



WEST CAMBRIDGE **CHRISTIAN** YOUTH MINISTRIES

ANNUAL REPORT



A NOTE ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT

This year we have written the WCCYM Annual Report a little differently. We wanted to share some direct experiences that people have had with WCCYM in the last year; young people, volunteer youth leaders, parents, youth workers, church leaders. We asked them a variety of questions about their experiences, and have included their answers within this report. We have mostly included information about the academic year from September 2024 until August 2025, but some of the information has included the start of this current academic year.

We hope that all that is shared in this report will give you a snapshot of what WCCYM is like, for the different people involved.

We continue to be very grateful to all those who support us, whether that is through encouragement and support, practical help, prayer and financial giving, so thank you very much.

Susie Thomson
WCCYM Team Leader
On behalf of the WCCYM Team
November 2025

WCCYM'S KEY VALUES ARE TO:

work in **partnership**
build **trust**
show **respect**
bring **hope**
be **Christ-centred**

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF THE EXEC.

NIGEL TAYLOR

Chair of the Executive Committee

How long have you been involved in the management committee for WCCYM?

I was asked to join the management committee in March 2018 and became chair of trustees in June 2021 when Steve Gaze stepped down after many years' involvement with WCCYM.

Why did you originally want to get involved?

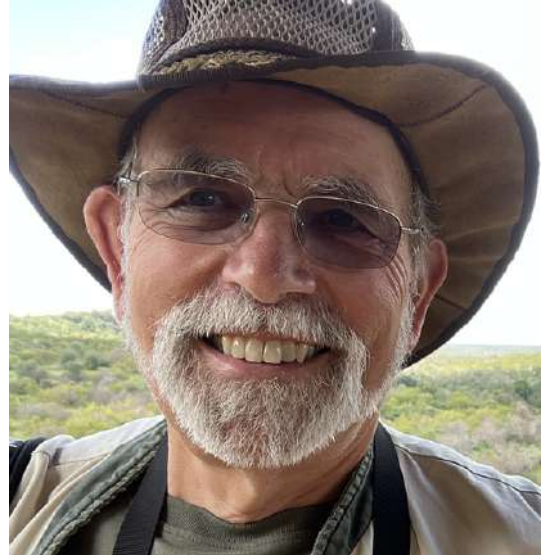
Having enjoyed a long career in education (11-18 schools and a sixth form college) I wanted to remain involved in voluntary work focused on young people. I benefited greatly from Christian youth clubs and camps when I was a teenager and wanted to contribute to making this available in the local West Cambridge area.

What do you enjoy most about being involved in the management committee?

Working together with Christians from other local churches; seeking opportunities to increase our funding in order to expand WCCYM activities; encouraging youth leaders as they develop new initiatives in schools as well as various WCCYM groups.

What do you find most encouraging about the contents of this report?

- So many young people talking about reasons for coming to WCCYM: fun, food, friendship and exploring the Christian faith.
- Noting that two of our youth leaders and a long-term volunteer began as young people attending WCCYM....we always look to the future.



WCCYM is a partnership of churches in villages to the west of Cambridge, working together for young people in a manner that they could not do individually.



THIRST is our monthly youth service featuring a meal, a large group game, a time of sung worship and a short talk.

LILIA YOUNG PERSON

I go to the WCCYM music group, which is roughly once a fortnight and we will try and work on some pieces of music. Sometimes we lead worship at Thirst, the WCCYM Carol Service and at WCCYM weekend. I really like that it's a social space and we're playing music and seeing what works and what doesn't; just trying out new stuff.

I also go to Discipleship and Thirst. I really enjoy the atmosphere that's there, and we can just hang out and learn more about God. I think it's very much stretched my opinion on things, because it's not just me saying what I think, but I'm listening to what other people think and hearing what they have to say as well, and hearing things from other people's point of view, which then sometimes will end up changing mine.

If there are young people who want to come but are not really sure, at most of the events there is free food, which is helpful to push people to come. It's really fun. We're just hanging out with a tonne of people who believe in God and want to learn more about God as well.



