

CHRISTIAN OPTIONS IN PETERBOROUGH SCHOOLS

“Letton Hall is a great place for friends to worship the one true King, altogether in one place.”

Miriam



“My Highlight of Letton has been hanging out with friends and getting close to God.”

Shelley





Matt Wild's update

CROPS Director

This newsletter brings you highlights from the Spring academic term. The end of the term was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic outbreak. With schools closing there was the resulting impact of how we could work in schools in the last few weeks of term.

I want to mention and say a big thank you to **Hannah Stanyard** who undertook a 5-week placement with CROPS (the first week being Letton Hall in February!). Hannah, a 2nd year student at Moorlands Bible College, was also working with Lifechurch, Peterborough during her time in Peterborough. Hannah was busy getting involved in our schools-work and also spoke at The Point in March.

The closure of schools and the UK wide lockdown has meant that we have had to work in different ways. We have been able to switch some of our time to planning for future events and activities, but we remain absolutely committed to supporting young people in the best ways that we can through this time. Some of the things we did included:

- Creating & Delivering 38x 'Bags of Blessing' for year 11 & 13 students who'd just heard that exams were cancelled – including a postcard with a personal message and Bible verse for them.
- Planning, preparing, and filming for an online version of The Point (April onwards)
- Responding to school requests to offer phone-based mentor support to vulnerable young people.
- Creating digital content for young people who follow CROPS social media:
 - Prayer request posts
 - Fun Challenges
 - 5 Ways to cope during isolation
 - Tuesday Truths – scripture-based inspiration
 - Wednesday Word – reposting talks from our podcast archives
 - Encouragement posts: 'Gratitude', 'Hold on to Hope'

As the summer term approaches and we await to hear where and when lockdown will loosen and what that means for schools, we are looking at what of our usual summer term programme we might deliver in different, and digital ways. Please pray for us as we make these decisions and work in different patterns, routines and methods.

Can I on behalf of the trustees thank you all for continuing to stand with us in prayer and financially in what are very difficult and uncertain times. We very much value your support, and for some that may be sacrificial during this time.

Please be assured that we continue to use our time creatively to support and reach out to young people, many who tell us that they are finding these times bewildering, worrying and confusing, and who value greatly the contact and connection that we are able to offer them.

As ever, in Christ.

“It was incredible experiencing and being part of the team at CROPS, they are such a passionate and creative team who truly love supporting young people. Think this passion is something that has truly developed in me too!”

Hannah Stanyard

About CROPS

CROPS (Christian Options in Peterborough Schools) are a charity unique to Peterborough and were set up by local churches in 1989 as a Christian education charity to work in schools. CROPS aim to help children and young people gain an understanding of the Christian Faith and its relevance to our lives today. In its work in schools, CROPS also support the needs of young people pastorally through a mentoring project and lunchtime clubs, developing the whole individual.

CROPS provide a wide range of resources to primary and secondary schools through assemblies, lunch-clubs, curriculum input for Religious Education, chaplaincy work, special 'off-timetable' projects, and targeted pastoral support in liaison with school pastoral teams. In addition to this, CROPS support local youth workers and youth work in churches through events like 'The Point' and the 'Letton Houseparty' as well as running a Gap Year programme for school leavers. CROPS continue to be funded by churches and Christian individuals, seeking to work in partnership with local Churches and other organisations.

TEAM UPDATE



Sheila Bucknell

CROPS Administrator & Mentoring Team

Another newsletter and another time to thank CROPS for the privilege of still working with them. Mentoring has gone from strength to strength again and I have had an inspiring time working in OBA for another year. The young people I have worked with have been an inspiration as they cope with so many difficult situations in their young lives, ably supported by the staff there.

Life in the office is always, inspiring and at the same time entertaining, working alongside young people with a love for Jesus and the young people of Peterborough. God is good! I really enjoy working with the CROPS team and supporting them in all they do, and long may it continue. Blessings, thanks and prayers, Sheila.



