

LiNX

Termly News
Autumn 2023

September - December

PAST

FUTURE

PRESENT

This Issue:

Tim Says Goodbye
Looking back on 25 Years of LiNX
Annual Review Pull out
NEW LOOK Prayer Diary

25th
ANNIVERSARY

Dear LiNX supporters,

As some of you may have heard, after 11yrs it is time for me to move on from LiNX, as I have felt the nudge from God to step out into my next adventure.

Over these years, I've learned a lot about myself and about ministry, and I've seen God at work in the big and

immediate, as well as in the small and slow... God is good!

I am so grateful for the way LiNX supporters have continued to encourage myself and team over my time here. It really is special the way the local church continues to make this work possible through prayerful and financial support, and general encouragement along the way – we really couldn't do it without you. Thank you!

As I reflect on my time at LiNX, it's amazing to take stock of all that God has done through us as a team. The way that every secondary school in Torbay remains open to LiNX's work provides a strong testimony to the calibre of what we do, and how it is valued by the schools. But, my personal fondest memories would probably be:

Band Weeks – Seeing young people put up their hands saying YES to Jesus! I invited my friends LZ7 & Twelve24 on 3 different occasions during my time here, and through their performances it provided an intense moment of Gospel presentation in multiple schools and invitation to an end of week gig where many responded personally to Jesus! Praise God!

A breakthrough moment in a 1:1 just last year with a lad I've supported all year. I cannot share details but please join me in praying he continues on the path with a better future than he previously had.





ROOTED – We only had two ROOTED weekends, but they were oh so special. A gathering of around 30 young people, aged 14-18, hungry for God. Lots of God encounters, growth in spiritual gifts, space for them to step out and step up... a fond memory.

Trips & camps with TBGS – I've been so blessed to become good friends with many of the staff at TBGS, and over the years they've invited me on various day trips and end of year camps. So much fun with young people and staff, building relationships and sowing long term seeds of kingdom friendship.

Torquay Academy Basketball – The first thing I started doing in schools when I joined LiNX was a weekly basketball club, and over the years I've seen 100's of young people come through it. Some only for a few weeks, others for their whole school journey. It's been such a joy to spend time with these young people, to teach them basketball, but more importantly to demonstrate unconditional welcome, encouragement, kindness, multiple 'second chances', and joy!



LiNX will carry on doing the much needed work of reaching and supporting young people, presenting the gospel in relevant ways and supporting young people holistically. As they continue with the work, please continue to pray for them, and remind your churches to pray for them too as LiNX's work isn't always visible to those outside of schools. Be praying for the trustees as they seek to appoint the next project manager. Please also pray that the right people will feel prompted by the Spirit to apply and step into this exciting role.

My last 'official' public work for LiNX will be part of our 25th celebration event, on 6th October at The Lyceum Theatre in Torquay. I would love to see you there if you are able to make it, partly to say farewell, but primarily to celebrate what God has done over 25yrs and what he continues to do through this ministry. Finally, I pray a blessing on the churches of Torbay, that God's Spirit would fan into flame what is already happening, bringing a wave of revival across our land... I pray that your church building would be too small and that church plants would be desperately needed... I pray that salvation would spring up in every generation and demographic of our community!



Tim Funnell

Listening & Transform



Dear Friends,

Recently, kind people have shared very encouraging comments about the development of Linx. Obviously we are grateful for those words. We need them! When you have read the this prayer letter you will see that we have a lot to thank God for. However as I write I am aware that it would be very easy for us to become complacent.

The reality is that in some schools we need to be able to offer a better service. As well as the lessons, assemblies and lunchtime clubs there looks like there will be more opportunities to be part of a schools 'listening' team. Recent surveys in Torbay have shown that children and young people in the 5 to 13 age group are asking for more one to one contact with adults. Similarly during those few weeks between junior and senior school experts are finding that young people are going through a lot of changes and with some there is uncertainty about the step up to the senior school.

SCHOOLS..... SCHO

Would it be good if Linx workers could be listeners during the last year of junior school? In the end it is all down to the time we are available for.

I am very conscious that very few readers of this actually see us in action in the schools, so you have to trust my assessment of the situation. Similarly there may be folk, probably not readers of this, who say, 'well what's the point of putting more workers into schools, isn't that the governments job' and others may say 'anyway you are not allowed to preach in schools, so we won't see loads of young people piling into our churches.'

