

# Project Information & Track Record

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## What is *the2:67project*?

*the2:67project* is a registered charity headed by Mike Palin, a committed Christian who has a passion to see God change the lives of young people. Mike Palin has been a full-time youth and children's worker for over 12 years and recognises to need to share skills and experience with other churches and organisations in order to assist them in the various ministries that God has given them. *the2:67project* offers advice, support, encouragement, resources and training in all areas of youth and children's work through a created network of inter-denominational churches and organisations in the St. Albans area.

## How did *the2:67project* come to exist?

There are many people within many churches and organisations that work energetically and effectively in bringing the Gospel to the youth and children of the St. Albans area. One such youth worker, Mike Palin, decided to take this one step further and start a charity dedicated to the support and encouragement of youth and children's work. Mike had a vision of churches working together: encouraging each other; supporting and assisting each other; hosting cross-city inter-denominational youth and children's events together; becoming one church with one vision – to provide opportunities for young people to change their lives for the better forever. 'Nexus' was formed in 2002 to fulfil some of these aims and Mike became an active and central member.

However, Nexus really needed the commitment of a full time worker in order for it to realise its full potential and expand its work: providing professional advice and support; regular meetings for specific encouragement; hosting tailored teaching sessions; creating and running training courses; sharing structured course material; helping churches who have never been able to offer youth work to do so; equipping youth and children's workers with the tools they needed; furthering the network – furthering God's work.

And so *the2:67project* was born; it was founded in early May 2007 and obtained charitable trust status late December 2007. *the2:67project's* work focuses on anyone involved in youth and children's work in the St. Albans area regardless of whether they are full-time, part-time, volunteer – or are the young people themselves.

## What is *the2:67project's* mission statement?

*the2:67project* aims to draw together all churches of all denominations across the St. Albans area to benefit its youth and children's work and its mission statement is:

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

[Colossians 2:6-7]

## What is being said about *the2:67project*?

*“I have known and worked with Mike for over 10 years. He has a big heart for young people, sharing his faith and the St Albans area. I have no hesitation in commending him and this great step of faith to you. I believe that Mike’s ministry in this area will impact upon young people through the work encouraged and enabled amongst the churches of St Albans and the surrounding area.”*

**Dave Green – Diocesan Youth Officer, St. Albans Diocese**

*“‘the2:67project’ is quickly becoming a pivotal point for the youth work, both Christian and evangelism, in our community. Churches and young people are being directly affected by Michaels well thought out advise and approach to youth work. Volunteers are being given the space and guidance to develop excellent programmes. Weekends away are having the extra input to make them truly memorable and we as local youth workers are getting many more opportunities for collaborative work to affect our community. ‘the2:67project’ is a remarkable opportunity for people wanting to see teenage lives changed for the better to gather and be guided by a true professional, towards similar goals. STEP is better for being given the opportunity for working with 2:67.”*

**Chris Evans – Director, St. Albans & Harpenden Christian Education Project (STEP)**  
*(STEP seeks to see Christian truth and standards clearly represented in schools)*

*“Over the last year Mike has done a fantastic job of exciting and encouraging youth workers in the St Albans area. He has been passionately leading the way with new ventures from which both youth leaders and young people are benefiting. As a student youth worker with a small group, Mike’s experience and resources have been invaluable and the events he has organized have allowed us experiences that we would not have had access to on our own. Thank you Mike!”*

**Sarah Hackett – Youthworker, Homewood Road URC.**

*“Mike is always dynamic, well prepared and gives very motivational and solid input to our programs and leadership courses. Our young adult leaders are inspired by his creativity, energy and genuine commitment to Christian youth ministry. Therefore it is with confidence SPEC encourages our Catholic youth ministers to benefit from the 2:67 vision and opportunities it will deliver for our young people.”*

**Sandra Satchell – Director, SPEC Centre, All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney**  
*(The SPEC centre seeks make the faith of young people relevant through peer ministry)*

## What are *the2:67project*'s aims?

The aim is to facilitate youth and children’s work across the St Albans area with an emphasis on churches that currently do not have a full-time youth or children’s worker.

*the2:67project* aims, and how they are fulfilled are reviewed on an annual basis to ensuring that *the2:67project* is accountable to its aims, to assess the relevance of its aims and to plan the work of the project in the future.

***the2:67project* Aims Achieved**

### Support, Accountability & Administration...

- Form a group of Trustees.
- Hold regular Trustees meetings.
- Apply for and obtain Charitable status.
- Create a prayer network to support the work of *the2:67project* and those who benefit from it and run regular prayer meetings.
- Create policies (e.g. CRB, child protection).
- Open bank accounts, find accommodation, etc.

### Networking & Fundraising...

- Secure initial pledges and funding.
- Establish links with STEP and DYOW.
- Establish links with the Chamber of Commerce.
- Establish regular contact with all youth workers through Nexus (*the2:67project* Youthwork Network).
- Ensure *the2:67project* Youthwork Network (formerly 'Nexus') continues and grows.
- Develop a strategy for regular fundraising support from individuals, churches, other organisations and grant funding bodies.
- Establish contacts with new churches / organisations.
- Build effective working relationships with youth and children's workers and share the vision of the *the2:67project* project.

### Advice, Support & Encouragement...

- Hold twice termly Youthwork Network meetings for encouragement.
- Build effective working relationships with as many churches / organisations in the St. Albans areas as is feasible and possible and encourage them in the work they are involved in.
- Youthworker retreat.

### Resources, Training & Planning...

- Host regular training events for volunteer youth and children's workers to attend.
- Host termly training sessions for youth and children's workers .
- Create a website as a means to promote the project.

### Events & Teaching...

- Hold regular cross city, interdenominational youth events.
- A "Youth Alpha" course ('More?') to run in one of the town centre cafes with a view to using this as a drop in centre in the future.
- Talks and sermons.

### ***the2:67project* Recurring, Ongoing & Short Term Aims (Sep 08 – Aug 09, 3 terms)...**

#### Support, Accountability & Administration...

- Continue with regular Trustees meetings.
- Continue with prayer network.
- Create a 4 year plan for *the2:67project*.
- Review insurance / liabilities and policies (e.g. CRB, child protection).

- Assess the need for the expansion of the *the2:67project* project and plan to recruit if necessary.
- Continue to build prayer network to support the work of *the2:67project* project and those who benefit from it.

