and searching questions from the students.

On 15th November Emma from St Mary Mags Church joined us to discuss who is my neighbour and who cares about my community, which was a really useful and interesting topic for the young people to discuss.

We also ran a few craft sessions with different themes. Around Halloween the students made lanterns and at Christmas, cards.

On the alternative weeks we have spent time praying together and making plans for future weeks. We are planning to possibly run a youth alpha during the spring term if we have enough interest.

All in all, the first full term of the Christian Union has been a great success and we look forward to seeing what God will do through it going forward.

Charlie Haywood



LiNX Prayer Diary

January

Week Beginning

- 9th • For Tim on the Torquay Boys Buckfast Abbey Trip this week
- 16th • Transform mentoring groups starting at Paignton Academy
- 23rd • Pray for the CU at Torquay Girls Grammar with Charlie
- 30th • Matt is leading a Yr 7 PSHE Day with Brixham College

February

Week Beginning

- 6th • For the small groups & mentoring at Torquay Academy
- 13th • Pray for the SWYM “Geek Factory” camp Matt is helping to lead
- 20th • Pray for the LiNX Trustees who meet this week.
- 27th • Pray for the 3 After school drop ins taking place this week

March

Week Beginning

- 6th • Pray for the team as we meet together to plan and pray.
- 13th • Pray for the mentoring sessions at St Cuthbert Mayne
- 20th • Pray for the CU & LiNX Mentoring at Torquay Boys Grammar
- 27th • Pray for the Easter lessons starting in schools this week.

April

Week Beginning

- 3rd • Pray for school staff & students starting their Easter break.
- 10th • For a time of rest & reflection for the LiNX team this Easter
- 17th • Pray for the schools and Team as they start back this week
- 24th • Tim is sharing with youth workers from SWYM this week

Pray for the LiNX Team

Please continue to pray for each of the team through this Spring term as they work to support young people in schools.

From left to right:

Philip Eley, Charlie Haywood, Tim Funnell, Matt Turner



School Update: Torquay Boys Grammar School

Over the last ten and a half years that I've been part of the LiNX team, I've often visited and worked with Torquay Boys' Grammar School. It's been great to support young people from yr7 through to sixth form, seeing them turn into young men.

In fact, only this last summer I had the joy of attending the wedding of one of the young people I mainly knew through the CU I supported in my first few years there, and we gathered the old CU gang for this photo (bottom left).

Even though they're now scattered across the country, it was so encouraging to see them all growing in faith and character all these years later!

My work in TBGS has morphed gradually over the years, as the school itself grows and changes it is important that LiNX's support and input remains relevant and adaptable to the school community too. The good

news is, The Good News is relevant in every season for all people, and just like Jesus adapted his stories to be relevant to those he was with, whatever work we're doing in all the schools, the Good News is woven throughout it, communicating joy, love and hope.



This year I've launched a new lunch club, aimed at those that want to make new friends, find a community of peers to have fun with. It's amazing how keen the school are for me to do this new club, providing another option for their students to engage with one another in a positive environment. What a privilege to be asked to do this, so please pray that I pitch the tone of the club just right i.e. the right balance of lots of fun that everyone can join in with, but also welcoming and 'safe' for any young people that want to come along that might be a bit shy.

It was great to join the yr9 groups this month for their day trips to Buckfast Abbey, taking part in Re:Connect, the abbey's contemporary prayer and contemplation event. It was brilliant to see lots of the young people engaging with the various zones and activities, exploring modern day philosophical and ethical world issues, and the place of prayer and reflection in a busy world.



I have also started seeing some TBGS students for the occasional 1:1, providing a bit of extra support for those that struggle to open up to teaching staff. Please pray for these sessions, that they're helpful to the young people I sit with to listen, and that the Spirit guides my reflections and questions in the time I have with them in a what can be quite a vulnerable moment for them.

Tim Funnell



School Feedback

We're privileged to work alongside some fantastic members of staff in Torbay's Schools and it's always encouraging to hear their perspective on the work of LiNX. Here is one response we'd like to share with you.

Over recent years St Cuthbert Mayne students have been lucky enough to have had additional support from Linx Christian Youth Trust. Charlie Haywood and Philip Eley have helped to mentor both individual boys and girls as well as small groups doing the Transform workshops.

They have supported our students who have felt overwhelmed and had difficulty managing their own emotions whether it has caused issues for them at school or at home. They have listened to them and given them strategies to improve their confidence, self-esteem and ways of dealing with everyday life. The one-to-one mentoring usually lasts about 6 weeks and are half an hour a week, however these can continue if the student/mentor feels this would be of benefit.

The Transform Workshops are a once a week one hour session over a 6-week period. The Transform Groups have not only helped students to build resilience in small groups but also to make new friends and feel more confident. The workshops enable the students to better manage a range of emotions such as anger, stress, worry, fear, loneliness, jealousy.

We really hope that all these sessions have a positive impact on the students' lives and learning by giving them the chance to talk about their emotions in a safe environment. We hope to continue our relationship with Linx Christian Youth Trust for years to come and appreciate what they can offer to our students.

Suzy Woods

**St Cuthbert Mayne School
Pastoral Support Officer**



Could you spare 1 hour a week?

LiNX
Christian Youth Trust

We are looking to run a second round of our Volunteer Mentor Training and are seeking to recruit mentors who could specifically help in Torquay Schools.

If you are interested email transform@linxyouth.net for more details.



25th Anniversary Funding Challenge



Would you like to get hold of one of these exclusive mugs or pens, to join LiNX in celebrating our Anniversary and help us raise funds for our continued work in Torbay schools.

★ Give 25p a day to the work of LiNX ★

A payment of £7.60 a month and receive a LiNX pen

★ Give £25 a month to the work of LiNX ★

A payment of £25 a month and receive a LiNX mug and pen

★ Give a one off gift this year of £25 ★

Use this QR code to visit Stewardship.org.uk to make your gift online and receive a LiNX mug



★ Increase any existing giving by 25% ★

For more details and to download our donation form visit:

www.linxyouth.net/25

LiNX Christian Youth Trust
1a Clifton Road, Paignton,
DEVON, TQ3 3LN
01803 557044
info@linxyouth.net
www.linxyouth.net
Reg. Charity No. 1067449
Company No. 3469992

LiNX