Youth Ministry APCM Report 2025-2026

Alex Townsend, James Chapman & David Townsend – Senior Youth Leaders










The vision of St Tim's Youth ministry is to:

- **Be centred on God, rooted in his Word and led by his Spirit.**
- **Support each other as a true family who grow in faith together.**
- **Shine brightly for Jesus as we serve the Church and help build God's Kingdom.**

This vision forms the foundation for everything that we do as a youth ministry and gives us clear purpose and direction in our mission to help young people from across the city come to know Jesus and grow to become disciples who make disciples.

Once again, it has been another incredibly busy but exciting year for St Tim's Youth! Our weekly youth clubs continue to thrive with just under 30 youth regularly attending across the week. And crucially every single one of these young people are regularly hearing the Gospel. We have been very blessed with two highly successful weekends away at Thornbridge Outdoors with our younger youth and a great weekend away at Center Parcs with our older youth. Our partnership with the Sheffield Youth Hub continues to thrive and there are more opportunities than ever before for our youth to grow in faith. God continues to bless us more than we could have ever hoped, and he also continues to amaze and encourage us each day. Ultimately, this is his youth

group and this is his Church, and it is an incredible privilege to partner with him in helping young people to discover the love of God for themselves and grow to become enthusiastic followers of Jesus.

Quest

Quest is our midweek provision for younger youth and for some time has been our 'flagship' youth group, catering mainly for the Y6 – Y8 age group. As with any year, we have had a few young people leave, but we have also had new young people join us, and we have continued to be really blessed by God with the numbers who regularly engage with this group. There are around 18 young people attending this group on a regular basis, with a mixture of youth who attend St. Tim's, The Vine, or no church at all, alongside a strong number of leaders involved. The evenings generally start with some free time with the tuck shop, following which we do a mixture of activities for the remainder of the evening. This can involve Bible studies, faith-based activities, drama, games nights or films.

Recently we have completed the Youth Alpha course and also made crafts and cards to help out for donations with local charities. We also ran the Hope Café back in June to raise money for Roundabout youth homeless charity and will be doing the same again this year.

We also do an off-site social every half-term; the trips are very popular and are good opportunities for youth to invite their friends along, such as bowling or laser quest. We're really pleased that most of the group were able to join us for our Thornbridge residential in April, which gave the young people a great opportunity to spend more time learning about and meeting with God.

Following our recent Thornbridge residential, we have decided to change the time and day of Quest to Thursdays, 5:15-6:45. This is mainly due to leader availability, but it does sadly mean that some of our young people will no longer be able to attend, at least for the moment. Whilst we hope they will be able to join us for other events, we are pleased that some youth who previously could not come to Quest can now attend. We very much hope that this group will continue to go from strength to strength in the year ahead.

Venture

Venture is a Wednesday evening group for youth from Year 9 to Year 11. These youth are on different points in their faith journeys with some simply exploring the idea of faith and others being committed Christians. At each session we tend to start with some free time then some more structured games before moving into a time of Bible study. We have also had some socials, including games nights and meals out.

We began this group before the summer of 2024 with some of the youth who had previously been in Quest, our younger youth group. We aim to have a more mature vibe which allows us to go deeper into questions of faith as well. We have tried to make the topics we have looked at accessible and relevant to the youth, for example, looking at social media, image, and friendships through the lens of following Jesus.

We had a few youth leave, unfortunately, after coming back from the summer, though we have also seen new members and the numbers are now fairly consistent. We are excited to see these young people grow in their faith and come to know the amazing love of God for themselves. We

are blessed by God to have the opportunity to help these young people explore what it means to have a relationship with Christ and what that might look like in their daily lives.

Connect

Connect was previously a group for the Year 12 and Year 13 youth which ran on Sunday evening after the Harbour. Unfortunately, all of the youth who would now be in Year 12 or Year 13 have left the youth group. We have now relaunched the Connect as a monthly (soon to be fortnightly) group, open to our Y9-Y11 youth, which still happens on Sunday evening after the Harbour but as a follow on from the Harbour, rather than as a separate group. This is so that youth who come actually attend the service and then we talk about the sermon and the service afterwards, with some pizza and drinks!