#### Networking & Fundraising...

- Marketing campaign(s) to raise awareness of project.
- Continue with strategy to obtain regular fundraising support from individuals, churches, other organisations and grant funding bodies.
- Create a database of youth and children's workers across the churches in St. Albans area, full-time, part-time and volunteers.
- Establish a link with Urban Saints.
- Continue to attempt to meet with every church in St. Albans area.
- Continue to establish contacts with new churches / organisations.
- Continue to build effective working relationships with youth and children's workers and share the vision of the *the2:67project* project.
- Consolidate and deepen relationships with existing churches / organisations.
- Consider a trial run of a Nexus like network for children's workers after a training morning (with a view to a permanent network established in year three).
- Host a further Quiz Night(s).
- Determine and act upon new sponsorship opportunities.
- Strengthen links, visibility and influence in the Chamber of Commerce by regular contact, attending breakfast meetings, etc.
- Ensure links with STEP continue and strengthen by running collaborative / symbiotic projects.
- Produce a branded clothing range to assist with promoting the work of the project and to help generate income.

#### Advice, Support & Encouragement...

- Hold twice termly Youthwork Network (formerly 'Nexus') meetings for encouragement.
- Continue to build effective working relationships with as many churches / organisations in the St. Albans areas as is feasible and possible and encourage them in the work they are involved in.
- Identify and develop a "consulting relationship" with churches and organisations with a view to equipping and encouraging them in their work.
- Run additional youthworker retreat(s).
- Assess the need for and run an Encouragement & Consultancy 'Surgery'.

#### Resources, Training & Planning...

- Host termly training sessions for youth and children's workers .
- Identify the needs of volunteer youth and children's workers across St. Albans (through training mornings and feedback).
- Create and propagate resources so that churches can access tools to help them in their youth and children's work.
- Continue to use and develop the website as a means to promote the project and allow people access to resources.

#### Events & Teaching...

- Hold regular cross-city inter-denominational youth events.

- Meet with youth and children's workers and discuss plans for cross-city work events.
- Introduce and run an area wide CYFA (14-18's) weekend away (similar to Watford Area Pathfinder weekend away).
- Further More Cafés.
- Explore the possibility of 'church' in the More Cafés.
- Continue to give talks and sermons.
- Host a summer evangelistic mission in Verulamium Park ('Lake Mission').
- Prepare and organise a new 'Hertfordshire Conference' for youth and children's work.
- Consider exhibiting at the Christian Resources Exhibition every other year (as funding / sponsorship permits).

### ***the2:67project* Long Term Aims (Sep 09 – Aug 11, 9 Terms)**

In addition to the recurring day-to-day aims and objectives listed above, the following were identified as being specific long term aims:

#### Support, Accountability & Administration...

- If a need has been identified, actively recruit new employee.

#### Networking & Fundraising...

- Establish regular contact with all children's workers through the Youthwork Network.
- Establish a Nexus like network for children's workers.
- Establish a link with Urban Saints.
- Write, print and sell "Coffee shop companion book" for fundraising and awareness purposes.

#### Advice, Support & Encouragement...

- Ensure the work of the project can be emulated by authoring a book on how the project works and how to duplicate it.
- Consider instigating a St. Albans Chaplaincy and 'Street Angels' ministry.
- Run a permanent drop-in centre / venue. This could be shared with other compatible and like-minded organisations such as STEP and Youth Talk.

#### Resources, Training & Planning...

- Write lesson plans / resources.
- Propagate resources for training, courses and cross-city youth events.

#### Events & Teaching...

- Host a new 'Hertfordshire Conference' for youth and children's work.
- Consider exhibiting at the Christian Resources Exhibition every other year (as funding / sponsorship permits).

## **What has *the2:67project* achieved?**

### **Case Study 7: Encouragement Morning for St. Paul's Church, Letchworth**

**Aim:** To encourage, equip and train the volunteer youth and children's leaders  
**Date:** 8.45 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009  
**Location:** St. Paul's Church, Letchworth, Hertfordshire

During a meeting with the youth and children's work leader of St. Paul's Church, five team 'wishes' were highlighted:

- To focus on outreach in the local community
- The need for a children's worker and youthworker
- A desire for the new vicar to be a 'fan' of youth and children's work
- Helpers to become leaders and helping to bond the team
- Extravagant thinking

Therefore, the above formed the basis of an encouragement and vision morning run by the267project. In addition, to help achieve the wish list, there was a focus on being thankful and encouraged for that St. Paul's have and working towards St. Paul's mission field calling.

The time together gave people the chance to share their thoughts and feelings about youth and children's work and also to share their ideas amongst the whole team. The team were encouraged to take part in various ice-breakers and team building games which worked well and enabled the team to know one another in new ways.

There was the chance to share hopes and fears for youth and children's work. One of the main areas emphasised was helping to understand how every team member's gifts are valuable and can be used in youth and children's work no matter how insignificant they may seem to be.

It became clear that a particular area of benefit that the267project provides is the ability to encourage volunteer teams. Many volunteers give so much of their free time – week in, week out – and they do not always have regular support and encouragement. This is why this type of session is so vital: to encourage, support, offer training, build up skills and gifts and to pass on information and tools.

Testimony: *"The team found the two sessions very useful, it provided time for members of the team to get to know each other better and share ideas. It has provided a spring-board from which a Youth and Children's strategy can be developed. I would highly recommend any other churches to use Mike to help move the work they are doing forward, whatever stage it may be at. Mike listened well in our two preparation sessions, tailoring the morning to meet our needs."* Clare Townsend, Youthworker, St Paul's, Letchworth

Key Achievements: The church at St Paul's is involved in various different aspects of youth and children's work and is doing a great job. The aim of the time spent with them was to draw the whole team together more and also to enable some volunteers to move from simply being a 'helper' and to take more of a 'leader' role. We achieved this through simple role playing exercises and brainstorming sessions

relating to theoretical youth and children's work scenarios. The morning was a genuine encouragement – and lots of fun for the whole team. In addition, members of the church congregation came along to support their volunteers.

### Case Study 8: 'More' Course Cafés (Series 4)

**Aim:** Youth outreach & evangelism, specifically to create a relaxed and non-threatening environment for young people to talk about the big questions of life!