NATHAN

VOLUNTEERING FOR 7 YEARS

Last year, I volunteered at WCCYM Discipleship, which was great fun and very rewarding. The young people (and volunteers) have desserts together whilst they chat and play board games. We then split into smaller groups to discuss the session's topic and Bible study, which encouraged great discussions (on and often off topic) between the young people. It's been great to see their confidence and friendships grow as a result.

I also volunteered with the WCCYM group camping at Satellites youth festival. This involved helping to get our camp site set up, and then supporting and encouraging the young people throughout the week. We attended main sessions with brilliant worship and talks, in addition to seminars on a wide variety of topics. It was great to see the young people grow in their faith and rushing to get to the main sessions early! I've also found volunteering with WCCYM at these festivals to be a real encouragement for my own faith and a great opportunity to get to know other leaders better.

It's great seeing young people grow in confidence and faith through all of WCCYM's events. It's also a brilliant team of youth leaders and volunteers who all encourage and support each other too - a real blessing to work together with them.

It can be a challenge to understand all of the difficulties that young people face today, which can be different from my own experience when I was younger. However, WCCYM ran a 'Youthscape Essentials' volunteering training programme over the last couple of years which has been helpful in learning more about topics such as social media, gender and sexuality, and mental health. This helps me to feel better equipped to negotiate these topics if they come up in discussions.

WCCYM benefits young people by allowing them to build friendships with other like-minded young people, creating strong support groups especially for those at the end of secondary school or sixth form. WCCYM also gives them their own space to explore their faith in a setting designed for them, where their local church may not have the resources to do so.

I attended WCCYM events as a young person, which were instrumental in developing in my own faith; I also continue to have friendships now which were built during my time as a young person at WCCYM events. I love being able to give-back by volunteering and seeing the same impact on young people today.

ABBIE

YOUNG PERSON



In the summer, I went to Satellites, which is a festival for five days.

Honestly, I don't think there's an experience quite like it. To have so many people of faith in one place, with a common goal, all hoping to know Jesus better, and the friends that I've made there. I met two people on the day that we travelled, and now we're really good friends and see each other all the time; we had a really good time.

I come to Deeper, which is a Sixth Form session every few Fridays. We have dinner together and dessert, we play fun getting-to-know-you games, and we do more focussed sessions about faith. We watched an episode of The Chosen recently which was really interesting.

I'd say my confidence in meeting new people has grown. I'm more open to talking to new people and I've come out of my shell a bit more.



Even on days when you don't feel motivated or your social battery feels a bit low, just come along; you don't even have to talk to anyone if you don't want to, you can just kind of sit in the room, enjoy the atmosphere, eat some nice food and then who knows, you might become more sociable or feel like it later.

SATELLITES is a 5 day festival that encourages young people to put Jesus at the centre of their lives for the other 360 days in a year.

CHERIE WILLIAMSON

CHAPLAINCY LEAD

I first starting doing youth work whilst studying my Under Graduate Studies. Once I graduated I worked in several different Youth and Community work settings in Charities, Churches and the statutory sector. This led me on to study an MA in Community Education and other studies to enhance my work and broaden my understanding of working with people of all ages.

I started working for WCCYM in 2018 and I can honestly say I have loved working for WCCYM. It is great to work with a group of people who are clearly focused on serving others and following God. I mainly work as the Chaplaincy Lead at Comberton Village College and support students and staff each week, as well as being involved in a variety of other WCCYM projects, which is great! One of the things I love about the kind of work I do, is the amazing people, both young and old, that you get to meet and support. I have met some really amazing people over the years and look forward to meeting more in the future.

A few years ago, I felt led to look into becoming an 'Ordained Baptist Minister' with a particular focus on being an Ordained Chaplain. Earlier this year I completed this process and became officially ordained by the Baptist Union and I am now what they call a Newly Accredited Minister. It was great to mark this with my official Ordination Service at Hardwick Evangelical Church in October. Thank you to those of you who came along on the day to be part of the service.



CHAPLAINCY in Comberton Village College provides pastoral and spiritual support for staff and students, whether one-to-one, in small groups, or by running different workshops.

YOUNG PERSON

Tell us about one of the WCCYM activities you go to.