Well, we may not be able to preach in schools but we can teach and 'be Jesus' to our schools. In the sermon on the mount Jesus reminded his hearers that they were 'the light of world' and he went on to challenge them that they were not meant to hide that light. In fact, he said 'let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'

I take that to mean that today we need to make sure that we do more than just shine this light in our church buildings. Therefore we need to be where the young people are and that place during the day is school.

If we are being that light amongst them, who is to say what may happen?

Just before Christmas I was reminded, twice, that 83% of people who are Christians made that commitment before they were 24. Quite a challenge? How will they hear without?(Romans 10.14)

I believe about 800 people receive this prayer letter and I realise I am speaking to the converted. However if everyone who read this letter was to prayerfully approach another Christian and get them to support Linx for £5 a month that would mean an extra 800 £60s a year which equals WOW.

Nigel.

S..... SCHOOLS.....

SCHOOLS..... SCHO

Taken from
Linx Newsletter - Spring 2002

In the Spring of 2002 Nigel Taylor, then Project Manager of LiNX, wrote about the early work that LiNX was doing in schools. He talked about the service that LiNX provides in lessons, assemblies and lunchtime clubs and the opportunities to be part of a schools 'listening team' and the impact it could have in supporting young people.

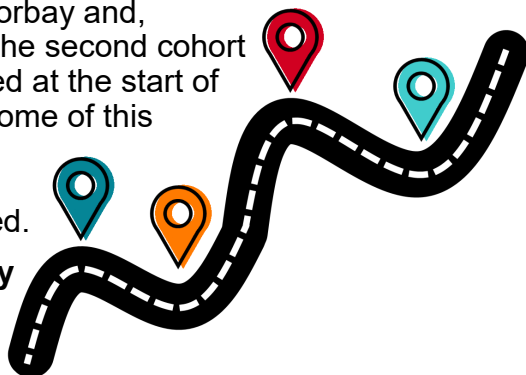
This vision of supporting students through basic listening provision has now grown into a major part of our work in schools and prompted the creation of our "Transform" programmes of mentoring and training that are so valued by schools. As a team we have gone from being trained in basic listening skills to all being trained in Mental Health First Aid and Charlie and I receiving specialist training in supporting young peoples wellbeing, and mental and emotional health.

LiNX Transform Mentoring stream now includes materials and packages of support for 1-on-1 and small group mentoring. We also created a Peer Mentoring training course providing schools opportunities for older students to support their younger peers.

After the schools started returning following the COVID pandemic closures it became apparent these global events had had an impact on the emotional and mental well being of young people. The demand for LiNX's engagement in this was increased substantially prompting the creation of a Transform Mentoring Toolkit, a series of resources that could be used by us and others to support young people. Leading to the development of a training course for local volunteers to become mentors in schools using Transform materials.

Nigel's vision in 2002 was to see LiNX providing "listening services" to all the secondary schools in Torbay and, though we aren't there yet, with the second cohort of volunteer mentors being trained at the start of this term we are excited to see some of this vision begin to take shape and more young people in schools positively impacted and supported.

Philip Eley



LINX

Christian Youth Trust

Anniversary Event

Friday 6th October 2024

7-9pm

The Royal Lyceum
Torquay

Join us for an
interactive
presentation
evening to celebrate
25 years of LINX.

Refreshments & charcuteries
provided

Mocktail bar

Fundraising Auction

Donations welcome on the evening

For more details:

Tel: 01803 557044

Email: info@lincyouth.net

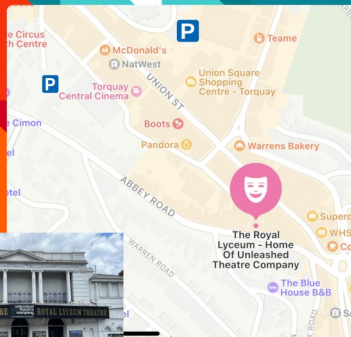


FREE EVENT
BOOKING ESSENTIAL

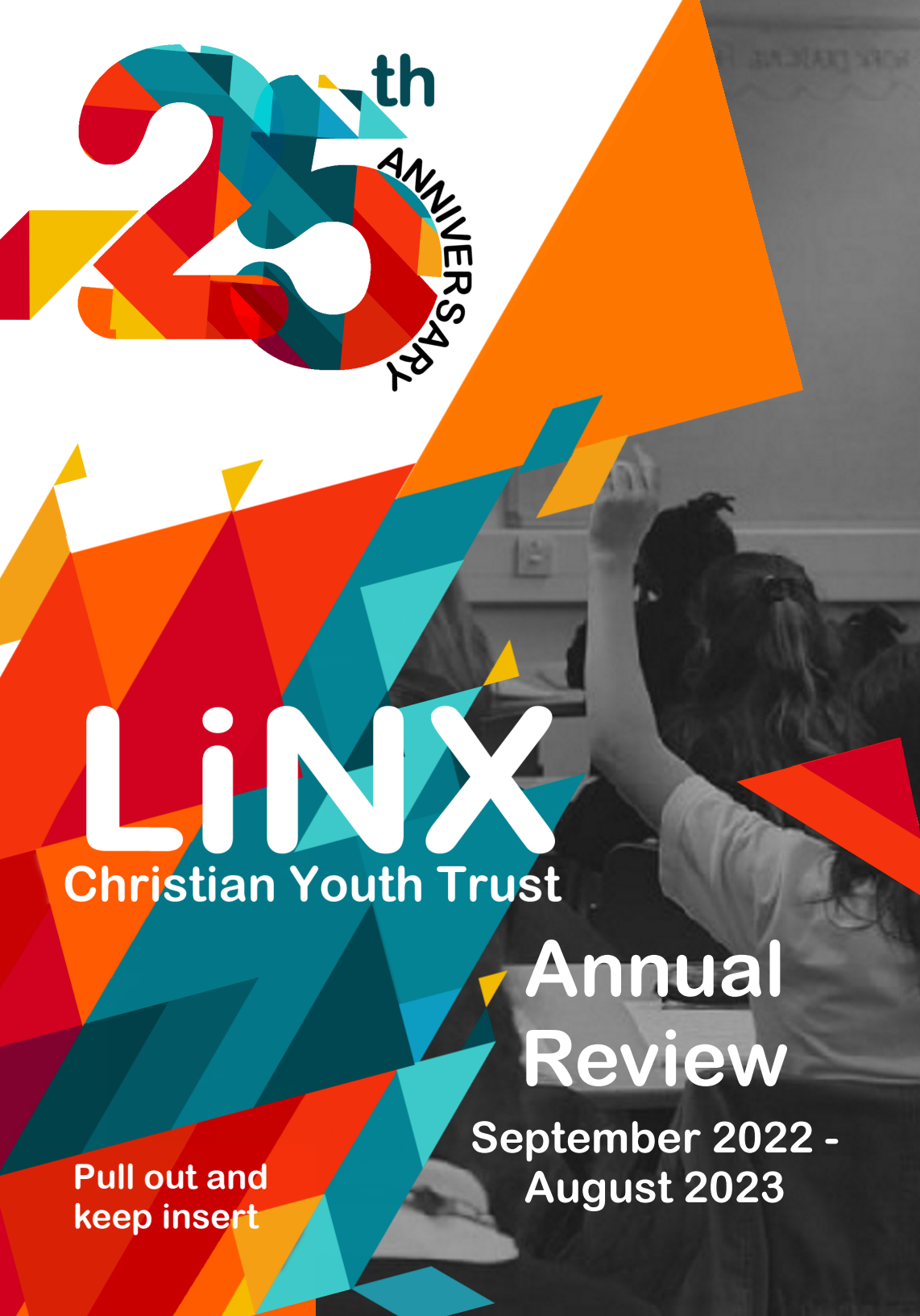


or visit
www.lincyouth.net/25

BOOK HERE



Venue: The Royal Lyceum
Abbey Road, Torquay



25th
ANNIVERSARY

LiNX

Christian Youth Trust

**Annual
Review**

**September 2022 -
August 2023**

**Pull out and
keep insert**

1014 1-on-1 & Group
Mentoring
Sessions
Supporting
179
Young People

Across 8 schools LiNX has delivered...