**Date:** 5 Monday evenings 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. February-March 2009

**Location:** The Merchant Tea and Coffee Company, St. Albans

This most recent 'More?' course contained the following challenging topics:

- 'Who do we follow?' – looking at the media
- 'Who do we love?' – looking at relationships
- 'Who wants to live forever?' – looking at heaven and hell
- 'Who has the answers?' – looking at religion
- 'Who knows the meaning of life?' – looking at Jesus Christ

the267project been running cafés in St. Albans for over a year now and feedback suggest they are proving to be an invaluable tool for youthwork. The STEP schools work team has continued to be a huge supporter of this ministry; it gives them an event to invite young people to that isn't as 'forward' as church or a church youth group and is therefore more accessible. To STEP it means that conversations started in school can now continue. Youth groups also use More? as a place to invite fringe members' to. This is exactly what we'd hoped the cafés would be used for. An eventual goal is to have our own drop-in cafe within two years. The small group set-up in the cafés means that great conversations can be had – but without any pressure. In turn this leads to young people sharing the issues that they are facing and then allowing us to offer support and help to them.

**Testimony:** *"We couldn't have asked for a better next step. 'More?' is a perfect link between our work in the schools and the work in church."* Chris Evans, STEP Director.

*"Last term one of my young people began bringing an un-churched friend to the More? Cafés. It was a great chance to build relationship and talk about Jesus in an unthreatening way and I'm confident that 'More?' will continue to bridge the gap between schools and churches. Thanks!"* Sam Corry, Youthworker St. Paul's, Hatfield Road.

**Key Achievements:** Our new venue has better acoustics than the previous one which has meant that the groups' discussions were easier as everyone could be heard. This course was a joy as so many young people had strong thoughts on many of the topics and it was great to be able to give them a forum where they could share, discuss, learn and grow. This course brought with it new faces who seemed to fit in easily and who were well involved in the discussions. Another success has been to draw in other youthworkers and have them

involved in giving talks, including Rick from Vineyard, Joel from City Church and Sam from St Paul's.

### **Case Study 9: Area Training Morning for Youth and Children's Leaders**

**Aim:** To encourage and equip volunteer youth and children's workers

**Date:** 9.15 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009

**Location:** St. Luke's Church, St Albans, Hertfordshire

This was the third training morning run by the267project and like the previous two it was another time for essential encouragement for a variety of youth and children's leaders. Our workshops this time covered puppet ministry, the place of story in youth work and two sessions on learning and teaching styles when storytelling. the267project continues to find creative and exciting people to share their wisdom and experiences within youth and children's work. One of the joys of these mornings is that people simply talk, share stories and build one another up in their ministry and the hope is to build on this with the upcoming Youth, Children's and Schools Work Conference. This should allow more leaders to benefit from the experienced, skilled and exciting individuals that the267project has come into contact with.

**Key Achievements:** Volunteers from approximately six local churches were given the opportunity to meet together, be encouraged and also receive support, training and resources for their individual ministries in their churches. We continue to see that the simplest thing – time spent being with other leaders and sharing concerns, successes and ideas – gives such huge blessings, encouragement and rewards.

## **What does *the2:67project* plan to do next?**

### **Planned Event 1: 'More?' Summer Chill-Out Cafés**

**Aim:** To create a relaxed and non-threatening environment for young people to enjoy

**Planned Date:** 10 Mondays 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m., May-July 2009

**Planned Location:** The Merchant Tea and Coffee Company, St. Albans

We are continuing to build on the amazing success of the 'More?' cafés by offering a series of 'chill-out' cafés over the stressful exam-filled summer term. Rather than offering a spiritually-based course, this time we are simply offering a place where young people can come, chill-out, have fun, meet up with friends and take a break from the stress of exams. During the ten weeks at The Merchant Tea and Coffee Company there will be acoustic music evenings with six different artists, a Wii tournament or two as well as also hearing from some 'interesting people'.

'More?' is about providing a place for young people to go in the evening that is safe, fun and considered 'fairly cool' by the young people. Finally, as a response to exams this term brings, we are planning to have at least one session where teachers / others with the required skills can provide one-on-one study sessions.

'More?' has also become a good and well used tool for young people and their youth leaders to use to invite non-church friends to with the assurance they will feel

comfortable in doing so. The aim is not to drag young people to youth groups but instead to provide a place where relationships can be built and young people can benefit from friendships and support for all that life throws at them.

### **Planned Event 2: Hertfordshire Youth, Children's & Schools Work Conference**

**Aim:** An extended time of encouragement and training for these closely connected areas of ministry

**Planned Date:** Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> 2009, 9.00am – 4.30pm (incl. lunch)

**Planned Location:** St Luke's Church, St Albans, Hertfordshire

Over the last year we have found that a primary need of youth and children's leaders is encouragement: to have the chance to sit and listen to other leaders, to hear how they do their ministry, to learn from them as they share their ideas and resources, to chat through the issues and struggles of youth and children's work – it is a pure, simple and yet often overlooked need.

We have been told that the training days that we have hosted have met this need well as they have provided a balance of time to chat and share as well as opportunities to hear from, and be educated by, local youth and children's work experts.

The vision behind of the 'Hertfordshire Youth, Children's and Schools Work Conference' – a new initiative from the267project – is to build upon the strengths and benefits of training days. The hope is that we will gather together people who can give some real insight and fresh ideas into the way youth and children's work ministry is carried out; our aim is to continue to build up and encourage leaders as well as giving them simple but necessary skills they need in order to do what they do.

Being with other leaders has already been a huge encouragement and to have the experience and wisdom of those who have been in this type of ministry for years is not just essential need but is also a total treat.

This event differs training days: first, we hope to target increased numbers of leaders and benefit from the shared time of learning together – which will continue during the event's lunch. Second, workshops will build upon the work that the267project has undertaken over the past year. To have a 'local' regular training event like this, that is of reasonable cost and does not require the sacrifice of a whole weekend, will train and energise people for their ministry. We hope and believe that this will continue to be a popular and vital event and is one that the267project sees as a priority.

### **Planned Event 3: St. Albans Area Youth Group Weekend Away**

**Aim:** Youth outreach, promoting community, building up relationships... and lots of fun

**Planned Date:** Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> – Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> 2009

**Planned Location:** Gilwell Park Scout Activity Centre, Chingford, Essex

The Area Weekend Away is an idea taken from the Watford Area Pathfinder Weekend Away which gathered the youth of five to six churches during. The Pathfinder age group covers 11-14's; this weekend away aims to cover the 14-19's age group. For youth groups that are slightly smaller in size – say five to fifteen – it can be a challenge

to host a successful weekend. An aim for the area weekend is to draw together a number of churches that may have smaller youth groups and offer them the opportunity have an exciting, fun and beneficial weekend away. the267project will organise the weekend in its entirety so that leaders are left simply to spend quality time with their young people. This year's weekend is already promising to be bigger than last years with four churches already committed. The venue at Gilwell Park can host up to about 95 people so at present there is space to grow this event.

