

**Nathan Youlton - Sports Minister**

Nathan.youlton@psalms.uk.net

M: 07875681130

<https://psalms.uk.net/>



**2020-21  
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## Dates for the Diary

### Sept

28th Oct—Club Pulse

### Oct

10th Oct—PLA Day

25th Oct—Beacon Praise

29th Oct—Take10@TRAC

### Nov

TBC

### Dec

TBC

## Weekly Activities (Term Time)

### Mondays

Club Pulse

### Tuesdays

Croft Pulsar

ACTIVE RE Croft

### Wednesdays

Cranham Lunchtime Sports

### Thursdays

Messy Church

ACTIVE RE Croft

### Fridays

ACTIVE RE Cranham

### Sunday

Engine Room

Pizza & Prayer

## Minister's update

It's great to be back! After a long 4 months, I returned to work here in the beacon at the beginning of July. It's not a stretch to say that there isn't really any road map for the present or the future, but we trust in God that he will help us navigate the uncertain waters. God blessed us with creativity over the summer, where we were able to connect with young people which initially seemed impossible (Check out below). With 5 new team members starting with us, we are both excited and apprehensive about what the future holds, but it is clear, that God still is present in our community and has encouraged us with some stories already over the summer. We ask the Holy Spirit to go before us into the hearts and minds of others.

## Beacon Lunchclub

Upon return, one of the local church members spear-headed a potential new project of providing meals for children who were on pupil premium, meaning they would normally receive free school meals. IT was decided to offer a lunchclub to the Beacon families, incorporating social distanced sport at the Rec, run by myself with a free hot meal at the church rooms. We ran this every Weds and Fri during August, and was really well

received by the parents, with us at max of 15 kids in every session. It was encouraging for the church to be meeting a need in the community, and felt like a further step in connecting and building trust with local families. Each session had a biblical theme to it, and there was time for fun, art, questions and active reflection for all the children involved.



## Frisbee Golf

Realising that social distanced sport was a possible first step to connect physically with people again, we decided as a Team that we would great a resource that could be set up in local parks. This such resource was a 9 hole frisbee golf course.

Families signed up online for tee off times, and on a hot summers day we saw of 50 people, 35 of which were children come along and have a go. Before each hole there was an active reflection for the families to do with each other about their time in lockdown. Personally it was a great tool for connecting physical with people I hadn't seen in a long time.



## New Team

We are excited to have some new recruits, with one of them being our new intern Laura. Laura comes to the team after finishing her degree in Sports Coaching Science and Disability Sports from the University of Worcester as New Wine Discipleship Year Intern. Inspired by Romans 16:20, Laura is passionate about wanting to hold onto the hand of God continually to overcome any challenge, keeping running the race that God has in store for her.



## COVID – 19

As we all know the last few months have been unprecedented. The long-term effects upon all levels of society are currently unknown. Although COVID-19 has affected everyone to some degree the way that individual people and individual households will have experienced this time will vary significantly. This also means the challenges facing people over the next few months will vary considerably as we live with various restrictions and adapt to a 'new normal'.

During lockdown we experimented with various ways to stay connected and serve the young people, children and their families we normally work with. We experienced differing levels of success which is a story that is echoed nationally from many other charities needing to move their services online. One of our sayings as a staff team is that 'People are our purpose'. When you are faced with the reality of not being able to connect with people in the usual ways for such a long period of time it's entirely unsurprising that it's been a steep learning curve as we have adapted to a new style of ministry.

The summer months saw all our usual activities cancelled with the rare opportunity to start again completely from scratch. The growing sense of momentum and joy at connecting with people in communities again will be something that we need to build upon in the coming term. Evidently this always needs to be done with the safety of all involved paramount to any practical activity, but this should not deter us from following the Holy Spirits leading in this next stage. We continue to fix our eyes on Jesus as we journey through these times together seeking to point people towards Him as clearly as we can.

## Take10@TRAC Event

Even amongst the uncertainty of recent months, there's one thing that is certain to bring hope and joy and that's a young people's day out. Rounding off an eventful summer PSALMS has hosted two faith-adventure days for a total of 63 young people from across the Diocese combining the work of PSALMS and connected church youth provisions.

As the year has looked drastically different to normal, so did the highlight of the year for PSALMS sports ministry. Normally, the week long residential at TRAC (Tom Roberts Adventure Centre) brings together the consistent and intention work of PSALMS's groups in each of its partner areas to celebrate how God has worked through the year and go further into faith; this year the opportunity for a one day event was the clear way to ensure this highlight still managed to take place. Take10@TRAC providing a space to take a time out from the unclear to point towards the clear points of God's work.

The opportunity to explore Hebrews 13:8, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever', gave a wonderful opportunity for young people to process the last six months of lockdown, recognising where Christ has been at work in their lives during this time and reaffirming how He is with us each moment and will continue to be as they prepare to go back into schools. The day had a brilliant variety of activities, from reflection and campfire sessions to paddle boarding, archery and Pilates supported by whatSUP instructors and Kay Skinner Fitness.



The success of bringing together both PSALMS and Diocese wide contacts led to a wonderful day for the young people with highlights including the young people 'feeling cared for' in sessions that were 'constantly both reflective and practical fun sessions' and looking forward to the next opportunity to join in with their local PSALMS and Church groups, some of which were looking to go to their youth club for the first time after this event.



## Answers to prayer:

- Connections and relationships built with families in the area. The Lunchclub and frisbee golf opened up doors to mingle and interact with unknown as well as established families.
- Demand for PSALMS to continue work at both KS2 and KS3 ages. Higher demand from community than ever before

## Prayer requests:

- Club Pulse - We have no idea how many youth will return, and so pray they would be feel comfortable with coming back
- Churches - Specifically, for our local ministers who are trying to provide a place of worship amongst continuous restriction changes



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