



Registered Charity 1154436

## **SORTED NEWSLETTER & UPDATE for June 2020**

Dear All,

All the staff, Volunteers and members of Sorted are praying for you and giving thanks for your continued support during what might be a stressful time. As we said before,

Our prayers and thoughts are with all you and your families as we join together to beat this awful coronavirus which is sweeping across our lands. Sorted is adapting to our ever changing landscape, using technology to maintain relationships both professionally with agencies and with our worshipping community. We are very grateful for your continuous support, both prayerfully and financially as we seek together to show God's love and grace in action amongst the vulnerable in our context and area.

Our ministry among young people in Bradford does not stop and if anything, we are more conscious of the additional time that our church requires so every person is connected on a weekly basis and relationships are maintained.

### **SORTED'S GROWING**

We give thanks, that even although there are numerous restrictions on our movement and our ability to engage with each other face to face, Sorted continues, by the grace of God, to grow. It is a privilege to witness and see God working with us and through us.

We cannot thank you enough for all your prayers and financial support which sustains our work in Bradford.

In the last newsletter, we made a list of our adaptations, which Sorted implements on a daily/weekly basis. It's working and we currently run all our groups on zoom.

### **MYNC NEWS.**

We are amazed (but probably shouldn't be) that Missional Youth Church Network (MYCN) which Andy Milne heads up is going from strength to strength. I attach their latest newsletter for your perusal and prayers.

### **TRACY'S STUDY LEAVE**

Tracy still has permission to continue with plans for the Autumn to take some study leave where she will be discovering 'liturgy' in context and hopefully writing some material/resources/liturgy for Sorted which will be posted onto our website and shared with the wider church.

# MISSIONAL YOUTH CHURCH NETWORK Newsletter



Spring/Summer 2020

How things have altered in a few weeks! The world has changed and the current Covid-19 pandemic is affecting us all, from the very old to the very young – physically, mentally, socially and economically. Like everyone, our young people are having to cope with new emotions brought about by, say, the sudden loss of a loved one, social isolation, no longer being able to meet socially, or attend school or college.



*Tracy (leader of MYC Sorted in Bradford) keeps in contact with the young people by text*

However, I am hugely encouraged by the new opportunities that have been found and embraced for working with young people over the period of the lockdown. Leaders have discovered different ways to connect with them, developing and maintaining relationships, providing support and sometimes a lifeline to those robbed of social interaction. Zoom and many different forms of social media are being used to remain in contact.

One thing that is evident is that Covid-19 pandemic is going to leave a lot of very needy people in its wake. People will need healing (physically, mentally, emotionally and socially), society will need rebuilding and the importance of building community and relationships will be paramount. This is where Missional Youth Churches can play and will play a huge role. They will be needed more than ever before, growing Christ-centred communities, where young people are valued, encouraged and empowered and where they can simply be themselves, growing in trust and hopefully becoming a family of God.

## What's happened in the last few months?

We are continuing to establish connections with churches, schools and dioceses, exploring the possibility of establishing Missional Youth Churches in their locality. In particular, I am delighted to report the following:

In *Seacroft Estate*, Leeds, Neil Obbard was licensed in January by Bishop Paul Slater to begin a Missional Youth Church. Working with Church Army, Bishop Young Academy and local churches, Neil has started building those all-important relationships with the school and its pupils. Since the lockdown, he has been developing those relationships and establishing community, helping deliver food parcels to local families connected with the school. It is very early days but the signs are good!



*Former Special Operations Combat Officer, Neil Obbard, commissioned in Seacroft*

In *Archbishop Sentamu Academy*, Hull, the Academy Chaplain Anne Richards knows the area and the young people very well. Talks have proved fruitful and Anne, with others from the Academy and local church, are currently praying and seeking funding to employ a youth worker who can work with

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Please pray for Tracy and Vicky, for staff and volunteers as they engage with young people, families and young adults to join the community by accepting their invitation.

It will no doubt be messy, but let's pray that amongst the chaos, there will be sacred space for peace and presence to fill and feed both the mind, body and soul.

Tracy Milne & Vicky Bell

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