Last year's weekend away was a success on many levels not least of which is that the young people bonded so well with each other and also came to know their leaders better which we hope will produce fruit in youth groups over the coming months. In addition, last year's weekend helped fulfil two the aims and visions of the267project: the encouragement of youthwork across the area and the organisation of an inter-church weekend away for 14-18 year olds from resource-challenged churches. It is our hope that this will become an annual event and that other groups will want to become a part of this weekend.

**Do the2:67project and STEP work together?**

Yes! Although they are different organisations with a different focus, there is a cross-over of faith and age range. However, importantly they are symbiotic to the point where one organisation is almost in need of the other. The following diagram show how STEP (St. Albans & Harpenden Christian Education Project) which is predominantly schools based, and the267project, which is predominantly churched-youth based, function together to bridge the gap between school and church.



## How can *the2:67project* be supported?

### Prayer

- Prayer is considered as fundamental as finance.
- Regular prayer meetings are held to support the work of *the2:67project* and those who benefit from it.
- Next scheduled prayer meeting in the 'Support Us' section of *the2:67project* website: [www.the267project.com](http://www.the267project.com).
- Prayer points / prayers answered newsletter sent via e-newsletter and available on the website.

### Sponsorship / Funding

- Sponsors will ideally come from a variety of areas including friends, churches, youth work contacts, trusts and grant funds.
- Suggested schemes:
  - £1000 a year for 5 years = £5000
  - £500 a year for 5 years = £2500
  - £200 a year for 5 years = £1000
  - £100 a year for 5 years = £500
  - £50 a year for 5 years = £250Total annual costs expected to be £40,000.
- Donors receive a copy of *the2:67project* bi-monthly newsletter.
- Regular giving via standing order ensures the continuing work of *the2:67project*.
- Standing Order and Gift Aid forms available in the 'Support Us' section of *the2:67project* website: [www.the267project.com](http://www.the267project.com).
- There are two funding streams for *the2:67project*: (a) donations, gifts and grants where there is not necessarily an expected service in return, (b) donations where there is an expected service in return
- A church / organisation may still receive a service regardless of any donation they may or may not make.

### Project Advocate Scheme

- *the2:67project* needs to create links with churches / organisations.
- A project advocate is someone who believes in the project, is willing to promote it and who can be the 'link' in the network.
- Role of project advocate is to ensure *the2:67project* proposal is read by key youth, children's workers and decision makers with a view to raising awareness of *the2:67project*, expanding its network, ascertain needs and funding.
- Further details can be found in the 'Support Us' section of *the2:67project* website: [www.the267project.com](http://www.the267project.com)

## Document Version

Version	Date	Comments / Notes
1	09/10/2008	Initial version.
2	30/10/2008	Updated post Trustees review.
3	25/01/2009	Updated to reflect new term and annual review report. Added new case studies.

4	06/06/2009	Updated to reflect new term. Added section re. co-work of STEP and the267project. Added new case studies, appendix old case studies.
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# Appendix 1 – Details of Past Achievements

## Winter Term 2007

### Support, Accountability & Administration...

- Prayer Evenings to support the work of *the2:67project* and those who benefit from it.
- Trustees Meetings for ongoing management, administration and accountability.
- Secured office space at St. Albans and Harpenden Christian Education Project (STEP), Batchwood School.
- Secured living accommodation in St. Albans.
- Awarding of £10,000 grant from St. Paul's Church, St. Albans.
- *the2:67project* Commissioning Service.

### Networking & Fundraising...

- *the2:67project* joined the St. Albans Chamber of Commerce and attended one of their business breakfast meetings in order to extend its network, raise the profile of the *the2:67project's* work and to lay groundwork for potential future funding.
- Nexus meeting.
- *the2:67project* article published in Church of England 'See Round' journal.
- Parish Youth Workers Meeting.

### Advice, Support & Encouragement...

- Meeting with children's worker at Vineyard Church.
- Meeting with Marshalswick Baptist Church.
- Meeting with Christ Church
- Meeting with St Mark's, Colney Heath youth leaders
- Nexus Meeting

### Resources, Training & Planning...

- The launch of *the2:67project* website.
- 'Resource Packing' appropriate material used on weekends away and teaching sessions.
- Youth Event Planning Meeting, SPEC.
- Games training with St. Albans and Harpenden Christian Education Project (STEP).
- CU Celebration Planning Meeting.
- CYFA Planning Meeting.
- Worship Event Planning Meeting with Diocesan Youth Officer and Bishop Christopher.
- Youth and Children's Worker Training, St. Marks, Colney Heath.

### Events & Teaching...

- Joint weekend away with St. Mark's Colney Heath and St. Luke's, St. Albans at Chellington
- Weekend Away, Crabtree Church.
- Weekend Away, The Loft
- 'Christ Our King' Youth Event, SPEC Centre.

- School teaching session in conjunction with St. Albans and Harpenden Christian Education Project (STEP).
- Teaching session, St. Luke's Youth Group, St. Albans.
- Alternative 'Halloween' service St. Mark's, Colney Heath
- 'Cyber-bullying' Course.

### Spring Term 2008

#### Support, Accountability & Administration...

- Prayer Evenings to support the work of *the2:67project* and those who benefit from it.
- Trustees Meetings for ongoing management, administration and accountability.
- Finding a spiritual home at St. Mark's, Colney Heath.
- Attended the Children's Ministry Conference

#### Networking & Fundraising...

- Hosting a wine-tasting fund-raising evening.
- Nexus Meeting. Now nine churches regularly attend.
- 'Nexus' voted unanimously to align itself under banner of *the2:67project*.
- St. Albans Chamber of Commerce Meeting.
- SPLAT (network of local youth workers) Lunch Meeting.

