



DUNBAR AREA
CHRISTIAN YOUTH
PROJECT

2022 Annual Report



The Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project

Background

The Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project was created in 2005 by a cross denominational group of Christians with the aim of bridging the gap between the local church and young people in the Dunbar Community.

Richard Taylor was appointed as a full-time Youth Worker who successfully established work in schools, the local community and alongside local churches. Approximately 50 volunteers support DACYP through face to face youth work, or behind the scenes as a Management Group, Trustees and fundraisers. We also employ Kathryn Robertson as a part-time Administrator.

Our aims

Through the use of an employed Youth Worker and with the help of volunteers from the local Christian community, the aims of Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project include;

- Responding to the identified needs of young people in the schools and community by demonstrating Christian love and compassion in practical ways and offering pastoral support where needed
- Enabling young people to explore the good news of the Christian faith, supporting them in the development of their personal beliefs, nurturing the faith of young Christians, and encouraging the acquisition of positive life skills.

Outgoing Chairman's Remarks

As DACYP enters another season, one of the changes it will bring is a new Chairperson. After several years at the helm, Jon Timms will be stepping down to make way for Anne Harvey who will be the new new Chair.



Sometimes change can be unsettling. We will all be in agreement that the world is seeing change in almost every arena, every nation and every community.....and the Church is no different. Young people are inheriting a world that we've had a hand in cultivating, for good or for bad. This past season Richard, Kathryn and the DAYCP volunteers have been working tirelessly to support young people as they navigate changes in their own lives, their own town and in the wider world around them. As my role as Chair of the Management Group is coming to a close due to my own changes in workload, my prayer is that all involved in this amazing project will follow the voice and guidance of Jesus, The Good Shepherd. He will light the way ahead for them, enabling them to bring light and hope into the lives of the young people they work alongside and minister to. Above all my prayer is for those young people, may they know the closeness, love and affection of God in this formative stage of their lives and for the years ahead.

Jon Timms



Youth Worker's Report



It has been a fantastic year for DACYP and as we move into our 17th year I am very grateful for all the work so many folk put into the project as volunteers, and for all the willingness of others to partner with us in schools and churches and other groups.

I am based in Dunbar Primary School in the Lochend Campus where I have just moved into a new room. It's a bit more spacious than before and great for small groups. I spend at least one morning a week at Dunbar Grammar School supporting young people through the Guidance Team.

Responding to young people's mental health has become a significant and unexpected part of our work. Check-in groups, Andy's Man Club, Seasons for Growth and the lad's mental health group have emerged from a widespread concern for young people's mental wellbeing. DACYP is not a mental health project, and remains a Christian youth project, underpinned by Christian values and beliefs. As we go deeper into this aspect of the work, however, it has become apparent that our spiritual and mental wellbeing often go hand in hand, one supporting the other.

One of the joys of working for DACYP is that it enables folk with a faith to respond to what we believe is a God given urge to care for others. It mobilises our faith, and so when a volunteer is running the lad's group, they are living out an act of faith by caring and listening to, and not judging, those who walk through the door. When a volunteer reads with a Primary 3 child, they do so because they want the best for that child, because they believe that God wants the best for them too. This is what motivates us and sometimes we get the invitation to actually explain in words, what our faith actually means. RME lessons, Harbour Lights and Holiday Clubs are just some examples of spaces where it is appropriate and fitting to talk about our faith.

The landscape for DACYP has changed a lot since we started in 2005. But I am encouraged that our volunteers have adapted to it and taken on the challenge. It has been so good to see a team of volunteers back in schools and Harbour Lights. New opportunities keep coming and the volunteers have responded. At every corner there seems to be more to do. Discerning what we should do and what we leave for others to do is a challenge. However, as our team of volunteers expands, it increases the availability of support that DACYP can offer.

I hope you find this report an encouragement and that it reflects the story of the last year and the part we have all played in it together.

Photo:

Holiday makers on the Scripture Union Camp at Scoughall, enjoying the view from North Berwick Law



Schools Work

DACYP has continued to work with and support local schools both in the classroom and pastorally.

Religious, Moral Education (RME)

In the classroom Richard has continued to contribute to the RME curriculum for Primary 6 & 7's. With 5 classes per year stage this has kept him busy throughout the year covering a range of subjects including Christian ceremonies, slavery, awe and wonder, Easter and Christmas and loving our neighbours. Once again we were able to welcome back 'Go As You Please Funerals', who brought with them a TARDIS and a tartan coffin as part of the lesson on funerals.

A substantial part of this work has been the Big Questions session with Primary 7 at Dunbar and East Linton Primary Schools. These sessions are a safe space for young people to explore their own beliefs and those of others.