I go to WCCYM Music group and enjoy that we get to learn lots of new songs and it helps develop my musical skills. I also like practicing what to play in the songs, worshipping together and learning what you do to combine music and worship.

What other WCCYM activities have you been involved in and what has been good about them?

I have also been to CU (Christian Union) at Comberton. It's been a nice way to chill and talk to each other and also learn about God in different ways at school with different people who I might know.

How do you think you've benefitted from WCCYM?

It's helped me to understand the Bible more and keep doing Christian stuff outside of church as otherwise I might not do that.

What is one thing you would say to others about WCCYM to encourage them to get involved?

You get to meet lots of people your age who are also Christian who you might not otherwise talk to.

WCCYM MUSIC GROUP sees a handful of young people gather to play music, improve their skills and worship God together.



COMBERTON SIXTH FORM

We go into Comberton Sixth Form to provide pastoral support work, deliver Personal Development lessons, facilitate a Christian Union and hand out hot chocolates to students.

Can you tell us something about your experience of having WCCYM youthworkers in the Sixth Form?

WCCYM play a vital role in both our Sixth Form support provision and our Personal Development Programme. The 1-to-1 wellbeing support sessions Susie and Cherie provide, gives the students they meet a safe place to share their worries, thoughts and feelings each week. This provision allows us to provide support not only to students struggling with their mental health, but also those who are going through family upset, a bereavement or relationship troubles.

What do you see as the benefit of having WCCYM youthworkers doing some of these activities?

Thinking specifically about their input to our Personal Development Programme, it is hugely valuable for our students to hear from trusted adults who aren't teachers! Some of the sessions they cover are sensitive topics to discuss, such as healthy relationships and consent, and our students benefit from their knowledge and experience of working with young people.

Do you have anything else to add about WCCYM's schoolwork?

We are hugely grateful for the part WCCYM plays in our Sixth Form, helping us to ensure our students are well supported. Their input into our provision helps to ensure our students leave Comberton Sixth Form as resilient young adults who are ready to make their next steps.



KEITH

PARENT, MINISTER AND TRUSTEE

How long have you been involved in WCCYM, and how?

I have been involved with WCCYM for about 12 years as a member of the Exec, then a Trustee and for the last 9 years as a parent. I've also volunteered at various things and helped out with RPE days at CVC.

How has WCCYM impacted your family?

WCCYM has been so important for our three girls having spaces where they can explore faith in a bigger context. Events like the weekend away and Satellites have been significant events in their story. They have made friends with young people from other churches and schools which is good.

How has WCCYM impacted your church life?

We are fortunate to have young people in our church but we haven't always had an employed youth worker. But our brilliant team of volunteers have been able to be encouraged and trained through WCCYM. Also the connections that we have with other local church through WCCYM has been a blessing.

Tell us something about your involvement on the WCCYM management team?

As a member of the management team we get to hear many of the stories - and these are often a real encouragement. We also get to hear of the needs and the things we could be doing. So part of our role is to prayerfully consider how God wants us to be investing our time and resources so that we can do what we do really well without spreading ourselves too thinly. It is also important to look after our youth workers. I have some responsibility around safeguarding which involves making sure that we are up to date with training and practices and then helping work out how to respond in specific situations.



How would you summarise WCCYM for those who do not know much about it?

WCCYM is an organisation that brings together local Christians and churches to help make Jesus known to local young people in our churches, schools and communities.



ABI YOUNG PERSON

Tell us about one of the WCCYM activities you go to.

I go to WCCYM Discipleship, which is a sort of small group for youth but with games and cake. 😊

What do you enjoy about it?

I enjoy meeting some incredible young people, sharing our views and opinions on different matters/topics, as well as getting to grow together and learn from each other. It is also nice to get to see a very similar group of people each time, getting to know each other better as time goes on.

What other WCCYM activities have you been involved in?

I also go to Thirst, WCCYM socials (including punting, bowling and games night) as well as Satellites and the WCCYM weekend to Burwell.

How do you think you've benefitted from WCCYM?

WCCYM has given me some incredible opportunities to meet other, local, Christian young people. This has also improved my confidence and comfort with being around and socialising with others, particularly of my own age.

