

Youth Ministry PCC Report



Hi, I am Naomi Elkerton

I have been a full-time Youth Minister since September 1, 2025, after serving as a part-time Youth worker while studying for an Applied Theology degree here at St Michael's.

My ambition is that the young people will grow deeper in love with Jesus by learning and building relationships with each other and the church

What do you love about YP?

Being able to support them and show them they are important and matter, and to share with them the love of God. I love how funny they are and how they really want the best for others and the world.

Two days with young people are the same.



Travis has been at St Michael's as a Youth intern since September 2022. He supports the youth ministry and takes a lead in the boys' night ministry, as well as arranging Sunday morning youth team activities and the Christmas Ball.

In the future, as Travis covers lots, we hope to find a new SWYM Trainee to support in Youth Ministry.

Vision of Youth Ministry

- That we would be a place where **Jesus is known** and young people can **develop & deepen their relationship with him**.
- That we would be a **safe, accepting and loving place** for young people.
- That we would be a place where young people can **have fun** and **build relationships** with other young people and leaders.

Sundays

Sunday morning Youth



Sunday morning is a discipleship group for our youth ages 11-18. We have, on average, 32 young people, but we have seen 10-15 new young people who have been brought along by friends who are already attending the church.

Term 1, we have been focusing on the book by Mark Greene called 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'. The young people have seen within their chosen setting the power of sharing their faith.

We have also brought in prayer journals for the young people. Insofar as they are filled in, 58 journals have been completed by young people as they worship God and experience a visual prayer life.

To bring into the next term, we are hoping to bring in a phone free session, for the young people to continue to engage with each other on a deeper level without the limit of screens. As well as intergenerational mentoring within the church.

Sunday 4:30 Youth



An afternoon youth group, designed for youth who cannot attend the morning session.

We have an average of 7 young people attending, focusing more deeply on the scripture and what God is saying over us. We began with Matthew as a synoptic gospel. The space allows the young people to question things more deeply. With the three key questions of what does it say? What does it say about God's nature, and how does the scripture reflect on my life? This group has been a testament to the effects of doing youth ministry in different ways, as I have seen young people who struggle with the overstimulation of noise in the morning thrive in the afternoon.



Girls & Boys Nights

Within our Sunday morning sessions, we recognised the need for young people to build relationships within the space and across age groups during conversations.



Youth Girls has seen an average of 15 youth girls
Youth boys an average of 20 youth

Meeting alternative months for boys' nights and girls' nights has varied over the year from centre-based. From the November-based sip and paint, which is a current trend, allowing space to be creative while enjoying fun mocktails and chatting with new people, building relationships.

Boys' nights have included lots of football tournaments and pizza, and being able to be competitive to grow relationships.

Youth Alpha and Kintsugi



We have done a previous youth alpha, which went well, with a beautiful Sunday of doing the Holy Spirit day. After the Illuminate tour, we will be starting another Youth Alpha, beginning in November, featuring new content that has been recently filmed.

We, as a Youth team, recognise that youth are struggling with mental health. Issues they are struggling with are on the rise and the feeling of anxiety is talked about more within the youth space than before, so the team have started training to do as a follow-up from Alpha in November



Youth Ministry PCC Report

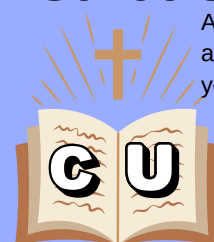


summer club Youth

We had a fantastic summer club in August, with 72 young people having a great time. With the theme of In the Jungle, and food for thought about Psalm 139, and how they can know Jesus. In the last few weeks, I have had conversations with young people who attended the Summer club and encountered the love of Jesus during the week, tried praying, and wanted to know more.

Through filmmaking, team-building activities, water fights, and silent discos, culminating in worship singing, it was a demonstration of how God is working through the current generation.

Schools Work



As a youth team, we are regular in Abbeywood. Last year, we were able to go in and do bereavement sessions with young people after a fatal accident of a young person they knew who attended the school.

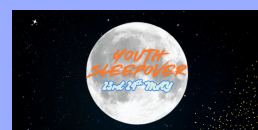
We support a sixth-form student-led Christian union, joining them in discussions, sharing snacks, and journeying with them as they navigate the academic years. In the most recent session before half-term, we came to grill a Christian, in which the young people presented questions about how we got to where we are and how we know we are doing the right things. As well as hearing young people sharing their testimony of how they came to faith. Some of their testimonies began at summer club.

Mentoring



Furthermore, we are visiting the year 7s weekly to support those who are struggling with confidence or are at risk of being transferred to a different school. As we partner with the primary school before the transition, some of the young people are familiar with us. We meet with two groups of six students for two periods of the day, discussing self-confidence, stress, and forgiveness, as well as social media, to highlight the importance of doing things that bring them happiness instead of being stuck behind a screen. Using the school's link to the Head of Year 7, who has recently started with them in September.

Adhoc Events



The weekend at the centre, doing Nerf battles, craft and lots of food, as well as scavenger hunts around the centre. Although it did mean going to sleep at 3 am! We had 38 young people and had lots of fun, and we are planning on it in 2026!

We have in previous years done a youth retreat, in previous years we covered the topic of sex and relationships, we are currently discussing a relevant topic for the young people, and we are planning to do it in February 20-22nd 2026, in a way that Young people are able to hang out with their friends and not need technology to get through the weekend.

Youth Christmas Ball and other events

The annual tradition of socialising with other young people and building relationships continues throughout the year, with other social events, such as trips to Ninja and half-term drop-ins. And we will continue to see more of that throughout 2026. In each event, we will plug the next event, or if they want to know more, we can discuss things like alpha or Kintsugi, which is coming up the following year.

Prayer Points



For Youth Alpha, as it begins in November, to be fruitful and to be able to show the love of Jesus to young people who hunger to know him.



For the Youth events such as Spree, Christmas Ball, and Youth sleepover that each young person can build relationships in order to help shape and deepen their confidence within the youth space



The continued growth and change of the youth team, and to bless Travis as he finishes up his last year, into then having a new trainee

Illuminate Tour

416 Attending the Friday Gig
We took 40 on a coach on the Friday
But 121 came from Abbeywood
We spent a whole Monday
school day in Abbeywood,
with their 1,267 young
people engaging with the
LZ7 RE lesson gig.



Lindz came and spoke to the young people about not bullying and learning to love one another, just as someone (Jesus) has first loved them. Although we weren't able to mention Jesus. It was prevalent within the message he shared. He also encouraged them that they are the new generation and can be change makers if they choose, which, overall, two-thirds of the year groups stood up, some more in each year group than others.



Youth Team



These are the youth team, who share with young people the love of Jesus, they use their incredible skills of understanding, compassion, empathy and care and fun to show young people the an abundant of love of Jesus. We are continuing to grow in ways to keep Jesus at the centre and support needs of the young people to best of our ability.

Spree



In June, we took 38 young people to Spree South West, which is in West Point, Devon.

We had Year 6, as it is one of our transitional events, all the way up to Year 13. Each team member took 5-6 young people under their wing and built relationships with them throughout the weekend. We saw significant growth in confidence and engagement in worship, as well as a desire to deepen their faith. We are in the process of arranging the 2026 Spree, during which we will be taking Year 5 students, so that the Year 6 transition is more supported.