Volunteers in Schools

We have been delighted to be able to place our volunteers in schools again. After appealing to the local churches for volunteers to come in to school and offer support with literacy and numeracy, we have been able to cover almost every class in the Dunbar Primary Lochend Campus (P4-P7). Additionally some are helping in other ways such as helping with the snack trolley, one-to-one support and volunteering at the Lad's Group.

Fionna Payton is a newly retired teacher from Dunbar Grammar School and has started to volunteer in Dunbar Primary School with Primary 7's. She says:

"As a Christian, I believe it is important to put our faith into action. We follow Jesus, who put the needs of others first, so it is vital for every Christian to consider how they can best serve others. Being a Christian is not just about attending Church on a Sunday, it is about how we live our lives and contribute to a fairer, more caring society, demonstrating the love of God to others.

One way I thought I could contribute was by volunteering to support Literacy in Dunbar Primary School. I believe everyone deserves the opportunity to realise their potential and for some young people this can be a problem. It may be difficult for them to concentrate at school because of other things going on in their lives outside school.

For many of us learning to read is not something which requires too much effort but for others it can prove quite challenging. It is easy to fall behind and once an "I hate reading" mindset has been adopted, it can be difficult to move away from. Yet words are everywhere and being able to read and know what words mean can affect our whole lives. Our literacy level can affect our health and wellbeing. Research shows that young people with reading difficulties are at greater risk of developing mental health problems later in life such as depression, anxiety and behavioural problems, including anger and aggression. Studies have shown that those who read for pleasure have higher levels of self-esteem and a greater ability to cope with difficult situations. Some time spent being sharing a book with an adult, taking it in turns to read and talking about the story together can make a huge difference to a young person."

Fionna Payton



Pastoral support in schools

The growing number of young people and children that are struggling with their mental health has focused much of DACYP's schools based work on offering pastoral care, supporting both the Primary and Secondary schools. This forms part of a network of services that support young people in this way. It comes with no cost to the schools, uses volunteers and comes in the form of check-in groups, one-to-one pastoral support, Seasons for Growth bereavement and loss programme and the lad's mental health group. Much of this work builds on existing relationships that Richard and others have built with young people over the years. Rarely is he a total stranger to them and so it can make it easier for young people to talk to him. Likewise, some of our volunteers have known the young people from an early age through holiday clubs, Harbour Lights and other DACYP initiatives.

During the last year there have been a number of young people affected by the loss of a parent. DACYP has been able to offer some intervention at the hard edge of these situations. It is not a substitute for the professional health services available to them, but it is an immediate response that can help carry them over whilst they wait for other support such as counselling.

Mrs Gillanders, Headteacher at Dunbar Primary, commented on her view of Richard and his role in the school:

"His Christian values shine through and he has a very approachable and calm manner that encourages our pupils to talk to him; to share worries, to ask difficult questions about their beliefs and to seek help and support.

This year has been incredibly difficult in school, we have seen a major increase in pupils presenting with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. With Richard having been working with our school team for so long now, he has the knowledge about families, the skills to support de-escalation and more importantly this session to provide a listening ear for staff too"

Now that volunteers are able to be in school in the roles outlined above, DACYP's impact is even bigger and far-reaching.

Lads Mental Health Group

A new project for DACYP grew from the need to offer secondary age lads mental health support. Concerns for their wellbeing had been raised by the Guidance team at Dunbar Grammar School and they approached Richard to see if something could be set up. Using a model similar to that used by Andy's Man Club, a pilot project ran up to the summer holidays.



Photo: Belhaven Stables

Based in Belhaven Church Stables, a team of DACYP volunteers ran the group and it soon became clear that this was a group that we would need to continue.

After the summer break the group restarted and over 30 lads asked to be signed up to it. The group has been sub-divided to make it more manageable and plans are in place to open a senior group.

The feedback from the young men indicates that this is very helpful. They have said;

- 'I can talk about things here that I would never discuss at home'
- 'I feel calm here'
- 'You try and look like everything is ok but inside it's not. Coming here gives you a space to talk about what's wrong.'

Supporting local churches part 1

Summer Programme

DACYP has once again taken a lead role in delivering a summer programme with the local churches in Dunbar. The main elements of this were a holiday club, holiday activity days and summer camps.

Holiday Club

This year’s holiday club took place in the Belhaven Community Gardens next to Belhaven Hospital. Once again it was an outdoor event, utilising the fantastic space that included allotments, orchards, vegetable patches and meadows. The weather was favourable and the children enjoyed learning about what it means to be in Jesus’ team.



Anne Harvey is one of our volunteers and gave this review of her experience:

“As a volunteer at both Belhaven community garden and DAYCP, it was a particular joy this summer to find one excellent venture intertwining constructively with the other! The garden proved a wonderful setting for the holiday club; a comment from one child will stay with me a long time she preferred this setting to a hall of any sort as “this place doesn’t echo”. And indeed all the echoes were of natural sounds, bird song intermingled with children’s happy voices.