165
Hours
of R.E /
Philosophy &
Ethics lessons.



Topics have included:

- Suffering & God's Love
- Does God Exist?
- Christian Marriage
- Christmas
- Sanctity of Life
- Poverty & Justice
- Spirit & Soul
- Easter
- The Crucifixion
- Prejudice
- Life After Death
- Jesus

Topics have included:

- Emotional Health
- Self Esteem
- Gender Stereotypes
- Dangers of Binge Drinking
- Diversity Day
- Happiness

69 Hours

Delivering
content to
support
young people
in every area
of their development.





Peer Mentoring

Providing **22** hours of training for
45 Year 10 & 11 students who will support younger pupils in schools.

7 **NEW** volunteer mentors recruited for training and placement in schools in the next academic year.



**TRANSFORM
VOLUNTEER
MENTOR**



In the last year LiNX has provided:

49 targeted student support in schools
Hours outside of lessons.

137 in-school extra curricular sessions including sports clubs, Christian Unions and Games Clubs engaging **over 150** young people.

Working with local & regional partners
LiNX has delivered...

**OVER
400
Hours**

Of youth work activities impacting **1000's** of young people across Torbay and Devon.

LiNX Annual Review 2022-2023

Printed September 2023

**For more information on the work
referenced see these additional
publications:**

Lessons - Religious Education and Philosophy & Ethics

PSHE Lessons

Self Esteem Course

Emotional Health & Resilience Course

Healthy Relationships Course

TRANSFORM - One-to-one Mentoring

TRANSFORM - Small group Mentoring

TRANSFORM - Peer Mentoring

LiNX
Christian Youth Trust

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Company No. 3469992

LiNX Termly Prayer Theme

September



This month we pray for the fresh starts back in schools. For the LiNX Team, schools staff and students.

Please pray for God's blessing, peace and encouragement for all those in our school communities and the work that LiNX will be doing in them over this coming academic year.

October

We thank God for everything he has done in and through LiNX over these years with the young people of Torbay.

We pray for the team and specifically for the event on at the Royal Lyceum (see page 11) later this month.



November

As everything has settled in for the autumn term we pray for the students LiNX is working with through our Transform Mentoring who are feeling unsettled.

Pray that they would find peace & encouragement in the mentoring sessions and the team would have wisdom in how best to support them.



December

A big part of this month's work will be the Christmas lessons in schools across Torbay.

Please pray for the team leading these sessions that students would respond positively and take away some new understanding on the important message of Jesus behind this time of year.



Our Summers in the Sun



Summer Camp 'Love, Live, Life'

For those of you who read the July-September newsletter, you will remember the write up, 'Why

Residentials? Well now it's time once again to share the feedback from our summer camp 2008 'Love, Live, Life'. Firstly, a big thanks to everyone who prayed for the event and of course our volunteers!



'Love, Live, Life' was a great success, with an amazing group of young people. There were the regular camp faces, with a number having attended at least fifteen camps, and I'm not talking about Linx staff... and not forgetting the new faces, which we hope to see much more of in the future. Carl Portsmouth, the youth worker at St Matthias Church, kindly presented the talks which were fresh and inspiring, looking at Paul, Moses and Ruth, while focusing on the 'Love, Live, Life' theme.

Sadly the weather did let us down for a few days, and as a result we had to think on our feet changing the programme accordingly. But with the Lord's help, inspiration and general common sense all worked out well. The community event, (tidying the churchyard and rectory), was well received, all teams worked incredibly hard and there was an amazing team spirit. As a result we received a lovely letter from the church parish council.

Other memorable events included the 'Talent Show', where the young people were given chance to shine with some truly outstanding performances. To add to the atmosphere no talent show would be complete without judges, namely 'Big Bad Nige', 'Nice Natalie', and 'Crazy Charlie'!

All in all, the feedback from the week was incredible, what more could we ask for; we were blessed to have at least four days of sunshine, which was truly a miracle, great spiritual content, outdoor pursuits, workshops, Creation Fest, and amazing food.... We look forward to next year.

Natalie Townsend and Matt Turner

Taken from
Linx Newsletter - Autumn 2008





In 2008 I wrote this article with Natalie Townsend about the “Summer in the Sun” residential camp that took place at St Georges House in North Devon, with roughly 40 young people predominantly from church youth groups.

These camps were always great fun but bookings were decreasing, prices going up and few were coming from the work we were engaging with in schools. Change was needed which came in 2010 with the launch of Elevate.

