



Dear Friends,

Catalyst is a local charity that has been working for over 15 years in Tavistock and surrounding villages to connect church resources with young people. Over that time we have been blessed with faithful support from TACT (Tavistock Area Christians Together) churches, from individuals who commit to regular giving and from some significant one-off donations for which we thank you all.

The past year has forced a move away from many of the face-to-face activities that Catalyst runs but lots has been happening online as you'll see on the April report included below.

The purpose of this letter is to keep you in touch and encourage as many as possible to sign up to our supporters' list for regular updates. Please look at the Catalyst website www.tavistockcatalyst.com and click on "how you can help" where you'll see "Pray, Play or Pay". Please choose "Sign up to receive news" and we'll keep you posted by email.

Thank you for your interest in the work of Catalyst and for the young people we serve.

The **2021 Catalyst team** is Trudi Massey (Director of Youth Work), Jack Hodge and Lily Doyle. Jack and Lily are trainees studying with South West Youth Ministries (SWYM).

Catalyst Trustees (as of April 2021) are representatives from 9 local churches:

Trevor Atkinson	Bere Alston United Church (Methodist/URC)
Duncan Bird	(Chair) Abbey Chapel
Ross Mitchell	Buckland Monachorum St Andrew's Church
Geoff Orton	(Treasurer) Tavistock Methodist Church
Kathy Palmer	(Safeguarding Officer) King's Community Church
Sue Savage	Yelverton Holy Cross Catholic Church
Tim Shobrook	Meavy C of E
Catherine Stoate	(Secretary) Tavistock St Eustachius Parish Church
Rob Weston	Tavistock United Reformed Church.

Catalyst Report – April 2021

Over the last term whilst we have been mostly online, the Catalyst team has still been able to continue the work across the schools and the community.

Monday Night Group Online

For the Monday night group, we have been meeting weekly online with about 20 young people attending. The groups are split into two and during the past term the younger group (ages 11- 14) explored Jesus' life and the passion narrative before Easter. The older group (ages 15-18) explored some of the minor prophets throughout the Bible. Whilst these sessions have been online it has been great to meet with the young people weekly, and for them to grow in their understanding of God and faith. We look forward to being able to meet in person again from 26th April 2021.

Easter Egg Hunt and Social

On the 31st of March with the new covid announcement, we were able to meet our Monday night group young people outside. We met on Whitchurch Down and played some outdoor games with the young people, we also had an Easter egg hunt as an end of term treat.

School Mentoring

When schools opened again after the third lockdown, Tavistock College has been very welcoming to us and have been more than willing to allow mentors to meet with young people face to face. Also, mentors who cannot attend college due to covid-19 have been able to meet with their mentees virtually, which has been beneficial. Additionally, 6 new mentors have been trained, which is great news. However, we are still waiting to re-start in the primary schools.

Breakfast Bus at Tavistock College

Some exciting news is that there is a potential project of a breakfast bus which Catalyst has been asked to help run. The school are exploring buying a double-decker bus which will be used to help serve breakfast to the young people in the school, before their day starts. The upstairs in the bus will be used as a well-being space. This is a very exciting opportunity, and we look forward to this venture unfolding. When it is in place volunteers will be needed to serve breakfast and chat to students. Please chat to Trudi if you would be interested in helping.

Detached Work

Also, every Friday after school, we have been in the Tavistock Meadows to see if there were any young people around. This is something which will continue as the lockdown eases and we look forward to the new possibilities that may arise from this detached work.

Also, the Catalyst team have been going into Horrabridge park and meeting with the young people handing out doughnuts and hot chocolates. This was something which originally happened during Summer 2020 to Christmas, however, stopped due to covid, and began again during the Easter Holidays. This will now continue every Tuesday, on a weekly basis.

Catalyst Devotional

During the lockdown, until Easter, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, the Catalyst team streamed a devotional on our Facebook and Instagram pages to reach out to the young people with the Gospel and prayer to encourage them throughout the week. For these devotionals, we did topics on the fruits of the spirit, our own personal testimonies and during lent we shared the whole book of John.

Prayer night & Worship Night

With our Monday night group, we also ran a prayer night and worship night online for young people to have a safe space where they could grow with God. These sessions happened on Wednesdays, and we also used lots of activities to encounter God in prayer and worship. It was great to see the young people growing with God, it's amazing to see the young people encountering God, even online.

Heatree Trip

With the success of the last Heatree weekend away, the young people requested the weekend away again, which is booked for the weekend of 2nd July. The young people are very excited about this and we look forward to being able to do some adventure activities, but also meeting together as a group where we can encounter God with each other too. Please do pray for us over this weekend and leading up to it.

Weekly Team Meetings and Prayer Meetings

Every Thursday and Friday the Catalyst team has been meeting and discussing the future, but also praying for our projects and the young people and their families. We have also been praying for the surrounding community. Having these meetings has allowed us to grow together as a group and also grow together with God.

Please pray for these activities and for the team and the young people they serve!

Thank you for your support from all the Catalyst team

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