

MISSIONAL YOUTH CHURCH NETWORK Newsletter



Autumn/Winter 2019

Who am I?



My name is Andy Milne, I am married to Tracy. We have a son called Sam and a dog named Dude!

I spent most of the last 16 years pioneering and leading *Sorted* a youth church and Church Army project in North Bradford. As a new form of church, we began by reaching young people outside the church, usually through working with others doing lunchtime clubs and youth work in a local secondary school. We then formed various groups with the young people to enable teenagers to explore faith in Jesus, getting on the discipleship journey and into creative ways to worship.

Beginning as a youth church, often reaching teens from deprived areas; *Sorted* grew and eventually multiplied as new forms of church were started. Young adult and young family groups followed as teens turned into twenties.

In 2016, I wrote the book *'The DNA of Pioneer Ministry'* with Mike Moynagh to tell the story and help others learn from what has happened so they might begin a fresh expression of church themselves.

What is Missional Youth Church Network?

Six months ago I was appointed by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, to lead a new Missional Youth Church Network (MYCN) beginning in the north of England. It is a joint partnership with Church Army and the Archbishop of York Youth Trust.

The vision is to establish at least 30 Missional Youth Churches (MYC) over the next five years, enabling 11-18 year olds to build a community and discover faith in Jesus Christ. Local schools and colleges, churches and community projects will work together in partnership to do church with this generation. Youth leaders and volunteers will become part of a wider learning network accessing training, encouragement and support for one another as they build for the future.

Archbishop Sentamu said: "On my pilgrimage across the Diocese of York, I spoke to many young people who were not keen on attending Church but who were fascinated by the love of God and wanted to know more about Jesus Christ – this is a live issue for them. Young people have so much to learn. In Jesus Christ they can receive new life and share this life-transforming encounter with their friends. I believe that the Missional Youth Church Network will help transform young people's lives and make, together, Jesus Christ visible."

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Des Scott, Church Army's Interim Chief Executive, says of MYCN: "Many young people are searching for truth and what matters most in their world. As a church we need to be in the place where we can share the truth of the good news of Jesus Christ. Missional Youth Church Network is ideally positioned to reach out to these young people and be a catalyst for others to reach a generation that believes it can change the world."

What's happened in the first six months?

During the first six months we have been busy travelling around the north of England to visit various dioceses, churches and secondary schools. We've been listening to what is happening in their communities, we've shared the MYCN vision and we've prayed and dreamed together with local leaders about what might be possible in the coming years.

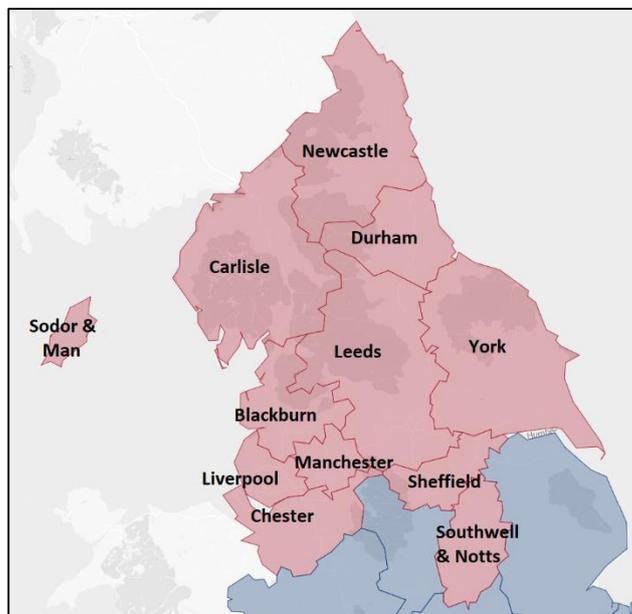
I've been amazed to discover how open people are to dream and envision what a new Christian community might look like among young people in their own localities. People tell us there is such a lot of need, both to do something for young people but also to rethink how we do church with them. There is a willingness to imagine young people themselves getting involved, sharing their ideas and developing ownership. People want to enable young people to find faith in Jesus in new ways! This is very exciting as the level of openness and eagerness to explore suggests God is at work.

Dreams about the future lead into vision and prayerful planning about what God might want to happen in specific places. People pray about such vision and this, in turn, leads to many more conversations with other potential partners so that resources such as funding and people can be drawn into a local vision.

One example of this is the Seacroft Estate in east Leeds. Conversations with Bishop Paul Slater, Church Army and Leeds Faith in Schools, led us to Bishop Young Academy, a secondary school in an inner suburb of Leeds. Local churches soon got involved. Funding was found to employ a Lead Evangelist who will work with a local volunteer team and young people to begin a Missional Youth Church in the area. It is very early days but the signs are good!

Another example is Archbishop Sentamu Academy which is in an area of Hull with high deprivation. At the beginning of October we met with school and church leaders to explore setting up an MYC there. A Christian leader said, "there is a real sense that God wants this to happen in this place."

These are early days for both projects, so please pray for them as they begin to take their first steps into pioneering missional youth churches. It is still early days for us too; there are many more local people in the process of discerning whether dreams can become reality in their area. So please join us at this time in praying for these different seeds that they would grow into new shoots that will one day bear much fruit.



The dioceses in the north of England where we're sharing or hoping to share our MYCN vision

Prayer pointers

Please join us in praying for the following places (and diocese) that are exploring whether to begin a missional youth church in the near future. On each day, please think and pray for the following:

Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seacroft estate, Bishop of Young Academy and local churches, east Leeds• Sentamu Academy and local churches, east Hull
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lofthouse, south east Leeds• Harrogate
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grange Park estate, Blackpool• Manor Academy, York
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boston Spa• Keighley
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Huddersfield• Bradford• Durham diocese
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chester diocese• Blackburn diocese• Southwell and Nottingham diocese
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sheffield diocese• Manchester diocese• Liverpool diocese

Also:

Please pray for us as we seek to raise funds, write resources and learn from other youth work ministries. Pray especially that God brings together people who are called to join us as we follow Jesus in building up fresh Christian communities with young people. Thank you.

Financial Support

If you would like to make a regular or one-off gift to support our work, please complete and return the form overleaf or visit churcharmy.org/donate.

We don't take your support for granted, so thank you for your gift and for your prayers. Please feel free to contact me on the details below should you have any thoughts, suggestions or if you would like to explore establishing a project in your area.

Andy

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*delete as appropriate

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Valid from: __/__/__ Expires end __/__/__

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