Pioneered by myself, Andy King and Charlie Haywood, Elevate provided hundreds of young people the opportunity to experience new activities, build new friendships and engage with the local church. We saw young people make real connections with some coming to faith and many returning year after year.

Due to the Covid pandemic in 2019 Elevate had to be cancelled and was never able to return. But the desire to meaningfully connect our work in schools with local youth work has remained and our desire to engage churches and volunteers with local schools remains strong.

Over the last few summers we’ve been intentionally partnering with churches, youth projects and regional ministries. This summer the team have been involved with two major youth festivals, Spree and Creation Fest. We’ve also been working locally with our friends at Nova Street to resource sessions as part of their summer programme connecting with young people who are often vulnerable and in need to support.

LiNX has come a long way since those early summer residential weeks, but our core vision remains the same. To support young people to reach their full potential, not just in term time, but in the holidays too.

Matt Turner



From Westlands School To The Spires College

School News

Westlands School - Charlie Haywood

I love working in Westlands School. Although the school has been through some tough times recently the new principal and all the staff are working hard to improve things. Teaching is a difficult job and I have nothing but admiration and respect for the staff that I work with. There is such drive and passion to see the young people succeed. I am so glad to be part of that and make a small difference where I can. I really enjoy teaching the RE lessons, getting to know the



students and sharing some of my thoughts and opinions on life and faith with them, as well as hearing theirs. Being a school pastor patrolling the school gates and local area every Monday gives me the opportunity to continue those conversations, and show God's love in action by caring for them and helping them.

This year all year groups are studying RE, so I will get to teach almost every student once a term. This term I have been teaching the Bible with the Gideons to year 7, Justice to year 8, Prejudice to year 9 & 10, and Abortion to year 11. It's lovely when the students come into the classroom and say 'Yay, we've got Charlie!' Some year 9 students recognised me from the Bible lessons we did at the end of last year, many of them told me they still have their Bibles and some even read it occasionally! Praise God for this!

I also run a lunch club on Thursdays with Joel Ward the Youth Pastor at UVBC. We have a small group of year 11s and a group of year 9s. We play games each week, chat about life and include some thoughts about faith and belief. They are such a lovely group of young people and it is brilliant to build these relationships with them. Recently I bumped into a year 11 student in the school corridor who told me that she couldn't make it to the lunch club that week. She said she was gutted because it is the thing she looks forward to most in the week! My prayer is that she, and all the others, will remember the lunch clubs as they leave school, and that they will one day find the Jesus that we talked so much about, for themselves.

Please pray for the school, for the staff and students, for my work in school and for the invaluable work of the school pastors, and praise God for continuing to open doors and making ways for His name to be known.

Page 2

Taken from
LiNX Newsletter - Spring 2015

It was interesting to read the article that I wrote about Westlands School, now The Spires College, 8 years ago.

A lot has changed, including the name. Teaching is still a tough job, maybe even more so now, and my admiration for the teachers and staff in the school remains high. School Pastors no longer operate in Torbay because the need gradually decreased. However, as the need increases again a new initiative is being developed by Nathan Kiyaga and team called the Schools Support Network.

The work I do in the school has changed almost completely but I still spend a lot of time there, going in 3 times per week. My time is now spent primarily in one-to-one mentoring as the need for student support around mental health and wellbeing has grown hugely, especially since covid. The school has also seen a shift in how they teach the RE curriculum. They now provide RE classes for every student fortnightly, unless they are studying RE GCSE. Therefore, they do not have the time to accommodate visitors at the moment. However, for the past 2 years I have provided peer mentoring training for the new prefects which has been well received by the students and staff.

Last year we started a Christian Union which is similar to the lunch club that I ran with Joel Ward. This was instigated by 2 students who help run it and 2 staff members are also involved. We have had a few guest speakers in to talk about different Christian topics and have just completed an Alpha Course. Most of the students who attend are not Christians but are interested in exploring more. At the end of the Alpha course, we gave them bibles which they were very happy to receive.

Please continue to pray for the school, for the staff and students and for my work in school, and praise God for continuing to open doors, 8 years on, and making ways for His name to be known.

Charlie Haywood



We've been having a rummage in our photo albums and found some old team photos. How many of the team past and present do you recognise?



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