

CHRISTIAN OPTIONS IN PETERBOROUGH SCHOOLS

“Lily-Jo delivered very powerful and inspiring workshops, and our students loved the way the music and songs supported her powerful message.”

Feedback on Lily Jo Project visit, Nene Park Academy



“The main thing about today was working out where God is in my life.”

Year 8 Student comment about Breathe, Hampton Gardens



“During one of the evening sessions I felt God lift all my insecurities from me and I felt free for the first time.”

Young person about Letton Hall in October



Matt Wild's update

CROPS Director



Your CROPS Newsletter is here! We apologise that you haven't had a newsletter in the last few months. It's been rather busy! This edition brings highlights from our work in the Summer term, as well as news, **hot off the press**, from the Autumn term!

We have been drip-feeding snippets and stories about CROPS through our Social Media pages (though appreciate that not everyone is in that space!) If you are a Facebook, Instagram or Twitter user please do like / follow / find us there and engage with our 'in the moment' updates!



Summer Madness & September Start!

The end of August saw CROPS at the last ever **Soul Survivor**. We had two brilliant weeks exhibiting in the Soul Survivor resources area (aka 'The Toolshed') meeting hundreds of young people, youth leaders and connecting with other charities. We were able to inspire young people to get involved in their school as Christians as well encourage churches to engage with schools-ministry. September then came around and our first diary date saw a number of us attend at **Youthscape** in Luton, a schools-ministry conference called '**Old Ground, New Rules**'. Here we were renewed, refreshed and challenged in our thinking about schools-based work.

On the same day Rachel and Richard attended the **Walk Through The Bible** Conference for those working in Primary Schools to be re-envisioned for another year delivery OT & NT lessons in schools. We then welcomed many of you to our annual charity celebration '**The Summer Bash**' a wonderful (and warm!) afternoon that took place at Bretton Baptist celebrating another year of CROPS, catching up with each other and looking to the next year.

Growing Volunteers!

There has been lots of changes to the team, with new volunteers joining us. We are still fortunate to have **Jo Darters** and **Bethany Rosbrook** supporting CROPS Mentoring admin. As of September, we have gap volunteers in the form of **Peter Rosbrook** (gap year) and **Ezra Upton** (youth/schools volunteer) both were introduced at The Summer Bash in September. In addition, we welcomed in November, **Amy Charlton**, who has joined us for 4 days a week working in schools and picking up online communications. Finally, whilst we said goodbye to **Ethan Smith** 'the Gapper' – Ethan has returned in a new form (see his update!).

As always thank you to everyone who makes this ministry possible through prayer and financial giving. And a thank you also to the 50 CROPS volunteers who are actively involved in our work with young people in and out of schools: admin, mentors, schools' team, Letton. It is so exciting to see the wider church in greater Peterborough being used by God in this ministry!

TEAM UPDATE



Sheila Bucknell

CROPS Administrator & Mentoring Team

What a privilege it is to serve as a Mentor at CROPS and to meet with so many wonderful young people at Ormiston Bushfield Academy. The school is blessed with an amazing Pastoral Team and with God's grace we are able to offer support where needed. The CROPS office continues to flourish under Matt's direction and our Gappers are a great asset to the team and are growing well alongside our other volunteers, Bethany, Jo and Amy. I pray I may be of service to CROPS for as long as possible and continue to be part of the awesome team here. Blessings in Christ Jesus.



Amy Charlton

Mentoring Team and Communications

My name is Amy Charlton. I am 23 years old and have lived in Peterborough my whole life. I finished my theology degree at the beginning of summer. I am part of KingsGate Community Church. I joined the CROPS team at the beginning of November. It has been so great to be able to come and join a team so quickly and get stuck in and feel part of a little family. I am currently mentoring in three schools; Nene Park Academy, COPA and Hampton Gardens. I am finding it very rewarding to be able to go into schools and sit and listen to young people struggling and help give advice where I can. I've also been able to go into a few schools and be part of the assemblies work that CROPS do. I am looking after all the communications within CROPS, helping to grow the online community for CROPS. It has been so great to be part of this team and help make a difference within young people's lives.