#### Advice, Support & Encouragement...

- Encouragement and training morning for the youth and children's workers at St. Mary's, Welwyn.
- Mount Pleasant Lane School Governor Assembly.
- Resources planning meeting with St Mark's, Colney Heath
- Nexus Meeting
- Encouragement evening with Christ Church, St Albans
- Resource planning evening with Christ Church, St Albans
- Spending two evenings with the Urban Saints group at Crabtree Church, Harpenden
- Meeting with leaders from Crabtree Church to encourage them and share some resources

#### Resources, Training & Planning...

- Leading and analysis of 'Triple G', Christ Church, St. Albans Junior Church.
- 'Word Alive' Planning Meeting.
- 'Christians In Schools' Planning Meeting.
- Attending seminar in London on 'The Resurrection: Fact or Fantasy?'

#### Events & Teaching...

- Preparing and running the first 'More?' course that ran in Costa Coffee, St Albans on five Monday evenings; its aim was to have a variety of speakers giving multimedia presentations in order to give an practical and real introduction the Christian faith for young people as well as give opportunities for youthworkers to build on relationships with young people.
- Joining with the Cell Group at St Luke's St Albans

- Involved with the Diocese planning the 'Proclaim' events which encourage young people and worship
- Running 'big games area' in conjunction with St. Albans and Harpenden Christian Education Project (STEP) in Townsend School during their 'Feeling Good' week.
- Assisting in at the 'Feeling Good Café', Townsend School.
- The 4th U:nite cross-city youth event which allows young people to meet for fun, food, games and worship.

### Summer Term 2008

#### Support, Accountability & Administration...

- Prayer Evenings to support the work of *the2:67project* and those who benefit from it.
- Trustees Meetings for ongoing management, administration and accountability.

#### Networking & Fundraising...

- Create a new Nexus-like group for children's workers.
- Attend the '2:67 youthwork network' meeting (formerly Nexus)
- 2:67 Fundraiser

#### Advice, Support & Encouragement...

- Meeting with Youth and Children's Workers at Christ Church, St. Albans.
- Mount Pleasant Lane School Governor Week.
- Week away with Mount Pleasant Lane Junior School Year 6
- Meeting with the Welwyn team to encourage and guide them in their youth and children's work
- '2:67 youthwork network' curry, networking and fellowship evening
- Meeting with the youth leaders from St Mark's, Colney Heath
- Helping the Welwyn team launch their youth and children's work week of prayer

#### Resources, Training & Planning...

- Training Day, St. Marks, Colney Heath
- Training Day, Christ Church, St Albans

#### Events & Teaching...

- Spring Harvest with St. Luke's, Bricket Wood.
- Youthworker Retreat Weekend Away, Chellington.
- A 5th U:nite cross-city youth event which will allow young people to meet for fun, food, games and worship.
- Running a series of drop-in 'More?' cafés.
- Preparing and running another 'More?' course: its aim will be to have a variety of speakers giving multimedia presentations in order to give a practical and real introduction the Christian faith for young people.
- Proclaim Master class skills day with the Diocesan Youth Office (DYO).
- Speaking at the Pathfinder Weekend Away, SPEC Centre.
- Speaking at various services at St. Mark's, Colney Heath.
- 'Live It' Christian Music Event.

- Christians In Schools event at Vineyard
- Holiday Club at St. Mark's, Colney Heath

### Winter Term 2008

#### Support, Accountability & Administration...

- Continue with regular Trustees meetings.
- Continue with prayer network.
- Create a 4 year plan for *the2:67project*.
- Continue to build prayer network to support the work of *the2:67project* project and those who benefit from it.

#### Networking & Fundraising...

- Marketing campaign(s) to raise awareness of project.
- Continue with strategy to obtain regular fundraising support from individuals, churches, other organisations and grant funding bodies:
  - Network Church fundraiser event to support the work of 2:67
- Continue to attempt to meet with every church in St. Albans area.
- Continue to establish contacts with new churches / organisations:
  - Meeting with St. Stephen's Church
  - Meeting with St Alban's and St Stephen's Church
- Continue to build effective working relationships with youth and children's workers and share the vision of the *the2:67project* project.
- Consolidate and deepen relationships with existing churches / organisations:
  - Attending St. Albans Chamber of Commerce breakfast meetings.
- Determine and act upon new sponsorship opportunities.

#### Advice, Support & Encouragement...

- Continue to build effective working relationships with as many churches / organisations in the St. Albans areas as is feasible and possible and encourage them in the work they are involved in.
- Hold twice termly Youthwork Network meetings for encouragement.
- Hold encouragement & training Workshops:
- Christ Church, 13<sup>th</sup> September.

#### Resources, Training & Planning...

- Host termly training sessions for youth and children's workers:
  - Series of youth and children's work training evening at St. Mark's, Colney Heath.
  - 'Confidence skills with young people' Workshop, Marshalswick team.
- Continue to use and develop the website as a means to promote the project and allow people access to resources.

#### Events & Teaching...

- Running another series of drop-in 'More?' cafés with a theme of 'The Claims of Jesus':
- Monday 15th September - Introduction
- Monday 22nd September - Real or Fake?
- Monday 29th September - Mad or God?

- Monday 6th October - Relevant or Rubbish?
- Monday 13th October - Carpenter or King?
- Monday 20th October - Dead or Alive?
- Assessing the need for and preparing further 'More?' courses.
- Area Youth Groups Weekend Away, 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October, Devon.
- Meet with youth and children's workers and discuss plans for cross-city work events:
  - Meeting with the Marshalswick team to plan area youthwork initiatives.
  - LIVE IT 2009 planning meeting, SPEC Centre.
  - Continue to give talks and sermons:
    - Preaching at St Luke's Church, Cell Barnes Lane.
    - Speaking at St Mary's Youth Group, Welwyn.
    - Speaking Christ Church, St. Albans Youth Group ('Refine')
    - One Year Celebration Service held at Christ Church, St. Albans.
    - Light Party at St Mark's Church Centre, Colney Heath.
    - Leading Junior Church group at Christ Church, St. Albans
    - Working with STEP during lunchtimes at St. John Laws School, Harpenden.

### **Spring Term 2009**

#### Support, Accountability & Administration...

- Continue with regular Trustees meetings.
- Continue with prayer network / continue to build prayer network to support the work of *the2:67project* project and those who benefit from it.