A few of our youth have come so far and we are encouraging more of our youth to come, in order to help them engage with church and the wider St Tim's family

Impact

Impact takes place during the 'young people' slot in services on Sunday mornings (except second Sunday) and is for our youth in Y6 – Y9, with those who are older remaining in the service. Impact has been a consistent feature in St Tim's youth over the years. We are really grateful for the wide number of youth we have between all of our different groups; however many are from families who are don't attend St Tim's on a regular basis, so Impact has grown and waned over the years depending of the number of young people attending church. We are really keen to get all our young people plugged into church, so we're grateful to God that over this year we have consistently seen healthy numbers of our young people attending Impact and church each week – from around 6 to 10 people.

We tend to start with a bit of breakfast and fellowship – this has really helped create a good 'family' feel in the group and our youth feedback that this is a great factor in their enjoyment! We then tend to do a Bible study and discussion, looking at themes, how this can relate to their life, and recently introduced a 'response' time to enable them to think about God on a personal level in a more creative way. We pray at the end of each session and give the youth opportunity to bring anything on their hearts to God in prayer at this point.

Our 'youth corner' (the space towards the back of church by the Font) has been ongoing throughout the year, so we can sit together and encourage them to engage in meeting God alongside their friends. This has been really popular with our youth and we often find they have set up the area before we have even arrived!

Youth Hub

We have continued to host the Sheffield Youth Hub at St Tim's this year, and although it hasn't grown numerically as much as we may have hoped, it continues to draw in between 30 and 40 youth from across the city to worship God. This year we have had more youth involved in upfront roles and it has been really encouraging and inspiring to hear testimonies from young people. At the most recent hub event we devoted some time to pray for schools across Sheffield and it was very moving to see the prayers for each school that the youth wrote. Our next youth hub event is a particularly special one as we have the Archbishop of York joining us at St Tim's on Saturday 9th

May! It has been one of the highlights of our year to work with the Sheffield Youth Hub and experience 6 great nights of worship and testimony. We are excited to see where God is going to take this event in the year ahead.

Catalyst

Catalyst was a group for our previous older youth who wanted to go deeper in their faith and be equipped as leaders. As most of the members of this group have now turned 20, it has come to a natural end, although we have been greatly encouraged to hear how much God has been at work in the lives of our former Catalyst members and always enjoy opportunities to catch up with each other during the holidays.

In December we relaunched Catalyst as part of the Sheffield Youth Hub, retaining the young leaders ethos and opening it up to youth from across Sheffield. We now have 10 regular members from 4 different Churches who meet monthly at St Tim's to help plan and shape the Sheffield Youth Hub and be equipped in their leadership gifts. Several members of this group have shared testimonies at the hub events and will be interviewing the Archbishop when he comes to St Tim's in May. We have been hugely encouraged by our new Catalyst youth and have been inspired by their passion for seeing their friends come to know Jesus. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for this group next.

Thornbridge

We have just returned from our second Thornbridge trip of the past 12 months, with the previous one being in May 2025. Thornbridge has been a staple in our youth programme since 2016, where every year we have taken youth away to have lots of fun, fellowship and most importantly meet with God – well over 150 different young people have attended these trips over the years. We had 23 youth at both our recent Thornbridge trips, and both trips followed the same format that we have implemented with great success over a number of years.

On the Friday night we opened with a shorter session to introduce the weekend and give the youth opportunity to reflect where they currently are in their faith journeys. We then had lots of fun with our 'Capture the Flag' wide game! The Saturday saw a busy day full of activities, followed by a BBQ and then we entered the evening for a longer session, including worship, talk and discussion time. The Saturday evening finished with another wide game, this time 'Jailbreak' and hot chocolate before bed. The Sunday morning, we saw our final session with a similar format, as well as a testimony and 'response time' opportunity. This is always encouraging as we see a number of youth who express a desire to draw closer to God. The weekends finished with a lovely walk down the Monsal trial to Hassop Café for lunch.

We're very grateful to the church to supporting this residential financially and in prayer. It is at these residentials where we have really been able to spend time with our youth and help nurture them in their faith, and it cannot be overstated how important they are, and historically have been, in seeing our young people making significant steps forward in faith, or bringing those on the fringes back into the group.

Center Parcs

In October half-term last year, we took 6 of the Venture age youth to a residential at Center Parcs. We have done a number of residential trips to Center Parcs with our previous older youth, but this was a significantly smaller number than we had taken away before. Despite this, the trip was a huge success; spending an extended time together allowed us to build on our relationships with the youth and strengthen the community of Venture as well give the youth time to explore their faith in greater depth.