Ethan Smith

Ridley Hall Youthwork Degree Placement

It's great to be back at CROPS for another academic year! Looking back on the summer term we had a busy but excellent time. One of the highlights was delivering the "It's Your Move" lessons to year 6's all over Peterborough. I even got to visit my old Primary School which was a great experience! Since then we've seen many of these former year 6 pupils join us in our secondary school lunch clubs as new year 7's at Bushfield Academy and The King's School.

My Gap Year has come to an end, but I am entering a new chapter whilst remaining as part of the CROPS team. In September I started a degree at Ridley Hall in Cambridge studying to gain a BA Hons in Theology, Mission and Ministry with a Youth Ministry specialism. This requires a practical placement and I'm excited to say I'm remaining with CROPS for half of my placement hours, with the other half being at my home church, Werrington Parish Church. All in all, I'm really looking forward to the next 3 years and seeing all that God has prepared for us at CROPS!



Peter Rosbrook

Gap Year Student

It's been great being part of CROPS this term and marvellous to see what happens behind the scenes when planning for Letton Hall. Letton was a fun and enjoyable experience for the young people and leaders who attended; where there is a will, there is a way if God allows it. It's always a privilege serving God in such a useful way for the youth of Peterborough.

We have continued hot chocolate club at Bushfield Academy seeing a rapid increase in numbers, with students eager to be there. Another lunchtime club is **Park Up** at The King's School, for that the numbers have been consistently high with the students genuinely enjoying themselves also playing card games together, board games, and not forgetting the persistent enthusiasm for the Wii.

I've also enjoyed helping Rachel Jessup with collective worship in primary schools around Peterborough. Recently we have been to St Michael's, and St John's, covering the story of David and Goliath, and how King Saul was exceedingly jealous of David due to his many gifts. The message was about being grateful for how God has made us and that we cannot grow as people if we wallow in jealousy.

So far, I have had a great time and am looking forward to how the rest of the year will turn out.



Ezra Upton

Volunteer Schools worker

Hey there, my name is Ezra. I am a volunteer schools worker here at CROPS. This term has been so amazing as I have been able to form new relationships with the CROPS Crew. I have also seen young people grow and develop as the term has gone on. So, as we finish one term and head into the next, I look forward to seeing so many young people further develop in who they are, and in their knowledge and understanding of God. **BRING ON THE NEXT TERM!!**

About cros

CROPS (Christian Options in Peterborough Schools) are a charity unique to Peterborough and were set up by local churches in 1989 as a Christian education charity to work in schools. CROPS aims to help children and young people gain an understanding of the Christian Faith and its relevance to our lives today. In its work in schools, CROPS also support the needs of young people pastorally through a mentoring project and lunchtime clubs, developing the whole individual.

CROPS provide a wide range of resources to primary and secondary schools through assemblies, lunch-clubs, curriculum input for Religious Education, chaplaincy work, special 'off-timetable' projects, and targeted pastoral support in liaison with school pastoral teams. In addition to this, CROPS support local youth workers and youth work in churches through events like 'The Point' and the 'Letton Houseparty' as well as running a Gap Year programme for school leavers. CROPS continue to be funded by churches and Christian individuals, seeking to work in partnership with local Churches and other organisations.



Primary Schools Work

With Rachel Jessup

Bringing the Bible to life in the summer term!

'Did this really happen?' – a Yr. 6 questioned as I taught some of the storyline of the Old Testament. Bible stories can easily seem as if they belong in another world or just in a book so it was great to be able to talk about which books in the Bible are written as History books and the different types of writing and poetry that can also be found in there. The summer term was an exciting mix of Old and New Testament lessons for Eye Primary School and also Walk Through the Bible lessons at Farcet C.E. Primary. We took acts of collective worship at **Heltwate Special School, St Georges, Stanground St John's, St Michael's and St Botolph's** as well as the 'It's Your Move' lessons for Yr. 6's.