The underlying theme to the activities was « we are all valuable to God and on his team. As a very new quilter it struck me that a quilt might represent this idea in a very tangible form. Each child and helper had the opportunity to draw or write on a square of fabric, all individual as each is . The squares were then assembled into a whole, a team together, stronger, greater and better than each individual square but nevertheless made of very different separate parts.



Anne with the quilt

I enjoyed assembling it, I think the children enjoyed creating it and I hope others will see it and understand its purpose and message

The children gained much from our 3 days together, I think the helpers gained more. We shared our faith, our time and our love in Jesus name; what better way to spend 3 days."



Right. Suzie plays the Prodigal Son



Activity Days

We ran two activity days in the final week of the summer holiday. The first was at Winterfield, where the children enjoyed relay races, an obstacle course and reflective craft activities that were organised by our friends at the Discovery Church. It enabled DACYP to make new connections with families and the feedback was very positive.

The other day was at Lochend Woods. Led by Muddy Buddies leader and story teller, Chris Yule, the children were treated to a day of woodland tracking using markings, their sense of smell and hearing. They later gathered around a fire and toasted marshmallows and ate their lunch.

Scripture Union Holidays

DACYP was please to support a number of young people going to SU Holidays. Richard took a small group away to the camp at Scoughall near North Berwick. They had a great week of activities, making friends and learning about the Christian faith. For some this was their first time on a Christian holiday. They were impressed and found that it offered a good balance and wasn't 'too religious.'

Supporting Local Churches part 2

Year-round groups

Photo: Harbour Lights proudly carrying their banner at the Civic Week parade.



Harbour Lights

Harbour Lights is a Friday afternoon youth group based in St Anne's Church. There is a junior and senior group and it has offered the young people a safe space to come and play games, do crafts and chat to adults. Throughout the year we have scaled down this provision to enable us to build closer relationships with the young people attending and reduce the challenges regarding crowd control that we experience with larger numbers.

We have been encouraged by the growth in the senior group. It has enabled us to reconnect with young people and to meet some new ones. Some of the group attended Scripture Union Holidays throughout the year, and others created a banner and paraded during the Dunbar Civic Week parade. One highlight was being able to celebrate together one of the girls 18th Birthday (Photo above). She is someone DACYP has worked with since she was 9 years old.

Belhaven Messy Church

DACYP is committed to supporting individual churches develop their own provision for young people, children and families. Belhaven Messy Church is one such group. Here's what it is all about.

On the first Sunday of the month at 3pm, something very different happens at Belhaven Parish Church. Messy Church! It started in 2019 when a few members of the congregation set up a monthly meet up for children and their families who'd been involved in the churches Holiday club, but didn't go to church. Led by members of the congregation, we invite families to play games, do crafts and activities, outdoor cooking and reflect on aspects of the Bible and Jesus' life. We have a super group of kitchen volunteers who cook a meal and provide tea, coffee and home baking. Around 40-50 people attend each month, many with little or no church background. We also have help from members of Innerwick church. If you are interested in helping with this please contact Kathryn Robertson. belhavenmessychurch@gmail.com

Other links with the Community

Andy's Man Club

Now into its second year, the Dunbar Andy's Man Club (AMC) group offers men a safe, confidential and non judgmental space to talk and get things off their chests. The group is one of the 100+ that meet across the UK every Monday evening, which collectively attract a weekly attendance of over 2000 men.

There are inevitable overlaps with DACYP's work and AMC. Dad's, uncles and granddads of the young people we work with might attend, along with the young men who we have known since they were children. There are some very important connections here and we are delighted to support the work. Most importantly, the men who attend are finding it very helpful.

Callum Barbour (Pictured with Richard) is now one of the facilitators at AMC but remembers Richard from as far back as his Primary School days. Here's his story.

'I heard about AMC one Saturday afternoon down at the football where I was having quite a tough time. I saw the sign for AMC on the wall and that's what got the ball rolling and putting the thought into my head. Overall I wanted to feel better so this was the perfect opportunity for me.



For me seeing Richard on the front door was a huge comfort because growing up all the children knew Richard was one of the good ones and was really helpful and understanding with us, so I knew this was gonna be the same. It was an easy conversation opener from knowing each other in the past.

