

Hey Everyone,

It's been a while since I last wrote; I will probably have trouble fitting it all into to something interesting for you! I hope that the winter/spring term has been treating you well. We've found it to be a really tough time; it has seemed to drag a lot. On the more positive side of things, there have been lots of work flowing in and loads of great opportunities to get the morals of Jesus into schools.

Since we got back from Christmas break, which seems like an absolute age, the schools work has really kicked off. Most recently I have been with a team of 4 others who teach Year 9 and 10 about relationships, sex and STIs including HIV/AIDS. We take the classes in pairs and now have a really good relationship with the pupils. I am learning the joys of going into a classroom with no prior warning as to how the pupils will react, but also the rewards when you are challenged on your beliefs. We are not in the business of scare-mongering these guys, but we do urge them to make decisions in the cold light of day. God is really there working through all of us, and we'll find out at final feedback how we really did. We've also been asked to teach the new head of Personal and Social Health Education how to do her job!

It's been a vision finding few months, with Timeout (11-14's) shutting for a month and re-working vision, aims and discipline. We're back into the swing of things now and it's going well. In September we looked at the idea of starting a small group for the young people who go to church and need something deeper, so in February we got the 11-14's meeting together. This was something that had been on the Youth Workers heart for a while and he was happy to see it lifted off the ground. We're building relationships and trust at the moment, ready for a weekend away in July. The Connect course has also been a challenge, we have been looking at Jesus through the Old Testament and joined with Big Ideas/Ignite to do leadership training. I had a great weekend away with the team and learnt lots about what God wants us to do.

The charity I work for, Going Public, published a magazine called XTC. Which we hope will go around to all the local schools as it supports the presentation that happens throughout the year. Unfortunately the funding is running out, so we are all cutting back and working twice as hard to get things done. As part of that I am helping to produce a website for Christian parents dealing with teenagers (<http://www.intheirworld.org>), at the moment ideas are down on paper and we're going through lots of harsh editing. Any ideas/stories would be greatly received.

That's what I've been doing for the Church, as for myself, I've been looking at getting a job when I finish here. Now the job application process is not alien to me, but having a salary and my own things (car, house, pension etc) definitely is. The reason why I'm in Cardiff is because I have a passion for youth work, luckily that is a transferable skill, so when I got a job interview in Luton, I jumped at the chance. After a day I was offered the job. I think it's fair to say that I went into initial shock. Here's where you can help; if I do take it I will be Pastoral Youth Worker for St Hughs, Lewsey, Luton. Please can you pray for me as I make a decision that will change my life?

Previously you have been great at supporting me financially. This is the final push! I have about £715 to make up for the last term of Connect and all my living expenses. As usual cheques can go to the address above, or to Billericay. As I said before Going Public is struggling financially, anything you give to me goes straight to them.

So in summary... this term has been tough, but it's had lots of positives to. As we have a break at Easter please remember me in your prayers.

God bless,

*Karen
xxx*

goingpublic

about

ignite