Ethan Smith

Ridley Hall Youthwork Degree Placement

It has been great continuing my placement here at CROPS. I have been enjoying the continuation of the lunch clubs we do at The Kings School and Bushfield Academy, helping to support the students through their mock exams and other trials they may be facing. The Point and Letton Hall events have additionally been great as always; I love supporting the young people in their faith, playing silly games, and continuing to build relationships with old and new faces! I'm also enjoying the challenge of my university work, learning more about key topics in youth ministry such as Pastoral Care, Theological Reflection and Christian Doctrine. All of this is shaping me and helping journey towards God's call on my life.



Ezra Upton

Volunteer Schools worker

Where do I start.... These past few months from January to March have been really good! We started a new point series 'He said this' which is all about the Sermon on the Mount and what we can learn from it. We also had Letton Hall in February with just over 60 young people attending!

During this time, our school lunch clubs have seen students become more and more bubbly and chatty when we play board games, Nintendo Wii and have some awesome hot chocolate. We have also seen a growth in our lunch club at PRC where students are joining in and having fun while we chat and play games. We also got to take part in Peterborough Regional College's Diversity Day, showing students who we are as an organisation and who God is as well.

Working with this team is amazing and so much fun, especially as we got to do some fun painting in the office! I can't wait to see what God has in store for these young people!!



Amy Charlton

Mentoring Team and Communications

What a different kind of term we have had. From being in schools most days seeing my mentoring students to all of a sudden not seeing them at all and now only speaking to a few of them via phone calls. I look back to all we have got up to and I think back to Letton and how God showed up to those young people, how he connected them together, new friendships were formed between the young people, and the leaders, there was a huge sense of community. For me it was my first Letton as a leader and what a privilege it was to spend time with young people who are so eager to hear from God but also love to have a good laugh, even if that means staying awake until 3am!!

However, things are looking a bit different now. The CROPS team are still keeping busy, making sure we are still connecting with the young people via social media with challenges, our Tuesday Truths, Wednesday word and many other fun and engaging things! Also, we had our first Point online and then gathering with 30 young people via Zoom (video conference) afterwards. It was great to connect with the young people, even if it's not face-to-face but to still be gathering as a community online! I think in this time I've been learning the importance of community and making sure that everyone is connected and not alone in this season!



Peter Rosbrook

Gap Year Student

Hi everybody! It has been great to see many new faces turning up to lunchtime clubs that CROPS provide in Peterborough schools. This being seen particularly at Peterborough Regional College where we were starting from scratch to now having 6 regulars just before 'lockdown'. It was great fun playing card games and being able to get to know the young people who genuinely seemed to enjoy coming along. At Bushfield Academy and King's School it's been really great to spend time with and see all the students still having a good time. I am looking forward to seeing how the new look Point will go this summer term (hint to go read the Point page to find out more!). Just before lockdown was introduced, it was also great to see how the CROPS office has been redecorated and spruced up nicely by the CROPS team. A really superb effort from everyone.

It has been wonderful being a part of the CROPS team, I would certainly love for things to go back to normal as soon as possible so we can pick up where we left with the young people we work with. That however is not in our power do so, as well, we should trust in God to get us through these times and see what the end of this tunnel will entail. I hope you are all coping during these unusual times.

Primary Schools Work

With Rachel Jessup

It was a lovely morning at the beginning of March – it feels a long time ago and a whole world away now; back in the days of assemblies (acts of collective worship) and other mass social gatherings. I was setting off as usual for Cardea, where I was due to take an act of collective worship for the 390 children, it was on the theme of Perseverance and ‘running the race’ – a theme that it turned out God wanted me to understand at first hand. I’ve often noticed that God teaches us in incredibly diverse and creative ways, using object lessons and visual aids to understand what so often has gone over our heads from just hearing wise words from a sermon (or talk in an assembly!).

I had plenty of time to get to my destination but was surprised to find a long traffic jam reaching to the roundabout I was intending to come off, I quickly chose another route in order to try to avoid the blockage but it was busy everywhere and I had to pull over and ring the school to let them know my situation. I had to make a



decision; give up and turn back or see if I could still get there in time to present the collective worship. ‘Perseverance’ I thought to myself, smiling at the irony, ‘I had better keep going and try to reach this goal in order to tell the children about the real prize we are aiming for!’

