

# Peninsula Youth for Christ

## Trustee's Report

The Board of Trustees has been through a variety of changes over the past year. At the Annual General Meeting in 2008, Kim Dockwray stepped down from the position of Chair and Karen Hansen stepped down as the Secretary. Lillian Bean took up the Chairs role, and the Secretary role was initially shared between Charlotte Ferris and Jan Simmons. Andy Hansen remained as the Treasurer. Another change at this time was that Simon Warwood stood down as a Trustee with effect from the AGM. More changes were made in November 2008, when Jan Simmons too decided she would step down from the Board. Jeremy Davis joined the Board in December 2008. The Board would like to express their thanks and gratitude to both Simon and Jan for all their hard work during the first three years of PYFC's ministry.

### School's Work

The biggest development this year to PYFC's work at the Hundred of Hoo School; has been the move to a new base within the school. From September 2008 PYFC moved into the Bungalow and is enjoying having it's own space on school campus. PYFC has use of two main rooms, one that is being used as an office, and the second that is being used as a Youth Room, where Gemma is able to run small group sessions from. This has been such a blessing, PYFC has been able to decorate and furnish the rooms, making them comfortable, and the young people who have had access to them have developed ownership over them and feel relaxed in the space.

The main group to use the Bungalow has been Wise Up. This is a programme aimed at young women, developing their self-esteem and knowledge of health related issues. Last academic year Karen and Gemma worked with four young women, as a pilot project. Karen and Gemma learned a lot about how best to run the project, which girls to target and how to make the activities appropriate. This has led to the project running with six young women this academic year, and they have engaged in a way that the first group of girls didn't. They feel very comfortable with both the activities and the youth workers. They also relax in the Bungalow and feel able to put their mark on the building.

The encouraging work that Karen and Gemma have been able to do with the girls at Wise Up has highlighted the importance of PYFC to the school. Gemma has been approached to work in partnership with the school, the School Nurse and the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Officer to offer support to students in Sex and Relationships Education (SRE). In March, Gemma is attending some SRE training to support the school in this area.

PYFC has also been able to increase it's support of RE and PSHE lessons, with Gemma focusing on one year group (year 9). This has meant that she has been able to get to know those students quite well. She has covered a range of subjects from 'Spiritual Experiences' to 'Conflict and Forgiveness' to 'Love and Sex'. The students have been given lots of opportunities to ask questions about Christianity and have been taught using a variety of interesting activities to help discussion.

The lunch time club, Rock Solid, has been working with a core group of young people for the best part of three years now. The group are growing in childlike faith, having fun together in a safe space and are encouraging their friends to come along. Rock Solid has had some difficulties with room allocation, and would appreciate your prayers on this point.

In October 2008, PYFC in partnership with Gillingham Youth for Christ, were privileged to host the Nomad team for a week. Nomad is a British Youth for Christ sports team, who hold two a side football tournaments in their eight ft round sports cage. The team came into Hundred of Hoo School for four days, took two PE lessons each day, as well as holding tournaments at both break and lunch times. The team would then work with GYFC in the afternoon. PYFC has had very good feedback from both staff and students.

### Chattenden Youth Club

In order to establish further links with the local community, Gemma has been working as part of the Chattenden Youth Club team. This has been a great experience as the majority of young people at the club attend Hundred of Hoo School, leading to stronger relationships.

Gemma and the team were involved in organising three trips for the young people, an activity day at Arethusa, (which included archery and a high ropes assault course) an evening of pampering for the young women at the Body Shop in Chatham and an end of year trip to the bowling alley in Gravesend. All of these activities gave opportunities for relationships to be developed, as well as giving the young people special treats.

From September 2008, working in partnership with Medway Youth Service, Chattenden Youth Club has been the placement for three young men who have been completing a Sports Leadership Award. Gemma has been their supervisor during the placement. The young men have been leading sports activities, planning and reviewing sessions and adapting to being part of a team.

### Falcon Camp

In August Gemma was part of a team that ran a Falcon camp for eight days near Saffron Walden. The team worked with two groups of young people over the eight days, running a variety of activities from swimming to assault courses to mountain biking and high ropes courses during the day. In the evening a packed programme of games, discussion and a gospel presentation was made. The young people were given the opportunity to challenge themselves both physically, emotionally and spiritually, it was a big blessing to see so many of them take up those challenges.

All in all, it has been a very encouraging year for PYFC, and we look to build on the foundations that have already been firmly established with the school. We acknowledge that none of this would have been possible without God's blessing. We have a vision, and with God's guidance may this come to fruition. We thank all those who support the work of PYFC and look forward to the coming year ahead!

Lillian Bean  
Chair of the Board of Trustees