We had extended times of worship and discussion and a lot of fun as a group together. Amazingly, all of the youth said they wanted to go deeper in their faith at the end of the trip which was a tremendous encouragement and a real blessing from the Lord.

Youth Minister Summary & Leaders Update

We are so blessed at St Tim's to have an outstanding youth leadership team, and it goes without saying that none of what we do would be possible without the dedication of the youth leaders who volunteer so much of their time every week to put on a fantastic and engaging youth provision for our young people. Youth work can be very intense at times, but having such a great team that supports and upholds each other through it all is such a wonderful encouragement. We have a lot of fun together as a team as we try to model the sense of family that we want for our young people, and sharing in the experience of doing ministry together has changed us all for the better.

In September I began a new role with the Diocese as the Sheffield Youth Hub Co-ordinator, working 5 hours per week. Whilst this new role is very exciting and benefits both our youth ministry and wider Church, it has meant that I have had to reduce my paid hours at St Tim's from 8 to 6 per week. I am very grateful to our amazing team of youth leaders who have worked hard to ensure that our provision is not affected by my slightly reduced hours, particularly James and David who continue to oversee the youth ministry with me and contribute significantly to the strategic direction and planning at our weekly senior leadership team meetings at Saigon 68!

This year James has taken on additional responsibilities and training which will enable him to be 'authorised' as a Youth Minister by the Diocese in the coming months, making his role as 'Associate Youth Minister' official! He has often deputised as Youth Minister when I have not be there and has also supported me in the leadership of the Sheffield Youth Hub and Catalyst young leaders group. On behalf of the team, I would like to thank James for all the time and effort he has put into both the youth ministry and his training, which will help to significantly enhance our youth provision going forward.

This year Ian Johnnson has been a huge support with our Connect group, but as the group came to a natural close before we recently relaunched it, he has decided to step back from regular youth work. He has, however, agreed to remain on the wider team as an associate youth leader who can support with events when needed. For the past 9 months we have been without Helen as she has been on maternity to leave. In her absence we are grateful to Lizzie Makin, Emily Hoyland and Jackie Thiselton for supporting with Venture, especially Jackie who accompanied us on our Venture trip to Center Parcs. We have also appointed Simon Kay as an associate youth leader to support with our annual Thornbridge trips. He has already brought a great deal to the role and has enhanced the trip significantly, not least through his walkie talkies which have been a great hit! After a fantastic year as our intern and then a brief spell as a youth leader, Tom Anderson has sadly stepped back due to starting an exciting new job at a Christian activity centre in Devon. Whilst he is missed by both the youth and leaders, we are excited to hear how God is using him 'down south'.

As well as thanking the whole team of youth leaders for all that they have done for our young people over the past twelve months, I would also like to thank Di Rogers and David Cope who have taken on the youth line management during the vacancy. They have been kept very busy by supporting us through a number of challenges over the past few months (!) and I have been very grateful for the wisdom and encouragement that they have shown to me personally and to the wider team.

And so ends another youth APCM Report and another year for St Tim's Youth! It's fair to say that Youth ministry has its ups and downs, but as we look back on the past twelve months, we feel so incredibly blessed by all that God has been doing. Our young people are truly amazing and have exceeded even our most ambitious expectations. To see first-hand all that God has been doing in their lives has been such a great privilege. We give thanks for God for all that he is done, not least through the Sheffield Youth Hub which continues to excite us with its potential to reach young people across the city with the Gospel.

Thank you also to everyone who supports and prays for us, without prayer we could do nothing. Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain, and we are so grateful for the continuous prayer that has gone into our youth ministry – it has made all the difference. The youth prayer WhatsApp group is also such a great encouragement to us as a team, and it means so much to the youth to know that so many of their Church family at St Tim's are praying for them. If you interested in praying for the youth ministry and are not part of this group then do let us know if you would like to be added. Please continue to pray for an anointing of God's Spirit on this generation, that the light of Christ will shine brightly through them as they step out in faith for his Kingdom and lead others to discover the life-transforming power of a personal relationship with Jesus.

Senior Leadership Team: Alex Townsend (Youth Minister), James Chapman (Associate Youth Minister) & David Townsend (Senior Youth Leader)

Core Leadership Team: Alex Townsend, James Chapman, David Townsend, Vicki Neath, Helen Wigglesworth, Colin Taylor, Jen Ryder & Lizzie Makin

Associate Youth Leaders: Jackie Thiselton, Simon Kay, Kate Rogers-Kay, Emily Hoyland & Peter Wigglesworth