Trying to get back on the Parkway again took another 10 mins – each one ticking away to the time I should have been there. There had been an accident and the Police were just clearing the cones away by the time I passed that section of the road, but I was already slightly late. I finally arrived at **St Michael’s CE Primary**



School, signed in, hurried down the corridor and found the last of the children just filing into their places ahead of me. Miss Coulson (who had also fought through that traffic jam earlier) kindly chose to start the time with a song while I got ready.

Hebrews 12:1 was on the screen ‘Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.’ (NLT)

We talked about how this race that Paul was talking about was not one we could win by leaving everyone else behind – it was a race Paul was encouraging us all to run together, to cheer each other on and keep going. Leaving behind all the self-doubts, problems and mistakes we have made in the past and keeping going with our eyes fixed on the goal, the prize of knowing God and becoming more like Jesus.

In February, I had asked a class of children at the end of 5 lessons of Walk Through the Bible New Testament lessons if they had any questions for me about the Bible or about being a Christian. One girl asked, ‘how are you getting ready for Jesus return?’ What a question! I said something about reading the Bible every day and trying to get to know Jesus better through prayer, but it is such a challenging question. Am I becoming more obedient to His leading and more sensitive to His Holy Spirit or am I set in my own habits and routines

Walk Through The Bible

and doing things my way instead? We have all been shaken out of our usual ways and routines by the Government rules on social distancing and self-isolation to stop the virus spread but I wonder whether I will replace the old ways with more Godly ones or not. It's a choice I need to consciously make – to press on towards the prize and 'run with endurance the race God has set before us.'

These are the schools I was able to visit before they shut in the Spring term:

St Michael's CE Primary had OT Mini (Old Testament overview) for Yr5 (age 9-10's) and NT Mini (New Testament overview) for Yr6 (10-11's) as well as a couple of question and answer lessons. Malisa Payne also came with me and co-presented the OT Mini lessons so she was ready to teach her own lessons at **Abbot Ripton CE Primary** the following day. After half-term Richard Kean and I began OT and NT Mini lessons at **Barnack CE Primary School**, where we managed to teach separate year groups up to lesson 4 before the schools shut so we still have one more lesson to see if we can fit in one day! **Werrington Primary School** invited me back to take a couple of assemblies which I really enjoyed. We had hoped to be part of a fantastic RE day but the RE day has been postponed for now. St Michael's, All Saints, St Georges and Stanground St John's also had acts of collective worship and we look forward to visiting them again (as well as the schools we had to postpone) very soon.

May God bless you in this season of change and new perspectives.

■ Words by Rachel Jessup

With Richard Kean

We presented to year five and six at **Barnack CE School** during the spring term of 2020. OT and NT mini give an overview of the Old and New Testaments to show when the stories of heroes like Rahab and Esther appear in the vast biblical timeline.



Each week we look at eight stories:

- **linked stories** like those about the creation of the biblical United Kingdom and the Kings of Israel that followed; and
- **stand-alone stories** like Ruth, who bravely announced to her mother-in-law "Where you go, I will go...Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16b

There is a picture, a hand sign and a phrase for each story. Walk Through the Bible ministries (WTTBM) provide the workbooks and the pictures, but it's the students that take part in the stories and try to remember the order of the hand signs!

Paul Keays (WTTBM) has encouraged all presenters to change one story at each new school visit, helping to keep the stories fresh! This time I presented the story of Samuel with the child playing the part of Samuel reading from a scroll that lists all the things a king would take from them (their first fruits, their sons, their money in the form of taxes) and the remaining children (representing the assembled Israelites) chanting "we want a king!"

In the fourth week Rachel knew we would not be able to present week five; many schools had announced they were closing, and the remainder were going to shut on the Friday.

With brilliant planning, Rachel ensured the children were given the OT and NT mini Bible Stories books – a gift from Walk Through the Bible - so that they could continue their journey through the last eight stories over the rest of the term and into the lockdown. Please pray that these books speak to the children about God's plan, and they speak to their friends about all the stories they have heard in school.

We are hopeful that schools will open in September and that we can start presenting OT mini again! Please pray that schools with a requirement to teach about the Old and New Testaments as part of their RE curriculum might contact CROPS to book a perfect half-term of prepared, interactive lessons for their students! Pray also for a breakthrough as we search for the future presenters of OT mini and NT mini.