It's Your Move

At each Primary school July always comes around, seeing a whole cohort of children, most who have been in that school since the age of 4, leave this stage of their school life and make that intrepid step up to Secondary School. June and July for CROPS were once again filled with many bookings in local Primary Schools to deliver our ever popular It's Your Move lesson with children in year 6 who know that after that long summer break, it's no going back! We have had another successful year of delivering these lessons to Primary schools in the Peterborough area taking It's Your



Move into 17 Primary Schools. The schools we visited this year were: Folksworth, St Botolph's, St John's Goldhay, Eye, Farcet, Stanground St John's, All Saint's, The Beeches, Stilton, Newborough, William Law, Welbourne, Werrington Primary, Southfields, St Augustine's, Holme, Braybrook.

Hampton Hargate

Great questions and a fantastic hour of discovery took place at **Hampton Hargate Primary** when 180 children aged 9-11 started their topic on 'Why do some people think Jesus is an Inspirational leader?' Rachel was very pleased that Amy Charlton was able to come with her, not only so that she could get to see and photograph some of the Primary schools work that goes on but also because the laptop was set up at the far

side of the hall and really needed someone over there to move forward the PowerPoint! Starting from the children's own experience of role-models and what they thought an inspirational leader might be like we re-enacted various Bible stories and explored how Jesus not only showed amazing communication skills and vision for those he led but also how he made a way for others to be forgiven and have their lives transformed. Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension made his example so much more than that of a great human.

Walk Through The Bible Lessons

Rachel and Richard both taught Walk Through the Bible at **Stilton Primary School** in September and October. Richard taught OT Mini to the Yr. 5's (9/10 year olds) and Rachel taught NT Mini to the Yr. 6's

“I just wanted to say a huge thank you for your visit on Tuesday, the children thoroughly enjoyed it and were really engaged.”

(10/11 year olds). Melissa Payne was able to watch Richard's lessons and was so inspired that she chose to be trained to teach OT Mini herself in November and has already begun to book her own schools in for after Christmas, she will be a great addition to our team!

Since then both Richard and Rachel have been co-presenting three days of lessons at William Law in November and December as they taught 90 children the storyline of the Old Testament of the Bible. It's very encouraging to hear the children's comments e.g.: 'thank you for the lovely lesson. I really love these RE lessons.'

As mentioned, we had the challenge of running the **William Law** lessons back to back on the same day for the different year 6 classes in order to help them deliver RE Christianity every other week in a concentrated way! We have risen to the challenge and this has been of great benefit to the school (even if we prefer our normal delivery mode!). If you are interested in joining the team (even two hours a week for 5 weeks can deliver an overview of the Old Testament of the Bible to a class of Yr. 5 or 6 pupils) then get in touch and we can let you know about training. Or if you just want to chat about how it works or what it might entail Rachel will be happy to meet up with you or give you a ring. Her email is: rachel.jessup@crops.org.uk

Heart for Children Network

A few months ago I had an 'Elijah' moment - no not the victorious Mount Carmel moment when God proved that He was the one true God to the people - the moment 40 days later when a worn out Elijah complained to God about how he felt like he was on his own serving God. In the still, small voice on the mountain God gently told Elijah that there were actually 7000 others who were also faithfully serving Him in Israel, he



was not alone. I wonder if you have felt overwhelmed and a bit out on your own with your work with children in your Church or local school? Or maybe you have a great team who you work with and have lots of great ideas to share. Maybe you are the one who encourages others and holds them up in prayer. Maybe, like me, you would like to get more of God's perspective as He sees the thousands of faithful across Peterborough with a heart for children.

As a volunteer for CROPS offering resources, assemblies and lessons to the Primary Schools of Peterborough I've realised that I am in the unique position to get a Big Picture of what is happening in the city. I would like to invite you and anyone you know with a real 'Heart for Children' in the Peterborough area to be part of a 'Heart for Children Network'. This would involve meeting up two or three times a year, praying together for the children of Peterborough and each other, sharing great resources that we have used/created or found on-line, hearing each other's vision for the children we work with and being united in our desire to see God at work.