#### Networking & Fundraising...

- Continue with strategy to obtain regular fundraising support from individuals, churches, other organisations and grant funding bodies:
  - Project Thanksgiving Cheese & Wine Evening for donors, 26/01/2009.
- Continue to attempt to meet with every church in St. Albans area and to establish contacts with new churches / organisations.
- Continue to build effective working relationships with youth and children's workers and share the vision of the *the2:67project* project.
- Determine and act upon new sponsorship opportunities:
  - Quiz Night, Clarence Park Football Ground, 23 April 2009

#### Advice, Support & Encouragement...

- Continue to build effective working relationships with as many churches / organisations in the St. Albans areas as is feasible and possible and encourage them in the work they are involved in.
- Hold twice termly Nexus meetings for encouragement:
  - YWNW Meeting, St. Mark's, Colney Heath
  - Hold encouragement & training Workshops:
    - Youth and children's work vision and encouragement morning at St. Saviours, Sunbury
    - Youth and children's work vision and encouragement morning at St. Paul's, Letchworth

#### Resources, Training & Planning...

- Host termly training sessions for youth and children's workers:

- Training day, St. Luke's, Cell Barnes Lane
  - Monthly training evening with the youth and children's volunteers from St. Mark's Colney Heath
- Continue to use and develop the website as a means to promote the project and allow people access to resources.

#### Events & Teaching...

- Running another series of drop-in 'More?' cafés with a theme of 'The Claims of Jesus':
- Monday 2nd February, 'Who do we follow?', looking at the media
- Monday 9th February, 'Who do we love?', looking at relationships
- Monday 23rd February, 'Who wants to live forever?', looking at heaven and hell
- Monday 2nd March, 'Who has the answers?', looking at religion
- Monday 9th March, 'Who knows the meaning of life?', looking at Jesus
- Assessing the need for and preparing further 'More?' courses.
- Meet with youth and children's workers and discuss plans for cross-city work events:
- Marshalswick Area Café: the Marshalswick Team and hosting a youth cafe during half term
- Bible-centred Youthwork Conference, 19-22 January.

## Appendix 2 – Details of Future Plans

### Summer Term 2009

#### Support, Accountability & Administration...

- Continue with regular Trustees meetings.
- Continue with prayer network / continue to build prayer network to support the work of *the2:67project* project and those who benefit from it.
- Thinking Day: a quiet day for space and reflection and planning with four other youthworkers
- Training Course in London: attending the 'Just People' training course which looks at building up local communities
- Pathfinder Weekend Away debrief.

#### Networking & Fundraising...

- Continue with strategy to obtain regular fundraising support from individuals, churches, other organisations and grant funding bodies:
  - 267 Fundraising Evening: a quiz night at St Albans Football Club to raise funds and to spread the word about the267project
- Continue to attempt to meet with every church in St. Albans area and to establish contacts with new churches / organisations.
  - First meeting with Dave Dickinson of Marlborough Road Methodist Church
  - First meeting with Chris Short of Park Street Baptist Church
- Continue to build effective working relationships with youth and children's workers and share the vision of the *the2:67project* project.
- Determine and act upon new sponsorship opportunities.
- Marshalswick Team Meeting: meeting together with vicars and youth leaders from the Marshalswick area churches.
- Marshalswick Half Term Café: helping at the half term drop-in cafe based at one of the Marshalswick Team Churches.
- Working with STEP team at St Luke's School Redbourn.
- Regular 'Splat Lunch' with local youth workers and the STEP team.
- Advocates Meeting: inaugural gathering of those interested in being 'advocates' for the267project in their churches.
- Abbey Cheque Giving Service as they have donated £500 to the project this year
- Chamber Breakfast: a chance to network with the business community in St Albans and raise the profile of 'the267project'.
- Meeting with Radio Verulam to plan short program for Radio Verulam.
- DYO Meeting with Parish youthworkers for encouragement, networking and prayer.

#### Advice, Support & Encouragement...

- Continue to build effective working relationships with as many churches / organisations in the St. Albans areas as is feasible and possible and encourage them in the work they are involved in.
- Hold twice termly Nexus meetings for encouragement:
- YWNW Meeting, St. Mark's, Colney Heath
- Hold encouragement & training Workshops:
  - 267 Training Morning for all youth and children's work leaders and volunteers involving 4 different workshops

- Youth and children's work vision and encouragement morning at St. Paul's, Letchworth

#### Resources, Training & Planning...

- Host termly training sessions for youth and children's workers:
  - Training day, St. Luke's, Cell Barnes Lane
  - Monthly training evening with the youth and children's volunteers from St. Mark's Colney Heath
- Continue to use and develop the website as a means to promote the project and allow people access to resources.
- Meeting with Dave Green the Diocesan Youth Officer to plan September Conference.
- Meeting with Richard McFarland to plan upcoming fundraising events.
- CYFA Planning meeting.
- Meeting with Nick Margesson to continue planning for our summer camp
- Training at the SPEC Centre.
- Spending some time with the year-out team at the SPEC Centre, London Colney
- Meeting with Amy Stock of 'Schoolswork.co.uk' who are helping plan September conference.
- Training Weekend for those involved in the New Forest A Summer CYFA Camp.

#### Events & Teaching...

- Running a further series of drop-in 'More?' Cafés. This term, by design, there is no particular message or series of talks. This series will include:
  - Chill-out Café
  - Acoustic Music Café
  - Wii Tournaments
  - Interesting Jobs
  - 'Change the world in a summer!' Challenge
  - Summer Picnic
- Assessing the need for and preparing further 'More?' courses and a Discipleship and Leadership Training Course.
- Marshalswick Area Café: the Marshalswick Team and hosting a youth cafe during half term.
- Spring Harvest Trip with the group from St. Luke's Bricket Wood.
- Pathfinder Weekend Away at the SPEC Centre for 5 different youth groups.
- Christians In Schools Celebration: young Christians from St Albans schools getting together for encouragement, teaching and worship.
- Speaking at MBFC.
- Speaking at the 'FROG' youth group at Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Marshalswick.
- Speaking at City Church alternative 4th Sunday evening service.
- 267 Fundraising Evening: a quiz night and Thai Curry at The London Road Club to raise funds and to spread the word about the 267 project.
- Schoolswork Conference: a conference for all those involved in any type of schoolswork, attending with the STEP team
- Live It 09 Event: summer music, art and sports event the 267 project are running at the SPEC Centre, London Colney
- New Forest A Summer Camp: 10 days away for a summer camp in the New Forest for 75 teenagers, 30 students and 50 leaders

## Appendix 3 – Additional Case Studies

### Case Study 1: 'More' Course Cafés (Series 1)

**Aim:** Youth outreach  
**Date:** 5 Monday evenings 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. Running from 18<sup>th</sup> February until 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
**Location:** Costa Coffee Café, St. Albans, Hertfordshire

St. Albans has no real provision for young people and so as a group of youthworkers we have been looking for some time to see where we could start a drop-in centre. The 267 project set up the 'More' cafés in order to encourage youthwork across St Albans and provide a non-threatening environment for Christians to invite friends to hear about Jesus Christ. They gave youth leaders a different and neutral place to build relationships with their young people and have conversations about faith related subjects that had been raised during the talk given during the café. This in turn provided young Christians a 'safe' place away from church or school where their friends could experience something of Jesus.