Letton Hall HOUSEPARTY

We again welcomed many young people to Letton Hall Houseparty, for some they returned for their 13th or 14th time, for others it was their first! As you can see by the photos, they had a brilliant time! Letton is always a great time with friends, learning more about your faith and who we are as Christians.

Speaker and Theme

Prayer was our theme and focus, the *integral connection* in our lives. We were thrilled to have as our speaker, Rachel Burney (local teacher, CROPS Trustee and seasoned Letton leader!) who did an excellent job during the main sessions unpacking what the Bible says about prayer bringing her testimony and personal insights. Rachel delivered talks on different aspects of our prayer: whether we are connected with God, the difference prayer makes to our lives, why and what

to do when our prayers seem to go unanswered, and finally the encouragement to be bold, courageous and persistent in our prayers! I believe that everyone got a great deal from Rachel's talks, which were really insightful and for many was their highlight of Letton.

Seminars and Workshops

At Letton Hall, we always have seminars for the young people on subjects that might interest them and guide them on particular topics. This time we had: 'Fractured Identity', Newton and Honour exploring our identity as followers of Jesus. It was also great to have Hannah Stanyard (on placement with us) leading with Chedz 'Fed Up of Flimsy Faith?' a seminar exploring what discipleship looks like. Peter, Ethan and Dan led 'Heart of Worship' on what it really means to worship God in our lives. There was the 'Bible Overview' seminar with Emily and Nathanael giving a big picture of the message of the Bible as a whole. Amy and Sam led



'Online life versus Real Life' looking at the opportunity of how we can be on social media, for the good! From the feedback we get from the young people, it is really great to hear that they get so much out of these sessions. It really helps growth in faith and getting to understand God and Christianity on a deeper level. We like to run different workshops that the young people can try out or just have a bit of fun! This time we had: 'Ultimate Frisbee' with Ethan, a 'Lego Challenge' workshop with Newton, Hannah's 'Tie-dye' workshop, and Sam's 'Faith based Imagery' workshop - creating Godly social media content! We also had a 'Karaoke' workshop lead by Emily Tucker, and more 'Escape Room' challenges with Nathanael. It is great to know that some of the youth who took part in the tie-dye workshop still enjoy wearing their garments!

Evening Entertainments

On the Tuesday night, we had the **Acoustic Café**. The drawing room expertly transformed into a very chilled space by the junior leaders lit up with fairy lights. An evening to sit and chat and enjoy the music! This year we 'mixed up' not just the usual 'mocktails', but also introduced milkshakes as well. The junior leaders dressed up smart to serve the mocktails and the milkshakes; always doing a great job of it, as hectic as it may seem for a start at least, with excited young people bursting in all at once, ready for delicious mocktails and shakes! The 'mocktails' and 'milkshakes' were named after heroes (fictional or from real life). Songs played included hits from Dolly Parton, Amy Winehouse, the Foo Fighters (Rachel and Emily) a song by Nightwish from Peter (me!). Ethan and Dan played some Smashmouth, and other hit songs which the young people really loved singing along to.

The junior leaders also made an incredible effort in decorating the dining room for the **Themed Dinner** on the last night where the theme was 'Heroes'. They provided figurines, masks, table decorations as well as our very own bat signal projector, which lit up the far wall nicely. Big thanks to Lucy Hawkins also



made an excellent effort in putting together several quizzes and challenges for each table. Food wise, for the themed dinner, we had a lovely roast, which was quite frankly delicious! One of the 'bread and butter' activities at Letton Hall is the superb go-karting sessions. It was such fun to see the young people (whether the youngest or the oldest) having such fun zooming around the track (with a few light crashes here and there). We are always thankful to the karting marshals who ensure everyone stays safe!

One of the final highlights of the week is the **Talent Show**. This is where the youth as well as leaders can perform acts of varying varieties whether it is a piano recital, singing or playing baby shark with wine glasses, anything goes for Letton Hall House party's grand finale. This time around we had some marvellous acts from some very impressive gymnastics, eloquently played piano pieces, singing, and as I said Baby Shark (a song that went viral) played on wine glasses, which were filled with varying volumes of water to alter the pitch of the glasses plus Matt's story-time/balloon modelling using a disposable glove! It was hosted expertly by Alastair Mortimer and Amy Charlton who did a fantastic job and were very entertaining. Always amazing to see just how talented the young people are.