If you are interested in being part of this network or just in the loop on the e-mail correspondence so you know what's happening, please email Rachel.

The first meeting was held in September, at the CROPS office above the Christian Bookshop where we have a resources library. If you have never discovered what we have stored up ready to share and lend out why not come and visit? Due to the large amount of schools work we do it is safer to let us know in advance when you might drop in, so we are here to welcome you!

Resource, Revive, Renew...

Our CROPS 'Goliath' has always been a big hit with a long line of David's enjoying the chance to take aim with a paper ball missile to see if they could duplicate the great victory in the Bible. The children have always been amazed to see how tall Goliath actually was, based on the Bible's measurements so I was concerned that the cardboard wasn't going to survive much longer at the joins, having been patched up for many years and taken into many schools. When I heard Ethan had just done an 'A' Level in art before coming to CROPS I suggested that we make a fabric version of Goliath that could be just as big but carried easily and still have the same great impact. Now Ethan has completed the project and Goliath is ready to go once again to help children re-enact God's victory through his trusting servant David!

■ Words by Rachel Jessup

Letton Hall HOUSEPARTY

Our theme for this October's Letton Hall Houseparty was 'Inside Out'. The teaching was superbly delivered by Dan Randall in the main sessions. Dan is the National Youth Director for HOPE and is also Youth Pastor at Life-church in Lancashire.

Dan's talks focussed on how we are transformed from the inside out when we encounter Jesus. In these sessions we delved into the Apostle Paul's teachings in the book of Philippians 2; a bit like a spiritual make over. Each night Dan focussed on a different verse from Philippians 2:1-15, exploring the ways in which our hearts and minds are transformed by him. The first night Dan introduced us to 'Transformation' asking the question: what is it and why do we need to be transformed? based in Philippians 2:1, with the challenge that grace enables us to live a life for Jesus. On the second night Dan started to unpack transformation further – focussing on how transformation is Jesus

centred. We moved through to the third night to think about the process of transformation, thinking about our character. For example, valuing humility, putting other people's interests above our own, striving for a character similar to that of Jesus which rubs off on us when we spend time with him. A really challenging part was 'the self-discipline' element of what Paul was encouraging the Philippian believers – the 'responsive obedience' to Jesus. Dan encouraged us to think about those who we spend our time with and their influence in our lives, are they helping us to become more like Jesus? Then on the final day Dan helped us to unpack 'Bringing Transformation' – living a life in which we can become evangelists in our own right, bringing Jesus' transformation to others around us.

Leaders ran seminars to discuss issues and topics the young people might be pondering. These included: *Where is the love?* (Black eyed peas reference) and *Friends – I'll be there for you* (remembering



the sitcom). The "Where is the love?" seminar gave advice on relationships in a Christian context, while *Friends – I'll be there for you* gave insight into what makes a good friend and how we can be there for people without giving too much or too little of ourselves. We also had seminars on themes such as *What does God think about my body?* Discussing what is actually important to God when concerning our physical appearance, as well as the seminar "It's ok to not be ok" discussing how Christians can suffer with mental health issues and what practical help and support there is.

When it came to activity workshops, we had lots of fresh ideas. This October saw the debut of a *Domino Rally* workshop led by Matt, and Sarah's *Escape Room*, which turned out to be very popular among the youth. There was also *Foot Golf* with Chedz and Daniel outside, a *Drama* workshop which the youth got creative with and spontaneously created some entertaining scenes and scenarios.

As it was October, the Tuesday night entertainment was the bonfire. The junior leaders served hot chocolate, and of course there was singing accompanied by an acoustic guitar around a nice hot fire under the stars! As per usual the talent show was filled with acts which were top notch. Every year we encourage the youth to do whatever they wish to perform to everyone attending Letton, from musical masterpieces to juggling and maybe the odd comedy





sketch. However, we do encourage that the performances aren't all musical related, but the attendees are a very musical bunch so what can you do. This year we had some delightful piano pieces including the theme to the BBC Sherlock Holmes series, a heavy metal medley, a parody video of Granny (current popular mobile phone game). It's always great to see the youth get to perform in such an encouraging environment. A superb evening lead by our two excellent hosts Sarah and Alastair.