AMC has helped in so many ways that nobody could even put into words. I was in a deep dark place but after the very first meeting at AMC that became a haze and I could now see light at the end of the tunnel, I now feel like I've got a solid future, career, family and this is all thanks to having a safe space to get things off my chest. I've resolved relationships that had broken down with me shutting away, but most importantly now I'm in a position that I can go and help someone else. Even if that's just offering that same safe space to talk'

Andy's Man Club meets at the Bleachingfield Centre on Mondays, 7pm (excl UK Bank Holidays)

Our Volunteers

The work of DACYP is only able to function with the generous assistance of our volunteers. Each of them gives their time and resources to getting things done. The reopening of school doors has seen our team grow and extended the reach of the project. In the summer months, our volunteers planned and delivered the successful programme of activities. And behind the scenes we have people using their administration skills, their financial know-how and general wisdom and experience as Trustees or Management Group members to guide the project along. We are very grateful for them for all that they do.

Our volunteers are all Disclosure Scotland registered and are kept up to date with their PVG membership. If you are interested in getting involved then please do get in touch.

Photo: Chris McArthur volunteers with DACYP at Dunbar Primary School where she facilitates Seasons for Growth. For the second time she is the recipient of the Elaine Albano Community Award.



Financial review for the year ended 30 June 2022

The result for the year to 30 June 2022 was a surplus of £10,840 of which £2,518 is for restricted purposes and £8,322 has been added to unrestricted reserves. This is the first surplus for a number of years and helps to replace reserves used to fund recent deficits. The surplus is entirely due to an increase in income. The income for the year was £51,389 (2021: £35,474) and expenditure was £40,549 (2021: £36,188).

A small Fundraising Team of members of the Management Committee periodically set about making grant applications and last year I reported that their efforts had been very successful and indeed that some funding had been awarded for 2021/22 and 2022/23. This gave us a good start and high hopes of meeting our fundraising target for the year. I can now report that further successes meant that we exceeded our target for the year! Grant income was up £12,000 on the previous year, although some £6,000 of this was for restricted activities, mostly summer activities. There was a consequential increase in restricted expenditure reflecting the availability of these funds.

While grants are an important funding stream, what gives DACYP its financial stability is the support it receives from the local Christian community and donations from these individuals also increased in the year to 30 June 2022. We are fortunate to be in receipt of a generous weekly donation which has been confirmed for one year but other, new, and open-ended donations have also been received and some on-going donations have been increased as our supporters review their giving. We currently have some 40 donors making regular (weekly, monthly or annual) donations. To date our donors have contributed 57% of our income which is a fantastic statistic and one which it is most helpful to quote when potential grant funders ask a question about the availability of “matched funding”.

DACYP is grateful to all its financial supporters. Statutory accounts with full details of all income and expenditure, including grant funders are available from the Treasurer – fionafleming559@gmail.com

	% 2022	2022 (£)	% 2021	2021 (£)
Income				
Individuals	45%	23,049	48%	17,034
Grants	55%	28,191	45%	15,890
Other		149	7%	2,550
Total	100%	51,389	100%	35,474
Expenditure		40,549		36,188
Surplus/(deficit)		£10,840		(£714)

Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project at
TSB Bank plc, 30 Hanover Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2DS

Sort Code: 30-13-01 Account Number: 00994337

DACYP - Who's who*

Trustees

Diana Mackie (chair)
 Neil Black
 Moira Cockburn
 Alison Crowhurst
 Jim Watson
 Victor Wood

Management Committee

Anne Harvey (Chair)
 Jon Timms (Outgoing Chair)
 Fiona Fleming (Treasurer)
 Suzie Fletcher
 Robin Hamilton
 Dorothy Hilsley
 Alison Mitchell
 Fionna Payton

Harbour Lights Team

Alison Crowhurst
 Lois D'Esterre
 Fiona Fleming
 Diana Hall
 Gill Harley
 Anne Harvey
 Diana Mackie
 Malcolm Payton
 Jo Ramage
 Moira Thompson
 Dorothy Wildgoose

Holiday Club Team

Vicky Allen
 Eve Allen
 Olive Bell
 Margaret Canon
 Alison Crowhurst
 Fiona Fleming
 Suzie Fletcher
 Imogen Fletcher
 Diana Greene
 Diana Hall
 Anne Harvey
 Dorothy Hilsley
 Chris McArthur
 Diana Mackie
 Keith & Mariella Mills
 Alison Mitchell
 Peter Moller
 Jo Ramage
 Jon Timms
 Dorothy Wildgoose
 Chris Yule

Schools Team

Ruth Archer
 Wendy Badger
 Lois D'Esterre
 Peter Davey
 Susan Dickerson
 Alison Elliot
 Jessie Gold
 Christina Gray
 Liz Henderson
 Dorothy Hilsley
 Mary Horsburgh
 Grahame Jackson
 Julie Mackenzie
 Diana Mackie
 Chris McArthur
 Fionna Payton
 Jo Ramage
 Moira Thompson
 Dorothy Wildgoose

**At the time of writing*



DACYP - Contact Us

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