We are thankful and incredibly grateful for the leaders, cooks (and Letton Hall staff) who put so much effort into making Letton Hall Houseparty come together and be a wonderful experience for all who came along. It certainly wouldn't be possible without the effort everyone puts into these weeks to help make Letton happen and not forgetting Quentin and Sue who made sure that everyone was fed with hearty portions of delicious food each day for breakfast lunch and dinner! My prayer is that we will look back on this time away, appreciating the time spent with our friends and youth leaders knowing it was a positive God-centred environment, where we could grow and learn together as Christians! Amen to that!

■ Words by Peter Rosbrook





Secondary Schools Work

Lunchtime Assemblies and Voluntary Worship

The second week of January saw Matt visit **The Peterborough School's** chapel to speak in both lower and senior school services. Matt used the film *Searching* and Psalm 119: 1-6. He explored friendships, who we are online, who sees the real 'us', being alone and lost in life, and God knowing and loving us. Afterwards Matt spoke with a few of the sixth form who mentioned how it had really got them thinking about their lives and found the theme relevant and engaging.

The next day Matt took a whole-school assembly at **The King's School** in their 'famous sayings from the Bible' series, his being: 'By the skin of your teeth', a quote from the Book of Job. After recounting one of his football matches where his team snatched victory from the

jaws of defeat – winning *by the skin of their teeth*, he talked about the nature of Job's predicament and if the Bible demonstrates anything about faith it's this: trust in God is *fluid* not *fixed*. In looking at characters of scripture - like Job, faith sometimes swells in them and sparks remarkable acts, but it also shrivels at times in the boldest of souls, leaving only deep doubt, but that Job had moments of great hope. Matt finished with the encouragement that God can revive our flagging faith and there is always hope in even the darkest of times.

It has been a few years since we visited **The Deepings School** to lead assemblies but were invited to lead daily assemblies for Years 11, 10, 9, 8 at the end of January. The Friday (Year 7 assembly) was being taken by CROPS founder Richard Morrison, in his Gideons

role leading a Bible presentation assembly with Gideon volunteers. Having worked under Richard in the past it was lovely to be sharing the week with him! CROPS delivered two different assemblies across the week, one on Choices and the other on Responsibility – standing up for what is right.

In mid-March we had a week of assemblies at **Nene Park Academy**. Our theme was all about success and failure. Hannah Stanyard was helping Matt to lead the assembly. We watched a clip from an *Avengers* film, focussing on Thor - a hero who felt like a failure. We then introduced Zacchaeus and how his encounter with Jesus changed him. We explored how Jesus took the time to offer Zacchaeus a new start, offering a failure like Zacchaeus the chance to put things right and start again.

This term we visited **The King's School** on two occasions to deliver our 'alternative worship' slots. We were overwhelmed with numbers of students pouring into the room, with the (approx.) 35 chairs all taken and a few dozen students sat on spaces on the floor!

In early February our theme was: What do we do when we feel ashamed? Students considered how shame is an emotion that cannot easily be dealt with, particularly in a contemporary culture where people are quick to blame. We started with Pete doing lots of press ups with a heavy backpack on then the same without, and how he could move freely without the burden! We used a clip from the new Lion King film where Mufasa died to save Simba's life. He loved Simba because he was his son, and he was willing to give up his life so that Simba would be rescued. We showed how Christians believe that Jesus died to save the lives of every human being because God loves them like a father loves a child. When Jesus died on the cross, he made it possible for people to be forgiven so that they no longer carry the feeling of guilt and shame.

Then in early March we, with the help of Hannah Stanyard on her 5-week placement, led a session that looked at 'Fear'. Our time was focussed on how we have more courage when we know that we are loved by God. We considered that God's love drives out fear and that there are situations where we have to choose whether or not to allow fear to overcome us. We suggested that whilst courage and sympathy are helpful, that it is even better to know that God loves you. God knows our names and we can know that he will be with us whatever difficulties we face. That's not to say that we will never face trouble, but that we do not have to be afraid. At the end of the time we invited the students to close their eyes for a minute and hold their hands in tight fists, asking them to imagine that they were holding on to something

that made them afraid. We then invited them to open their hands and imagine they were letting go of their fears. Before they opened their eyes, we asked them to think about the people around them and remember that they were not alone.