Each Letton we have some time set aside for the Go-Karting sessions. It's always one of the most exciting activities that any Lettoner can have a go at, regardless of whether it is your first, or your twelfth time doing it! With this in mind we always in our list of Letton awards presented at the end of the week, have nominations for the 'Karting King' and 'Karting Queen', awarded to those who displayed good skills around the track. On the two full days the Lettoners have a few

hours of free time in the afternoon to socialise and build friendships, whether that is through having fun playing football, Viking Cub or going for a walk around the grounds. During this time, it is customary to chill and do what you feel like as long as it is safe and sensible. On the final night we have the themed dinner, by which the theme this time was 'The Letton Zoo'. We had some Zookeepers, homemade costumes along with lots of cosy animal onesies. The junior leaders also

made the dining room look great for when we all got to tuck into a delicious roast dinner.

We are so thankful for the help the leaders volunteered for these few days away, along with everyone who made Letton possible as well as a huge thank you for the support of the Letton Hall staff. We cannot forget the effort Hayley and Trina put into cooking the delicious food that everyone enjoyed, making sure that anyone with dietary requirements was catered for properly as well. Dan Randall gave some excellent talks during the main sessions and was an absolute pleasure to have with us this Letton. Our prayer is that the young people that attended can really treasure the talks Dan gave and put into practice what the Bible illustrates for us to live a life obedient to God no matter how small or how great the transformation within their hearts and minds is. This Letton has been so wonderful and we couldn't do it, not only without the excellent support we get from everyone working behind the scenes to make it such a memorable experience, but we are also so thankful for all the young people that could attend this time around. Our prayer is that they would continue to stay together as one giant loving community (or family you could say).

■ Words by Peter Rosbrook





Secondary Schools Work

Lunchtime clubs

We continue to run our weekly lunchtime opportunities for students at **Peterborough Regional College (PRC), Ormiston Bushfield** and **The King's School**. You have heard from some of the team updates earlier that the latter have seen high attendance. Our bigger schools team this year means we can do more in terms of relational work and conversation, and not be stretched. At PRC we have taken a more detached role this term spending time in the social spaces that students inhabit during breaks. This is 'slower-burn' work, but we are making new connections. Please do pray that we can continue to build those smaller but valid and real connections with students through our chaplaincy role in the college.

Breathe at Ken Stimpson Community School

What better way to start your time at Secondary School! On the 9th & 10th September CROPS led Breathe for every new Year 7 student starting at Ken Stimpson! The school were keen to provide

a space in which students might consider their values and explore spiritual questions. We were overwhelmed with positive comments from the staff sitting in, with the Principal and Vice-Principal also personally coming down to see the resource in action. Breathe was also the main feature of the school's community news update that week! Bryan Erwin, Principal said that Breathe was: 'A powerful way to stop and reflect on key aspects of their lives. In the busy lives that they lead, the ability for the students to do this was invaluable.' During the day a student commented: 'before I did this, I would have said I didn't believe in anything, but this has made me question that today.' At CROPS we love delivering Breathe and remain inspired by how the resource continues to give young people the opportunity to reassess concepts and beliefs that may have been previously held, (or not) or brushed aside.

Breathe at Hampton Gardens

At the end of November CROPS were invited to take part in a

collapsed timetable day for Year 8 students. Leading five sessions across the day, 150 students had time out to reflect on the bigger questions of life. Responses from the students about what they took away from the experience ranged from things like: 'Working out where God is in my life.' to 'I questioned who I really was deep down, and what my dreams were and how I want to live my life.' On the station that explores the theme of suffering one student said: 'reading and seeing all those sad stories was very emotional, however the fact they still believed in God was heart-warming.' Please continue to pray for further opportunities to run Breathe in schools in 2020.

