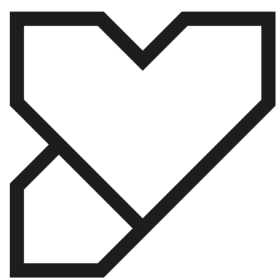


Central Cell

A proposal for joint
youth provision
across Aylesbury's
secondary schools
and churches



Aylesbury Vale
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

January 2020

(Adapted and updated for parents and volunteers from an original document for church leaders in June 2019)

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Appendix 2 **The Big Idea in a picture**

Dear local church,

At Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ we long for non-Christian young people to hear, know and follow Christ and to join the family of God. We also long for young people across the existing church to grow deeper in their relationship with Christ. In fact, we're becoming increasingly convinced that the former can't happen without the latter.

So working closely with our Christian Youth Leaders Network we've come up with something that we believe would give us a chance at enabling the local church to fly when it comes to youth ministry.

What you're about to read has been the product of a long process so far. We first had the idea in November 2018. We chatted to 7 local youth leaders until May 2019. Then 5 of us got into a room for 3 days and hammered away at the possibilities. We submitted these ideas to 9 local churches in the form of a 31 page document which has been adapted here for your consideration. On October the 22nd 2019, we brought together these 9 church leaders and they graciously agreed to take the idea to their leadership teams. By the time it was the middle of January 2020, 9 leadership teams were willing progress the idea by taking it to the whole local church in an attempt to make it happen.

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We want you to know as you read on that we know this would be a big change; it would entail a good number of practical and logistical factors to be carefully considered by everyone involved; leaders, parents, volunteers, church members and of course, young people. But the reason we're proposing it is that the youth leaders and leadership teams across these 9 churches believe that we can take a good thing (our current youth ministry) and make it great.

There are questions we don't yet know the answer to and there are answers to questions we would gently submit here for you to consider with us. We keenly invite you to read this information, chat to your youth leader and/or leadership team and start to imagine with us what could be.

Christ loves his Church and so do we. As Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ we can't, won't, and do not want to operate apart from or in competition with the Church. Our desire is to galvanise, nourish and grow and serve the local Church so it can be everything it was intended to be, so that God's kingdom will come and the people in this area will begin and continue in lifelong discipleship. Our particular interest is in working alongside the local Church in order to add new believers into the family of faith. These are the driving forces behind this proposal.

We commit them to you with love, and in anticipation of the many things we'll need to work out along the way. Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,

Tom Rawling.

Director
Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ.
January 2020

What are the headlines?

1. Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ are inviting 9 local churches to change the way their youth discipleship is delivered.
2. This proposal was put together by Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ in close consultation with 4 Christian youth leaders from across Aylesbury.
3. Instead of youth groups meeting separately each week, this proposal is for all youth cell groups to meet together in one central location every week. This would include the paid or voluntary youth leaders, the current volunteers and all the young people.
4. The model would suggest that all other youth discipleship in its current form ends so that the youth leaders and local churches from across the town can work together week in week out.
5. The time would be carefully designed to ensure there is a mixture of whole group time and small group time.
6. It would take place in a neutral location (not a church or a school) and would primarily be about Bible study, prayer and the outworking of a Christian life. It would also be running with the assumption that young people who have no connection with church would be attending.
7. Other contexts would exist across the town throughout the year including Connect groups, a monthly youth worship service, social spaces in local churches and joined up socials 3 times a year. With the blessing of their church, paid and voluntary youth leaders would work together to deliver these.
8. This has been designed to be impossible without the local church. AVYFC are not encouraging anyone to 'outsource' their youth work.
9. It would cost c.£6000-£6500 in the first year, some of that cost is one off.
10. We don't anticipate starting until at September 2020 at the earliest, and not without close consultation with local church at all levels.

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1.0 – Introduction

What's the big idea?

This document has been adapted from an initial proposal that was seen by church leaders in June 2019 – January 2020. It's been revised for the benefit of parents, current youth ministry volunteers, and the wider church. AVYFC are inviting youth leaders and their churches to deliver Christian youth work town-wide, behaving as one central organisation, though in reality they are many local churches. Central Cell is a key aspect of this and is the subject of this document. We may mention other things like Unite, Connect or residentials but these are extras which are already happening. The key thing is that we're inviting all current youth discipleship provision to end in its current locations and forms and be replaced by Central Cell.

The Central Cell will draw together all the youth leaders and their connected volunteers every week. It will bring together their young people and any young people who do not attend Church but have been contacted by AVYFC and the local Church through the Connect groups in the schools. Central Cell will feed the Connect groups and vice versa.

In practice paid youth leaders from across the town, with the permission and encouragement of their local Church, will work in close partnership with AVYFC every week to plan and deliver the Central Cell, Connect groups and in time, one to one discipleship or mentoring. Residentials, social and seasonal events will be offshoots of this. All of this will happen so that the young people who are Christians will be disciplined in a wider community and young people who are not Christians will have the option to hear about Christ along with the invitation to join the family of God.

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Context	Weekly	Monthly	Seasonally	Annually
Cell night				
Connect				
Sunday mornings	Independent of AVYFC			
One on one discipleship/mentoring				
Unite				
Big socials			Oct, Feb, June	
Big thank you's			End of spring term, end of summer term, end of winter term	

Commissioning				September
Residentials				TBC

1.1 – Why this and why now?