Lunchtime clubs

We have continued to run our weekly lunchtime opportunities for students at Peterborough Regional College (PRC), Ormiston Bushfield and The King's School (up to schools closing early before Easter). It is fair to say that on our minds at the moment, are all the students that we have been working with whom we haven't seen for many weeks and may not see for many months due to the lockdown.

Progress at PRC

At PRC you may remember me writing last term that we were in the process of building up the group again and doing a lot of corridor walking in order to meet students! We are pleased to tell you that your prayers have been answered in that we have established a new group with around 6 regular students that we have got to know who turn up to the prayer room each week. Some

of this started with conversations we had during the 'Diversity Day Fair' at PRC that we took part in at the invitation of the College. Here CROPS team had a table/stand in the hall amongst many different organisations exhibiting at the PRC Diversity Day Fair that took place in January. We made things interactive by having some of the activities from the Breathe and Open resource with the corresponding audio tracks, and quite a few students were willing to stop and take 5 mins to think and listen. It gave us a great way to talk to the students about what we do in college.

Lily-Jo Project

In September we hosted the visit of the Lily Jo Project to three secondary schools: **The Peterborough School, Stanground Academy and Nene Park Academy**. We were due to have them return for 3 days in the last week of the spring term but this as you will understand with the Covid-19 outbreak was then cancelled. We know that Lily-Jo and the team will return to Peterborough in the 2020/2021 academic year - so watch this space and continue to pray for openings.





CROPS MENTORING

With Chris Wild

This term we have had the privilege of agreeing to mentor in the final remaining secondary school in Peterborough that we had not been mentoring in. It was such an encouragement to be able to say we have mentors in every school in Peterborough! We had a new mentor lined up to go into the school but sadly a few days before they were due to start, schools began to close for the majority of students, and we had to put things on hold. We are of course really excited about getting started there when schools begin to reopen fully.

The partial fulfilment of our original vision, to place 2 mentors in every secondary school in Peterborough, has been a huge team effort. The CROPS Team, mentors, volunteers, trustees and churches have all played a huge part in bringing us to this place by sharing our stories of changed lives and supporting in a variety of other ways. Whilst we still have space, and a great need, and capacity for many more mentors in our schools, I would like to say a huge thank you to the people who have faithfully supported CROPS over the last 30 years for their help in getting us into each school.

As many of you will appreciate, work in schools is built on good relationships and reputation. The

ease of building up relationships with many of the schools we are mentoring in came about due to a long-term trust built up with CROPS over the years. This was brought about by the bedrock of our supporters' prayers and financial support over the last 30 years. I know many of the people reading this will be part of that legacy of support and we are hugely thankful to you for helping us get to where we are today.

Mentoring in Lockdown

Whilst the lockdown has inevitably meant changes to our mentoring project at this time, it certainly hasn't become a standstill. Some of the students we mentor in schools will be facing even more difficult circumstances because of the current situation and it has been great to be able to find solutions with schools to be able to carry on supporting them. A phone mentoring system has been developed for mentors to be able to keep contact with students in vulnerable situations and this is already in operation in multiple schools in our city.

Breakthrough at the 11th hour

Catching up with mentors often leads to hearing similar situations across the different schools in our city and this term has been no different. One of the reasons our mentoring project exists is to support students who don't have an adult they 'feel' they can talk to about the issues they face,

but increasingly we are meeting students who simply don't 'have' an adult who has both the time and desire to talk to them about what is going on in their lives. This was the case in a story shared by one of our mentors...

"I made it all up". These words came from a student that a mentor had seen for many weeks. Their behaviour at school was rapidly declining but every avenue they explored with their mentor came to a dead end. Their behaviour just got worse. It seemed like nothing was going to help the student and they both agreed that this would be their last mentoring session together. As the final session was drawing to an end, the student began to cry and confessed that they hadn't been telling the truth. Their nice family life wasn't how they had portrayed it, in fact it was quite the opposite. Out came the anger, hurt and frustration of an unpleasant home situation. Whilst their life is still far from being sorted, they can now openly talk about the trials they face. They are working through strategies with their mentor to both change their situation and help them build resilience to deal with day to day life in the shorter term.