Lily Jo Project Visits Peterborough

In September we hosted the visit of the Lily Jo Project to three secondary schools: **The Peterborough School, Stanground Academy** and **Nene Park Academy**. Lily-Jo and Moses from the Lily Jo Project led lesson-presentations on the subject of mental health with a strong Christian foundation underpinning the songs and values communicated. Staff and students were visibly moved during the sessions and many wanted to talk further after the lessons. Kevin

“I questioned who I really was deep down, and what my dreams were and how I want to live my life.”

Hartley from Nene Park Academy said: “Lily-Jo delivered very powerful and inspiring workshops, and our students loved the way the music and songs supported her powerful message. The materials were pitched appropriately, and the team took the time to speak with individuals, offering support and guidance in a sensitive manner. A great day and we would happily welcome Lily-Jo back to NPA.” Lily Jo will return to Peterborough in 2020, so watch this space.

Assemblies

In June Matt took a series of assemblies at **Nene Park Academy** using the **Mary Poppins Returns** film to think about light and dark, and about what we can do when we feel as though we're lost. Listening to the song of the lamplighters in the film we discovered that whenever there is light there is no darkness, that when we are lost, we should look for some light to show us the way. We referenced Jesus words about being the light of the world and about walking in the light and helping others who feel lost and confused.

Also, in June, Matt spoke in the whole school assembly at **The King's School** on the theme of



reconciliation. He used Nelson Mandela's story of choosing not to stay a prisoner to hate. By Mandela choosing forgiveness we noted that the Bible agrees with Mandela that 'revenge doesn't work out well for anyone', that there's another, better way, the way of reconciliation. Using Paul's words in Roman's 12 we reflected on 'not letting evil conquer us, but to conquer evil with good'.

In September Matt delivered a week of assemblies at **Nene Park Academy**. In this assembly we used a clip from the film **The Greatest Showman** to

explore finding contentment and happiness using the journey of the central character, P. T. Barnum. We tied in Jesus' words in Matthew 6 and talked about how seeking God is more important than seeking wealth, and how seeking God's kingdom means living fairly and treating other people well, looking after the world, and sharing what we have with those who need help. We had just been in school with **The Lily Jo Project** the week before, so this was a good follow on to that event.

In the final week of November Matt led another whole school assembly at **The King's School**, on the theme of Christ the King, focussing on what Christ's humble beginnings said about the kind of King he was. The CROPS team have also continued to lead voluntary worship opportunities at King's in November (remembrance themed), and in December, thinking about the meaning of Christmas using the film, **The Man Who Invented Christmas**. All in all, it has been a busy time, especially this term for assemblies, and we are glad to say they have been well received. Please pray for continued open doors to this part of our work in schools.



With Chris Wild

“I first found out when the police knocked on my door”, “How did that make you feel?”, “oh it was fine, I’ve grown up with the police knocking on my door, so it’s pretty normal now”. This recent conversation at a local school has kept coming back to me this term. The more thought I have given it the more it echo’s regular mentoring conversations about what is ‘normal life’ for some of the students we meet. ‘I’ve been bullied for so long now that it just seems normal’, ‘It’s always like this at school, I don’t even think about it anymore’. There’s a ‘new normal’. There seems to be a resignation that how things are is how they will always be, that change is unlikely so not worth considering. Many students seem to have given up hope of things ever changing. ‘Building resilience’ is a common place phrase in our local schools and is a big part of our mentoring conversations, but the opportunity to hope, dream, plan or even just consider the future being different can be a massive part of what makes mentoring so meaningful. The nature of mentoring in schools



means we can’t always share some of the fantastic stories that have taken place, but it has been so encouraging to hear stories this term of students having a new hope for the future, of seeing life in a different way, of moving on from their mentoring with a plan and a determination to bring about change in their lives.