I have also dived deeper into my faith thanks to WCCYM. From discovering a multitude of different ideas and perspectives on Bible passages and theories, to WCCYM's invaluable support in getting baptised earlier this year.

What is one thing you would say to others about WCCYM to encourage them to get involved?

Go for it! It is such a welcoming and loving group of people, and we would love to have you there!

WCCYM DISCIPLESHIP gathers young people together with desserts and games before having small group Bible study discussions on that week's theme.

FINANCES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 TO AUGUST 2025

It's been an exciting year for WCCYM financially – we started the year in the expectation of having to dip quite significantly into our resources to maintain the staffing and service level of the previous three years – and ended the year with only a thousand pounds to find!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all those who have supported us financially this year whether you are one of our core local churches or an individual who cares about our work, or one of the many Big Weekend Fundraisers who put in such a tremendous effort last year to boost our coffers.

We were also successful in our bid for a grant from the Deo Gloria Trust and will keep looking for similar funding as we go forward into next year.

We continue to work closely with Comberton Village College, both with individuals, groups, and with staff, and they continue to contribute towards the cost of the services we provide.

Over half of our income comes from the generosity of our supporters – without you we would not be able to reach the number of young people that we do – Thank you! And please keep giving!

If you would like to give towards the work of WCCYM, please contact:



info@wccym.org

to find out how best for you to support WCCYM or visit our stewardship page

**stewardship.org.uk/partners/
20029793**

HERE ARE THE FIGURES:

* INCOME

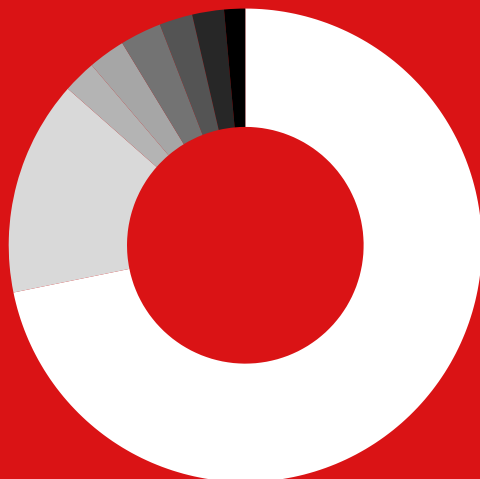


Churches & Trusts	£21277
Gifts, Donations & Gift Aid*	£14703
Pastoral Support	£20214
Other income	£4030
Events & Activities	£8177
Fundraising Events	£6994
Total	£73073

*inc. Other Income and Bank Intetereest

Staff/workers	£52641
Events & Activities	£10776
School based	£1655
Overheads	£1860
Staff Training & Resources	£2072
Bookkeeping	£1666
Staff Travel	£1592
Safeguarding & Insurance	£1053
Total	£73315

* EXPENDITURE



LUCY

YOUNG PERSON

Tell us about one of the WCCYM activities you go to.

I went to the summer party and I enjoyed that, and the punting, and the Yr 6 moving up activities.

What do you enjoy about it?

It was very reassuring for the Yr 6 activities, that we were talking about all of the changes and how things would change when moving up to secondary school.

What other WCCYM activities have you been involved in and what has been good about them?

The punting and the summer party. Punting we just were on a punt on the river and we were put in a punt with some of our friends and we were just talking and we got pizza after. And the summer party, there was football and stuff and fun like that.

How do you think you've benefitted from WCCYM?

When they did the Yr 6 activities then I benefitted for starting secondary school because they were talking about stuff you should be sure of and stuff that would be helpful.

What is one thing you would say to others about WCCYM to encourage them to get involved?

That it's fun, spiritual, and you make lots of friends.



YEAR 6s ARE INVITED to many of our activities during the summer term and, during that time, we provide some standalone Year 6 groups to help them meet new people and talk about the challenges and changes that will occur as they head to secondary school.

NICK SLATER

YOUTH WORKER

Growing up as young person in WCCYM, I experienced first hand the great work this charity does. WCCYM provided me opportunities to explore my gifting and calling, especially when I began to feel a call to Christian Youth Work. The youth workers allowed me to begin volunteering and running groups for those in their early teens and gave me opportunities to lead at Thirst and other events. I looked into gaining further experience and studying Theology to better equip me for this kind of work. Five years later, I returned to the West Cambridge area with a degree and a whole bunch of different experience from churches across the country and I continued to volunteer with and support the work of WCCYM (I also became youth worker at Comberton Baptist Church for a little bit).