The cafés ran for 5 weeks and we saw over 60 young people from around 6-8 churches during the course, with an average of about 40 young people each week. We also had a small group that came from one of the local schools. This initial series of cafés is a great foundation to build upon: we intend to run two further sets of cafés this year. Our aim is that they create a safe space that is considered 'cool' where young people can 'hang out' but crucially where they can also meet with Christians and be able to ask questions about life and faith. The cafés enabled many relationships to be built between young people and youth leaders and even led on to 2 youth leaders taking away a group of 6 young people from Townsend School on a camping trip. The cafés have quickly become a significant youthwork tool that youth leaders can use as well as being a place where young Christians are happy to invite their friends.

I believe that relational evangelism is massively important with young people and building strong relationships with them is vital to then have conversations about God, Jesus and other faith-based topics. The 267 project 'More' cafés provide a perfect environment to do this and we have carefully 'balanced' the input during the café sessions from talks to acoustics music sessions to testimonies. Our hope is to build on this ministry and that it will play a hugely important role in the future outreach of the young people of St. Albans.

Testimony: *"More is an excellent place to go whether you're in the frame of mind to ask questions and learn 'more' about God or whether you just want to go and chill in a safe, positive environment with other people in the same situations as yourself. It's an excellent way to make friends with people in the area and fantastic in intertwining people of different ages from different schools. It helps people give advice to each other about the different challenges they may be facing ahead and helps them feel supported in every aspect of their lives."* Becky Giles, Young Person.

Key Achievements: It provided a place for young people to connect with each other as well as many amazing opportunities for youth leaders to have faith-based conversations as well as simply getting to know the young people better. It meant that the future 'More?' events were much easier to fill because this first course had gone so well.

### **Case Study 2: Welwyn Team Encouragement & Training Morning**

**Aim:** To encourage and equip volunteer youthworkers  
**Date:** 8.45 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008  
**Location:** St. Mary's Church, Welwyn, Hertfordshire

At the beginning of January the267project ran a morning of training and encouragement for the volunteer youth and children's leaders across 5 churches in the Welwyn area. The aim for the morning was simply to encourage the team in their roles and provide them with some basic skills and tools to assist them in their various ministries.

We had the chance to share with one another our hopes and fears for youth and children's work. We spent some time taking part in team building exercise which allowed the team to get to know each other more and discover each other's gifts and how they can use them within their ministries. One of the main areas we spent time on was helping to understand how every team member's gifts can be used in youth and children's work no matter how insignificant they may seem to be. The team consisted of volunteers from 5 churches and so it was beneficial to see how each team from each church can share gifts and help one another.

It became clear that one of the most beneficial things that the267project can offer volunteer teams is encouragement. Many volunteers give so much of their free time - week in, week out - and they do not always have regularly support and encouragement. This is why this type of session is so vital: to encourage, support, offer training, build up skills and gifts and pass on helpful information and tools.

Testimony: *"An interesting and informative morning in which one example, on judging by appearance, lead to our theme for our 14+ group at Chellington later in the year. Mike's enthusiasm is inspiring it would be nice to have half of it!"* James Finlay, Volunteer Leader.

Key Achievements: The churches in Welwyn had been involved in youth and children's work for some time but had never had anyone paid to do the work. The encouragement morning gave me an opportunity to simply spend time with the team, encourage them, pass on some simple tips, share with them current resources, offer ideas to the future youth and children's work plans and also allow their whole team from 5 churches to spend time together.

### **Case Study 3: Weekend Away with St. Mark's & St. Luke's Church**

**Aim:** Spiritual retreat and team building  
**Date:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007 – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007

**Location:** Chellington Centre, Bedford

The volunteer youth leaders from both St. Mark and St. Luke's churches decided to 'join forces' for a weekend away as they both have relatively small youth groups. The weekend was a great opportunity for approximately 15 teenagers to get together, have fun, eat lots, stay up late... and also study the Book of Acts over 4 sessions.

The weekend served many purposes including team building for the leaders, encouraging the two youth groups, providing teaching and giving the young people a really great time away. Community is vital in youthwork: events and activity provide shared times and memories which promote community. The weekend included a chance to act out some dramas, a bowling trip and icebreakers to help make new friends and get to know existing ones better.

My role was to lead the 4 bible teaching sessions and to help the leaders wherever necessary. During the weekend I also had the opportunity to pray with the young people and led sessions on how they can apply what they have learnt when they return home. The weekend was a lot of fun and served the two churches very well, encouraging the leaders and their ministry and the young people in their faith.

Testimony: *"The weekend away was a great opportunity for the youth group to get to know each other better and to meet young people from another youth group. It was a relaxed and safe place for them to learn, ask and discuss questions about God and also to have time for chilling, recreation and lots of fun!"* Charlotte Webb, Volunteer Leader, St Mark's Church, Colney Heath.

*"The weekend away was a great success Mike and 267 provided and atmosphere for our guys to explore, be challenged and ultimately grow in their faith both individually and as a group. We shared the weekend with another Church group and were impressed by the way Mike managed to pull both the groups together in order to make sure sessions and activities had the maximum impact. Put simply, a weekend our guys will never forget. Thank you 267."* Ben Ansell, Volunteer Leader, St Mark's Church, Colney Heath.

*"Mike led a brilliant weekend away by providing many opportunities to discover and apply relevant Bible passages for our 14 to 18 year olds. Not only that, he led many of the more practical games and fun times - in fact he was involved in 90% of what went on - a real gift."* Steve Roy, Youth Worker, St Luke's Church, St. Albans.