One of our mentors had been meeting a student who was feeling that life wouldn’t change. A combination of school pressures, friendship issues and struggling to communicate honestly with parents about how they felt about home life, had led them to self-destructive ways of coping. The combination of issues had pushed them to the edge. Having time with a mentor helped them separate and unpick the issues one by one. It gave the student some perspective on the situation and the confidence to communicate

honestly and respectfully with parents about how they had been feeling. The mentor helped them to see their issues from other’s perspective which opened up a whole new way of seeing their various situations. The student has recently reported that they no longer feel they need mentoring, they are feeling happier, more confident and communication has improved at home.

It’s been great to welcome on board **Hampton Gardens** as our newest school to partner with. This time we were able to get stuck straight in and were mentoring in the school the following week after meeting with them. This means we are now mentoring in **14 secondary schools** and have a team of 26 mentors.

We are now holding around 1500 mentoring sessions each year with young people in local schools who are facing difficult times. It’s hard to describe what an impact that this amazing group of volunteers is having on the young people in our city, their dedication, compassion and care for the young people of Peterborough is such an encouragement to the CROPS team, please do continue to pray for them.

■ Words by Chris Wild



THE POINT

CITY-WIDE YOUTH EVENT

It's been another fantastic term for us at The Point.

The Point has been going from strength to strength over the past 7 months! With numbers consistently in the high 50's to low 60's, it's been great to see God work in the lives of young people from Peterborough and beyond.

Since April, we've had a great range of speakers including friends returning and new. All of whom continued and explored our ongoing "I AM" series.

April to June saw Hannah Fytche, Holly Smith and our very own Chedz (Chris) Wild speak at The Point. Hannah delivered her talk "I AM: Rooted" in April. She explored what it is to be rooted in Christ and how we are rooted in his love. May saw Holly, looked at being hidden in Christ, how our identity lies in Christ in her talk, "I AM: Hidden". Chedz delivered a great talk on prayer in June, "I AM: Connected". He unpacked some of the struggles we can face when building a consistent and disciplined prayer life. In this he offered some key tips as to how we can be better connected with God through prayer.

July and September saw the return of two great friends of CROPS. In July former gapper



Matt Forsyth spoke on "I AM: A Masterpiece" looking at how we are God's greatest work. He explored what it meant to be God's masterpiece, encouraging the young people to fulfil their role of sharing who we are, God's Masterpiece. Newton Kibiringi, is Youth Worker at Werrington Parish Church and a member of The Point team. In September he looked at "I AM: Church" unpacking how we as followers of Jesus are the church and the importance of community within our faith.

In October we had Daniel Beckett, Youth & Children's Pastor at Godmanchester Baptist. In his talk "I AM: Living God's Way" he explored how hard it can be for us to live God's way with all the pressure and busyness of modern life. He used a film clip from Disney's UP to explore Jesus' calling on his life, to live a great adventure with him. Finally, in November we had one of our amazing young people, Alistair Mortimer spoke on the theme "I AM: Designed with a Purpose". He explored how God has designed each of us with purpose, a purpose to fulfil.

After a year of talks our "I AM" series will be wrapped up at The Point in December with one of new volunteer's, Ezra Upton, as the guest speaker.

In January we will start a new teaching series entitled "He Said This" which will look at and unpack, the words Jesus said during his 'Sermon On The Mount'.

If you are interested in bringing any young people to The Point, we have printed flyers available with all the dates for the 2019/20 academic year. You can also download this from our website, or you can get in touch if you like us to send you some. If you have any questions about The Point please contact us, we would love to see you there.

■ Words by Ethan Smith



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And thereafter every month until further notice and debit my account accordingly.

Name of account-holder to be debited	<input type="text"/>	Signature	<input type="text"/>
Account Number	<input type="text"/>	Name	<input type="text"/>
Sort Code	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>

Please Return this mandate to CROPS, 68A Westgate, Peterborough, PE1 1RG

CROPS is a Charity Incorporated Organisation: Registered No. 1157651

DATA PROTECTION: We will hold your details to process your donation and keep you up to date on CROPS work and how you are helping to support our work. We will not, under any circumstances, share or sell your personal data with any third party for marketing purposes. You can opt out of communications by emailing **hello@crops.org.uk** or by writing to us at the above address.