It wasn't until 2021 that I actually joined the WCCYM team in my current role as Discipleship and Outreach Projects Worker. Within this role I have the great opportunity to draw alongside young people at many different stages of their relationship with Jesus, from introducing them to Him for the first time to nurturing young people, and their gifts, allowing them serve Jesus in their own way. It is a great privilege to be able to invest in these young people in the same way that I was invested in as a young person myself.

I also get to do some really fun things and call it work; playing board games, eating food, making music, talking about Jesus and playing Dungeons & Dragons. This job RULES!!!





WCCYM IN SCHOOLS

A key part of WCCYM's work is in schools in West Cambridge, offering pastoral and spiritual support. We are fortunate to work in Comberton Village College, Cambourne Village College, Comberton Sixth Form and Cambourne Sixth Form.

The Pastoral Support Work we deliver provides mentoring and pastoral support to students in a one-to-one capacity, and run themed groups looking at resilience, self-esteem and relationships. We manage to deliver a handful of Personal Development and Personal, Social and Health Education lessons throughout the year with different age groups. We are also available to chat with Sixth Form students while giving out free hot chocolates, often prompting great discussion.

The Spiritual Support Work we run in schools includes running or facilitating Christian Union groups each week, and helping to facilitate Christian Staff Gatherings once a half term – a great opportunity to encourage and pray with the staff in the schools. We are also invited to deliver Religion, Philosophy and Ethics lessons and whole year group assemblies at different times of the year.

Through our chaplaincy work, that Cherie heads up, we are able to offer additional support to students and staff in Comberton Village College. This work allows us to offer additional pastoral support and mentoring for students in a one-to-one setting. For staff, we provide conversations for change, a space to reflect as well as one-to-one support at a time to suit the member of staff. We regularly encourage informal moments to pause and reflect and provide written reflections and encouragements.

In July 2025, we ran a Reflective Space for Year 7s for a full day, with each class taking part in a variety of activities set up in two different rooms. These focused on resilience, hope, growth, overcoming challenges, letting go of worries, how we can focus on others, and a variety of other themes. We were very pleased with how this went, and it was a great start to Activities Week for the Year 7s.

ANASTASIA

YOUNG PERSON



Tell us about one of the WCCYM activities you go to.

Thirst. It's fun... the community gathering every second Sunday, and we get to catch up with people and have a fun time. We have a meal and then we have a game and a talk and some worship.

What do you enjoy about it?

The talk. It's very good to hear from people wiser in Bible knowledge and also some young people who do some of the talks.

How do you think you've benefitted from WCCYM?

It's given me a greater sense of Christian community and Christian friends and made me more confident in faith and grown my faith.

What is one thing you would say to others about WCCYM to encourage them to get involved?

It's a great community.

What other WCCYM activities have you been involved in and what do you enjoy about them?

WCCYM Weekend away.. Because it's a longer period of time to spend with the friends and have a lot of fun and be serious sometimes, maybe not, in faith.

WCCYM WEEKEND saw approximately 30 young people join us in Burwell House for a weekend of games, team work, discussion, gunge and inspirational talks about the Christian faith.



SARAH

PARENT AND MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

How long have you been involved in WCCYM, and how?

I've been involved in WCCYM for about seven or eight years, as a youthwork leader in my church and latterly on the management committee, representing the Lordsbridge team of churches, and also latterly the last three or four years as a parent as well.

How has WCCYM impacted your family?

It's been really positive having something for the children when they become young people to become involved in, if they want to, because it's so difficult to provide many youth work opportunities for our young people. There's only a handful in our church. It's brilliant to be able to encourage them to go to something else, to have a supportive youthwork community and a community of young people to be able to look into if they wanted to; to have more of a tribe to get together with, to worship with, to socialise with. To have this kind of ready-made group of Christian young people to get involved with, is really, really valuable.

How has WCCYM impacted your church life?