**Key Achievements:** It gave the volunteer leaders of each church the chance to get to know their youth group better as well as offer some simple fun and joy amongst fellow youth leaders and youth groups. There was also opportunity for the youth groups to have some teaching and discuss together what it means to be a Christian and part of a church. I felt the two groups bonded together as well as discovering a shared identity in their faith.

#### **Case Study 4: Year Out Team Training**

**Aim:** To providing training for those taking a year out  
**Date:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
**Location:** The 'SPEC' Centre & 'The Loft', All Saints' Pastoral Centre, Hertfordshire

The SPEC Centre and The Loft are two retreat centres for children and young people based in Hertfordshire. The centres have many children and young people pass through their doors every week and have a team of about 20 to facilitate the ministry. The team is made up of a variety of people from around the world with wide age ranges and gifts.

the267project was asked to start the beginning of the year with a day of team training, offering encouragement and training in a variety of areas of youth ministry. The focus was to equip the team with as many skills as they could hope to use. This training ranged from learning activities, training on how to share a testimony, using icebreakers and games to teach, public speaking tuition, leading sessions and small group studies. In addition, my aim was to encourage the team in general to be confident in their respective gifts and how they could benefit their work.

The training was highly successful and a number of opportunities have grown from it, including 4 further team training sessions.

Key Achievement: The session gave the team the chance to learn new games and icebreakers, bond as a team, get to know one another better and discover resources that could be used within their ministry.

#### **Case Study 5: 'More' Course Cafés (Series 3)**

**Aim:** Youth outreach & evangelism  
**Date:** 6 Monday evenings 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. Running from 15<sup>th</sup> September until 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008  
**Location:** Costa Coffee Café, St. Albans, Hertfordshire

The third 'More?' Course Cafés series was as popular as the first two and I believe we have now built relationships with the young people that are strong enough for conversations about deeper things flow much more freely. The environment at Costa Coffee is one of such fun and it seems that beyond what we are trying to share with the young people they simply love hanging out with one another and building the community that is so important for honesty and accountability. Having been in youth work for a while I know that it is hard to try and 'create' this sort of atmosphere but at Costa Coffee during these courses, to quote one volunteer youth worker, "something seems to happen that does not always happen in church, in youth group or indeed, in school."

Our numbers were consistent with the previous courses with an average of 48-50 young people attending each week. These young people were supported by 20 volunteer leaders from 7 churches. Our aim was to allow the young people a space where they could discuss the bigger questions of life and our foundation this time was the arguments against belief in Jesus Christ: we sourced five different speakers who

opened up some great conversations by illustrating the struggles many have had with who Jesus was and is. The five questions we looked at were: 'Is Jesus...'

- ...Real or Fake?
- ...Mad or God?
- ...Relevant or Rubbish?
- ...Carpenter or King?
- ...Dead or Alive?

Because of the growing relationships that are building between young people and leaders, and also between the young people themselves, these topics provided truly eye-opening conversation.

I also believe that our aim of inspiring and 'building up' youth groups has been achieved at the More Cafés as so many young people are leaving encouraged and wanting to talk further. This has also included young people bringing new friends along with a view to inviting them to their local youth group. Many youth leaders have been encouraged and have been able to have conversations with young people that for some reason did not take place within their youth groups.

Testimony: *"Parents of young people were very pleased there was somewhere for questions to be asked. It is not always appropriate for parents to answer some questions (they may not have the skill/answer, or sometimes it is just too embarrassing to talk to your parents). The cafe provided the space to catch these conversations and engage young people."* Terrie Bournier, Volunteer Leader & Parent.

*"I think 'More?' is awesome! There is always a great atmosphere that pretty much any young person would enjoy and the input from the front is quality. The highlight for me/us at Christ Church has got to be the time when a friend of a Christ Church young person gave their life to Jesus at 'More?' in the autumn. And she is going on with God! Thank you God, thank you Mike and thank you 267!".* Martin Podmore, Youthworker, Christ Church St. Albans.

Key Achievements: More has continued to provide a place for young people to connect with each and discuss faith-based issues. Young people are freely discussing their views on faith, sometimes for the first time, and are leaving feeling encouraged and wanting to continue to explore their questions of faith. In addition there is a realisation that it seems to be greater than the sum of its parts, and that something 'happens' when that many young people meet with open minds and hearts. The More Cafés are started to bear fruit as young people are familiar with it, know it is safe and so are inviting their friends.

## Case Study 6: Area Youth Groups Weekend Away

**Aim:** Encourage & inspire local youth groups by meeting & learning together  
**Date:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008  
**Location:** Gilwell Park Scout Activity Centre, Waltham Cross

For years there has been a very successful area weekend away for the 11-14 age group... but not for older 14-18's teenagers. This is mainly because individual groups organise their own weekends – or if they are challenged for resources, do not organise a weekend away at all. The 11-14's weekends normally involved five different church groups and were always a real encouragement as there is a 'buzz' when 90 or so young people get together.

So, in the autumn term *the267project* organised a weekend away for three youth groups from churches across St. Albans. One of the main benefits was to enable youth leaders the chance to focus on building relationships with their young people rather than stressing about organising a weekend away. The three youth groups comprised of 23 teenagers and 10 leaders. The weekend involved lots of food, some silly games, great talks from visiting speaker Chris Evans, a chance to 'chill', various activities including grass sledging, climbing, karting and a huge game of rounders. Personally speaking, it was one of the best weekends I have been a part of and I hope we will be able to serve many more youth groups when we run one this coming October.

The weekend helped fulfil one the aims and visions of '*the267project*' which is the encouragement of youth work across the area and the organisation of an inter-church weekend away for 14-18 year olds from resource-challenged churches. It is our hope that this will become an annual event and that other groups will also want to become a part of this weekend.

The Area Weekend Away was a success on so many levels, not least because the young people really bonded with each other and also came to know their leaders better which we hope will produce some great fruit in youth groups over the coming months.

Testimony: *"Speaking as someone who works with teenagers in schools, the weekend was fantastic. I usually meet these young people for a small period on time, focused around a set topic – and once the lesson or session is over, I am unable to follow up the work started. This weekend enabled me to work extensively with students that I have contact with. As some of the session were run by Michael [of STEP] it meant that my time was not distributed between organising, discipline and the other skills associated with a weekend away; I was free to just do youth work."* Chris Evans, STEP Director.

Key Achievements: Building community not just within individual youth groups but inter youth group also. The teaching was of a high standard and moreover was relevant which in turn provoked 'real' questions and discussions and spiritual growth."