

## Please pray for these things this term:

- ⇒ **Growth:** that the Christian Union, in particular, would grow in numbers and be a welcoming space for more students.
- ⇒ **Big Questions:** That the group would be launched successfully (and that my excitement is justified!) and students feel free to share their ideas in a safe space.
- ⇒ **Settling in:** That any new young people we encounter settle in well and are interested in coming back for more of what we have to offer. Also that I find my footing in my new role as Schools Worker!
- ⇒ **Direction:** For the trustees in the upcoming meetings and AGM as they discuss the future direction of the trust.

### Please allow me to properly introduce myself:

I'm Beth! I am the Hunsley Christian Youth Trust Schools Worker for 2017-18. Having formerly been the Gap Year Worker for two years running, I am thrilled the trust asked me to stay on for another year of adventure. Outside of being a youth worker, I have a couple of crazy hobbies. These include writing poetry, playing trombone and guitar (not at the same time!), and attending multiple different orchestras/bands throughout the week. I also love drinking tea and finding aesthetically pleasing Bible passages to put on my blog. It is a pleasure to meet you.

### Get in touch!

Got a message or a question? We'd love to hear from you! Find us by one of the links below.



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# Hunsley Christian Youth Trust



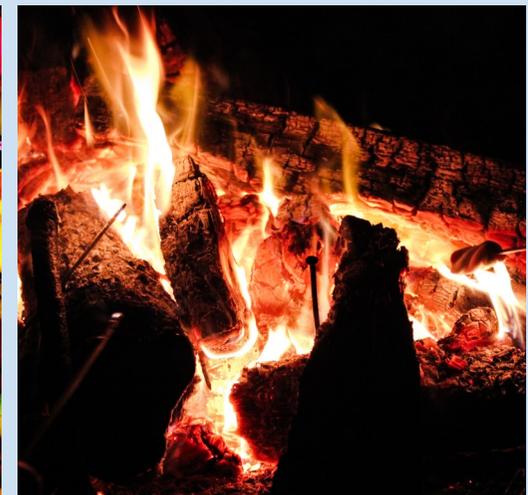
## Prayer and News Autumn 2017

Hello! There hasn't been an update from us for rather a long time, so this terms Prayer and News is mostly a recap of the last 18 months, written by yours truly, Beth Cooper.

### First of all, a highlight - Escapology

The first weekend of February half term saw the HCYT team, along with Phil and Andrea Simpson from Cherry Burton, take up their usual space at Snowball Plantation for a jam-packed Escape residential! The weekend was themed around escaping with God, and finding Him in new places, such as nature and words. Marshmallows were toasted on a blazing campfire, bedtime stories about pale green pants were told, and wide games involving rubber ducks were played in a field. The young people took photographs of God in nature, and retold Bible stories in the most dramatic ways they could think of. All in all, this residential was a hit, and at the end of the weekend some of the young people were already asking when the next one is!

Looking forward, there are currently no plans to hold an Escape residential in 2018 due to a lack of staff on the HCYT team.



## Saying Goodbye:

The HCYT team have said goodbye to a number of things over the past 18 months, including multiple groups and a couple of our team members! Two of those groups were ones that you prayed for regularly - Explore and Discover - which both started from open prayer spaces for students, and ended up running for 6 more years.

**Explore** had a core group of students who started attending the prayer space when they were in year 7, and continued to come together all the way to the end of sixth form. They popped along to eat lunch, play card games, and have a chat about where God is in the world! This group are all moving on to bigger, better things this year, and we wish them the very best.

**Discover** saw a larger age range of students coming through, and we tackled subjects such as big news items, who Jesus is and what the point in him coming was. This was a good group, however numbers were depleting last year, so it is not continuing.

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The other thing we said goodbye to, unfortunately, was **SPARK**. After running for 7 years and impacting a wide range of young people, the team felt it had run its course and it was time for a change. This was a really sad occasion - especially as I had also attended SPARK as a member of the youth band before ending up in charge of it! - but it leaves us with a blank canvas to start something fresh. SPARK had brilliant guest speakers, bizarre challenges, top tips, crazy YouTube videos, modern worship, and ended in style (as only SPARK could) with lots and lots of pizza.

I have, however, claimed the infamous SPARK question teapot for use in my youth group. Long live the question teapot!

So, we've got rid of all these things in the past year, do we *actually* still do anything?!

Well, you will be pleased to hear that, yes.

Yes, we do still do things.



## Big Questions: Things that make you go "hmm..."

This is a group that I am very excited about! I feel that, this year, it is time for us to do a group primarily focusing on the sixth formers. The sixth formers are reaching a stage in life where their eyes are being opened to both the wonders and the horrors of the world –they will be engaging politically and forming their opinions on big news topics. Have they considered where God fits into all of that? And, who is this God guy, anyway? Big Questions will launch this term! It will be held twice a week and is open to any sixth formers who wish to take part. The aim is to hold conversation-style debates in a relaxed setting, with a Christian input coming from myself, and give the sixth formers the chance to hear a range of opinions and ideas, and help widen their perspective on the world that surrounds them. **Big Questions** runs on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays, 12.30-1.30** in the **Meeting Room (Fish Bowl)** in the sixth form Common Room!

## Christian Union:

You will be pleased to hear I'm not cancelling every group! The Christian Union still runs on a **Wednesday, 3.35-4.35**, in **HG3** at South Hunsley. We are kicking off the year looking at the nature of God! Students of any age are invited to come along to make friends, do some Bible studies, play games, and even have a free biscuit (if you're nice).

## Youth Group:

I still run a youth group in Brough on a Tuesday evening, The group really took off last year and has been continuing to grow in numbers! Having learned about Encounters with Jesus and various women of the Bible last year, we are stripping it back to basics and starting this year looking at the fundamentals of faith. I am looking forward to exploring life with our new members. Welcome to the group!