Likewise, it's really helpful to have a partnership through our church. If we didn't have this connection with WCCYM, we wouldn't be able to provide many youthwork opportunities, losing the only young people from church altogether. It reminds the church, that whatever their age or their stage of their faith, that there are young people here and that they can invest in them through praying for them, through working with them, and the support that the church gives to WCCYM is really important. It allows us to have open conversations with them about young people and the vision they have. It allows us to showcase worshipping in different ways as well as thinking through how can we include young people in the church and what that might look like.

Tell us something about your involvement on the WCCYM management team

It's really interesting to be involved with other ministers, youth leaders and youth workers, especially from different backgrounds as well, with a vision for serving young people in west Cambridge; wherever they are, whether they're in school, whether they're already in a church, whatever denomination that church is; it's really valuable to put any divisions aside and work together, for the furthering of God's Kingdom in west Cambridge for young people. To be able to feed into that and represent our team of churches, is really valuable.

LUIS YOUNG PERSON

Tell us about one of the WCCYM activities you went to last year and what you enjoyed about it?

I went to Satellites. The feeling of fellowship feels more like a family than friends and the fun we had playing games and talking with each other, as well as the worship and incredible sessions that taught us so much.

What other WCCYM activities have you been involved in and what has been good about them?

Deeper was an amazing group of people looking at leadership and how we can be better leaders, as well as laughing at some of the awkward videos we were meant to be learning from.

WCCYM Discipleship was very fun and interesting to hear a variety of different people talking about the same subjects and how everyone takes it in differently.

At Thirst there is great food worship and talks as well as a lovely way to talk to friends as well as other people who you aren't as close with.

WCCYM Weekend is so much fun every year, real bonding experience that strengthens friendships and creates new ones.

How many years have you been involved in WCCYM and do you have any specific memories?

7 years- going punting and WCCYM weekend away in Year 7 and then again in Year 13, and how enjoyable both times were even with different people. But memories made at Satellites will always be at the very top.

How do you think you've benefitted from WCCYM?

It's given me incredible friendships, and memories I'll cherish forever as well as making me more confident in myself and my faith.

What is one thing you would say to others about WCCYM to encourage them to get involved?

Come along because the people are some of the nicest in the world and they'll make it so easy to fit in.



DEEPER is our discipleship group for sixth form aged young people allowing them time to relax from the pressures of life.



KATE

VOLUNTEERING FOR 4 YEARS

How long have you been volunteering with WCCYM?

Not sure how long I've been volunteering, I've sort of gradually added bits and pieces . Maybe 3 or 4 years.

Tell us about one of the WCCYM activities you volunteered with last year.

Last year, I helped with Deeper which is the group for Year 12/13s. I loved it because it was a smaller group and we always ate a meal together so there was time for relaxed conversation and some very competitive games! We chose the meal themes - anything from pizza to beige! The discussions were honest and it was a place where young people could share questions honestly. At the pizza Q and A it was great to hear some of them talking about their plans and hopes and wanting to have their faith central as they moved on to different places.

Tell us about another WCCYM activity you have helped with.

I also helped with the WCCYM weekend - a first as my children had been but I never had. Great fun including my team winning the quiz and excellent food with lots of cake, but also just really appreciated the longer time away, so the talks and the worship and the discussions could go that bit deeper with fewer distractions. A real opportunity to get to know the whole WCCYM team as well.

What do you enjoy about volunteering with WCCYM?

I genuinely find it fun. The discussions are honest and unpredictable which is really refreshing. I love being part of a passionate team who do really care about the young people and about Jesus; at the end of a week at work, that can be much-needed inspiration.

What are some of the challenges?

The challenges: wanting to know all the answers or be able to offer quick fixes. Sometimes being tired and not able to match the energy!! Getting to know people as well as possible when you don't see them between WCCYM things. Making sure everyone is included in a way that works for them, noticing everyone. Knowing that it can be a hard world for young people.

What do you see as one of the benefits of WCCYM for young people?

Friendship. Knowing there's a much bigger group than just your church group. Having trusted Christian adults to talk to who are not always the people your family knows really well.

