

## **TRUSTEES REPORT FOR PENINSULA YOUTH FOR CHRIST AGM MARCH 2011**

PYFC continues to look forward by consolidating our current activities but knowing that there is always more to do. Having our headquarters at the Hundred of Hoo School enables Gemma to meet with the young people and work alongside other professionals at the school who make use of her expertise, skill and care. We believe that the relationship PYFC has with the school is mutually supportive and so provides loving support for the children who are in need of such care. We would thank the Head teacher and Governors for their continued support of the work of PYFC.

### **Chaplaincy Work**

There have been a number of structural changes within the school but Gemma still provides input to the RE curriculum by leading/taking part on lessons to do with the existence of God.

### **Therapeutic Work**

This is the a major focus within the school with the 'Wise Up' groups being a regular point of contact between Gemma, Karen and some very vulnerable girls. There are currently two Year 8 and two Year 9 groups.

Gemma also provides one to one support for nine girls through the 'Listening Ear' format.

With Year 10 and 11 the focus has been on being able to listen to the young women who have complex needs. In addition there is another group which deals with personal hygiene. There is also a small group of young parents.

### **Outreach work**

Gemma has supported the Youth Club based at St. James at Grain and the Thursday evening table tennis sessions at St. Helen's at Cliffe which are followed by faith-based discussions.

Another development that PYFC is trying hard to encourage is the "Speakeasy" sessions where parents in the community can discuss parenting issues with each other under Gemma's facilitation. A course will start at Hundred of Hoo on Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

Nomad returned to the Peninsula in June. Jayne and Gemma planned a programme with local churches in which young people were introduced to Christianity through football!

### **Other**

Gemma attends YFC cluster meetings which enable her to meet with staff from other centres. This has been particularly so with Gillingham YFC with whom cooperative activities have begun and we would hope can be extended. PYFC is one of the few centres that is based within a school and Gemma spoke about this at the National Conference in January. It has generated interest from other parts of the country.

The establishing of the PYFC website realised a long held ambition. We were able to use the expertise of Tom Vaughan of Varn Media whose previous work with Bath YFC impressed us. Jayne, our administrator, was instrumental in establishing this contact and has kept the site updated. Our other main form of communication is the colourful and well produced Newsletter. Again, the quality of this publication is due to Jayne.

There have been two successful Quiz Nights at Stoke and High Halstow which have enabled PYFC to raise its profile around the Peninsula, as well as raising funds.

The major focus for this year, however, has been to find ways of expanding our work beyond the needs of young women and develop ways of helping young men. We decided to look for a second youth worker with the specific brief of guiding young men and working beyond the school and into the community. A joint venture with the Rock at Chattenden has been established and, although we reached the point of appointing a person after a thorough recruitment process, this had to be withdrawn. There were two reasons for this: a) the person would not have had the required Work Permit and b) our bids for the necessary funding had been unsuccessful. PYFC still believes that this development is what God wants for this area but we will not re-advertise until we have the necessary funding in place. Therefore, our plan now is to continue with our bids for funding. Carol Ward, a Trustee, is an experienced fundraiser and is working tirelessly with Gemma to put bids together.

In our efforts to work with young men, we recruited Paul Leonard as a volunteer and although this began promisingly, he found the travel to and around Hoo too difficult for him to continue.

### The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consists of Charlotte Ferris, Andy Hansen, Karen Hansen, Ivan Wallis (Chair) and Carol Ward. We have tried to maintain the developments within PYFC and support Gemma and Jayne but as the work expands we really need more people to become trustees. We desperately need a treasurer to manage our financial strategy – even though Jayne has taken on the onerous task of managing the finances. People with the gift of fundraising, business management or publicity would strengthen the Board.

The Trustees set up two Development Days during the year – one, organised by Carol, dealt with fundraising and the second was our annual session with Liz Etherton from YFC to establish our strategic plan for the year. Carol has also attended further training sessions regarding fund raising.

As can be discerned from much of the above, the need for financial support is vital for the work to continue and expand in the way we believe it should. PYFC has been blessed by individual donations as well as by its generous supporters, who donate each month. We will continue to pray for the means to provide for the vulnerable young people of the Peninsula who are being helped and guided by PYFC.

We are, therefore, delighted that the Council of Reference which provides invaluable support to Gemma, Jayne and the trustees has been reconstituted with Rev. Mike Stanbrook as Chair for 2011-12.

This year, members of the Board of Trustees were involved in the annual appraisals of Gemma and Jayne which enabled targets to be set for the current school year.

This has been an exciting year at PYFC with more young people being able to be guided by Gemma. However, we know that we are called to do more and we are excited by the challenge, especially to appoint another Youth Worker. We pray for God's guidance and blessing as we strive to do His will in this area.

Ivan Wallis  
Chair of the Board of Trustees