Mentoring in every local school is a great start, we would now like to put more mentors in each school, the need is there. Please get in contact if you would like to get involved.

■ Words by Chris Wild

THE POINT

CITY-WIDE YOUTH EVENT

Since January, our monthly youth worship event, The Point, has continued to grow with many new young people attending to hear more about God and enrich their faith. Following on from our year long “I AM” series looking at who we are in God, January saw us kick off a new series called “He Said This”. Since starting this series, we have had three great guest speakers explore and unpack the words and wisdom of Jesus that He spoke during The Sermon on the Mount, which can be found in the gospel of Matthew.

January saw **Sam Higgins** kick start our new series with his talk “Put it into Practice”. He explored what the Sermon on the Mount as a whole, looking into how to live a Godly life. Poetically Sam started at the end of the sermon focusing particularly on Matthew 7: 24-27. Highlighting that we need to put Jesus’ instructions into practice in order to live a Godly life. Much like the wise man who built his house upon a rock.

Next, in February we welcomed former-CROPS Gapper **Andrew Henry** back to give his talk exploring the command in Matthew 6: 25-34, “Do Not Worry”. Through his talk Andrew focused on key worries and anxieties that affect young people today such as exams, identity or self-image and explored how we should not worry about the trivial and material things of this world, but instead seek first the kingdom of God in all that we do as God will provide us with what we need for each day.

Finally, in March we had **Hannah Stanyard** deliver her talk “Treasures in Heaven”. Hannah has been on a placement with us for 5 weeks as part of her training at Moorlands Bible College, also helping at the February Letton Hall Houseparty. In this talk Hannah explored the counter-cultural message of Matthew 6: 19-24 exploring the tension between trying to serve two masters in our life by chasing the ways of the world and the ways of God. She moved on to explain that we don’t need to chase the modern materialistic image but instead we need to chase God and store our treasures in heaven through good deeds and the living of a Godly life.



The Point during Lockdown?

As you will understand – due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic and the lockdown this meant that we have had to pause running the Point as ‘normal’! However, the CROPS team and others in local churches have very creatively risen to the challenge to keep The Point going! You will be interested to know that The Point becomes ‘The Point Online’ during lockdown, and by the time you read this we will have premiered our first online Point! We sadly won’t be meeting together physically as a community in person but until further notice we will be running the Point online during quarantine so stay in touch on our website or via our social media for more news on how we plan to meet together online. We still have flyers available for download on our website with all the remaining Point dates for the 2019/20 academic year. So be sure to check that out so you don’t miss any of our Point events!

■ Words by Ethan Smith



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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Home Address	Town	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Postcode	Email	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To the manager
Bank/building society
Address
Postcode
Please pay
Lloyds TSB Bank, 202 High Street, Lincoln, LN5 7AP
Sort Code **30-95-05**
Account Number **07271867 (The CROPS TRUST)**

Are you a UK tax payer? If so you can make your gift worth **25% more at no extra cost.**

giftaid it

I wish CROPS to treat all gifts in the last 4 years, this gift and all future gifts as Gift Aid donations. I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay the difference.

Date / /

NB: Please let us know if your name, address or tax status changes, or if you would like to cancel this declaration so that we can update our records.

Charity Registration number: 1157651

The sum of in words (£) On the day month year

And thereafter every month until further notice and debit my account accordingly.

Name of account-holder to be debited	<input type="text"/>	Signature	<input type="text"/>
Account Number	<input type="text"/>	Name	<input type="text"/>
Sort Code	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>

Please Return this mandate to CROPS, 68A Westgate, Peterborough, PE1 1RG

CROPS is a Charity Incorporated Organisation: Registered No. 1157651

DATA PROTECTION: We will hold your details to process your donation and keep you up to date on CROPS work and how you are helping to support our work. We will not, under any circumstances, share or sell your personal data with any third party for marketing purposes. You can opt out of communications by emailing hello@crops.org.uk or by writing to us at the above address.