A NOTE OF THANKS... IN MEMORY OF PAUL GILDERSLEVE



“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” So wrote St Paul in his letter to the Philippians (4:9). I’m too young to have met St Paul, the Biblical Apostle, and I’m confident all of you are as well – but I did have the privilege of knowing Paul Gildersleve who died recently after many decades of serving people in local villages and further away, in Jesus’ name. Quietly, without fuss, but with great perseverance, gentleness and encouragement, Paul (together with active support from his family) influenced many of our lives for good. As WCCYM we are very grateful for his input, and what follows are some of my personal memories as he supported and encouraged me over the years.

Paul prayed – I first met Paul in the late 1990’s at a prayer meeting for WCCYM held in Paul and Ann’s house in Baldwins Close in Bourn.

Paul gave – of his time, his intelligence, his humour, his resources, his money. Along with Stephen Terrell and Graham Daniels, Paul helped set up WCCYM in the early 1990s and for many years was treasurer. He also kindly helped provide office space and facilities to use at Manor Farm, and storage space for equipment that gradually accumulated as the organisation and activities grew.

Paul thought – he was highly intelligent but also practical; an early adopter of computer technology and the ongoing development; able to discuss knowledgeably agriculture, theology, computers and any number of interests; able to gently ask difficult questions.

Paul left us an example of life that we would do well to follow.

Written by Steve Gaze

SUSIE THOMSON

WCCYM TEAM LEADER



SUSIE'S ROLE
includes liaising with
local churches;
attending meetings to
give updates on
WCCYM and
advocating for young
people

My journey with WCCYM started when I was in Year 7, which was in 1992, when WCCYM was started. So as a young person living in one of the local villages, I experienced the benefit of WCCYM working across the churches, and in my own secondary school, Comberton Village College.

I had a gap year and then went to University, studying Education, and started my career as a primary school teacher. During this time, I was also volunteering with WCCYM in my free time, and went to a Youthwork conference with others involved in WCCYM. I felt really inspired by some of the seminars and remember having a conversation with one of the WCCYM youthworkers at the time, asking if he thought that I could be a youthworker. This was the next stage in my journey of youthwork, as I taught for 2 years full time, before then going part-time for 2 years, also working for Hardwick Evangelical Church as their youth worker. I gained more experience by spending 18 months working in South Africa with Scripture Union, where much of this work was in schools, and running camps.

When I returned to the UK, I did an MA in Youth & Community Work with Applied Theology, alongside a youthwork placement with the Papworth Team Ministry. I started working for WCCYM in 2009 and have been ever since, with 3 maternity leaves thrown in at various points!

I love working for WCCYM. Working with young people is such a privilege, and I feel passionate about supporting them through the ups and downs of life. I also love being able to support young people in their Christian faith, and helping to support local churches in this way.

CLARE CRONIN

MINISTRY TEAM LEADER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT CAMBOURNE CHURCH

How did WCCYM fit into your church youthwork role at Cambourne church?

I saw our youth work at Cambourne Church as a ministry that was delivered in partnership with WCCYM. While we had our own church-based groups, working together allowed us to do more. Together we could maintain a consistent presence at Cambourne Village College; bring a range of young people we had connections with to worship together at Thirst; provide support for Year 6s as they move up to secondary school (to name just a few things!).

Tell us about a couple of your memories from the last couple of years with WCCYM?

I have a lot of good memories from our trips to Satellites, from the long car journeys, to the washing up, to attending seminars together. Watching friendships grow at WCCYM Weekend was joy. Hearing young people ask and answer some big questions at Discipleship was a privilege. The chaos and commitment of Cambourne Christian Union was always a highlight.

You have now moved on to something new.. tell us about what you're doing now?

I have joined the team at Cambridge & District Youth for Christ as Senior Youth Ministry Manager. I get to use the experience I've gained from being part of the WCCYM Team, to equip and resource others as we run youth drop-ins and mentor young people in schools.

What will you miss most about WCCYM?

The young people! And the wonderful WCCYM Team and volunteers.



IN SEPTEMBER 2025, Clare moved on from her role at Cambourne Church. In her role at Cambourne Church she was also part of the WCCYM Team. We are sad to see her go but glad she is local still and wish her all the best in her new role.



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