Through the network of youth leaders across Aylesbury, we have already been able to establish a schools project called Connect. In 2018/19, we had contact with 202 unique young people throughout the schools, the majority of whom are not church-goers. At least 981 attendees from this pool of 202 attended 89 student led sessions. All this is wonderful but we think Connect in isolation is nowhere near as effective as it could be. It's a little bewildering for a young person to have a long list of different churches they could choose from if they want to explore Christian spirituality further.

Imagine instead, that everyone running Connect knows and meets with all the young Christians from across the town once a week where all the schools, churches, youth groups and possibilities are present. But Central Cell is not church. Like any current youth cell group, it's a steppingstone to church and an outworking of the church's ministry. It's a place to ask all your questions in the company of more mature and experienced leaders working as one dynamic team.

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1.2 - Who is actually involved?

Everything you're reading about has been birthed from relationships in the Christian Youth Leaders Network (CYLN) which church leaders gave us permission to establish in 2017. So the youth leaders doing the planning and progression of central cell are currently:

Amelia Godden – Aylesbury Vineyard
 Ben Holcombe – Oaks Community Church
 James Henson – Southcourt Baptist Church
 James Yelder – Broughton Church
 Lydia Yelder – Broughton Church
 Nick Collard – Church of the Holy Spirit
 Tom Rawling – Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ (attending Church of the Holy Spirit)

As well as working with these youth leaders who form the CYLN, we're working closely with the following churches whose young people and volunteers we're planning to involve in Central Cell but who currently don't have paid youth leaders:

Church on Berryfields (led by Gareth Lane)
 Granville Street Church (led by Philip Richardson and the elders)
 Holy Trinity Aylesbury (led by Charles Trefusis)
 St Peter's Quarrendon (led by Pete and Ali Wheeler).

Over time, we'd love to grow the network of churches who are involved in central cell and pull in youth groups from other local churches. For now, we're keeping it limited to this list so that we can attempt to start something with people we know relatively well, with whom we can more safely make our mistakes. All of this is relationally driven and these are the churches we've got to know the best.

Our experience to date has been that the youth leaders are of one mind, that the churches involved broadly agree with each other theologically and that there is a willingness to work together.

1.3 - How to navigate this document

What follows are 3 sections.

The first section tells you how we've got to this point and scratches the surface of why we think this is a good idea and some of the dangers attached to trying it.

The second section is a nuts and bolts look at how Central Cell would actually function; what would happen in the room, where would it be, how would the teaching would work, what the church's responsibility would be, who is accountable for what etc.

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The third section is a Q&A which attempts to cover some of the biggest questions attached to this. There's also an appendix showing you the questions we've received and thought through with Church leaders so far. We haven't included this in the main body of the document because it's already massive.

Please read this if you're involved in or affected by youth ministry in Aylesbury. A lot of the questions you will have are hopefully addressed in this document but if they're not, please feel free to contact your youth leader first, then your church leadership team, then us at Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ. We'll help however we can. And you may find you're asking one we have ourselves!

There are blue hyperlinks throughout so you can skip to any section, and the boxes on the sides take you back to the contents page so you can read easily find specific information. Please note this only works on the Word version and not on the PDF version. Both are available on the Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ website.

2.0 – Section 1 – The story so far...

As we started to chat with church leaders and youth leaders, we wanted to carefully consider what we wanted to protect from what we already have. We're also now in the process of considering practical questions that need to come into place for central cell to become a reality. You can read some of those considerations [in section 3](#). Section 1 is designed to show you briefly what we've been thinking and why.

2.1 – How have we got to this point?

It's important to underline that this hasn't been thought up by one guy in a shed one afternoon and proposed to you a week later. We've tried our hardest to be careful about how we imagine it, how we take it to churches and how we communicate it to the wider church. We hope what you're reading will help you to understand where we are hoping to head, but here's a rundown of what's happened so far:

- November 2018 – After Connect had some traction, Tom at AVYFC started wondering whether we could join up the youth discipleship across the town.
- December 2018-April 2019 – Tom chatted with the CYLN about the concept to check whether it was a stupid idea or whether it may have legs. We thought maybe it had legs.
- May 2019 – 5 youth leaders got in a room at Aylesbury Vineyard for 3 days and started to really imagine what it might look like.
- June 2019 – A 31 page document was written up for the church leaders to individually consider the idea which the youth leaders were thinking through.
- October 2019 – Senior leaders from 8 churches met at Southcourt Baptist Church to discuss whether this was something that should perhaps be pursued.
- November 2019 – Senior leaders from 8 local churches agreed to take the concept to their leadership teams.
- January 2020 – 9 local church leadership teams agreed that this concept was worth pursuing and that a change in the way we deliver youth ministry could prove fruitful, notwithstanding the difficulties it would cause.

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2.2 – What do we stand to gain by doing this?

Great question. Here are some of our thoughts:

1. The end of Youth Leader isolation
 - For whatever reason, Christian youth work is a lonely field. This can be very discouraging and sapping of energy and creativity. It's been our experience so far in this process that youth leaders working as one team from across the church not only reverses this, but enables us to be better than we would otherwise be alone.
2. The potential to create a thriving Christian youth subculture.
 - In reality, this is our biggest hope. A subculture that is alive and kicking, impacting the schools and local community. We would love it if a young person had been through central cell and its connected elements from 11-18, and they could look back and say "it was brilliant to grow up as a Christian at that time, in that place, with those people." We think that as a team across the churches, we could facilitate brilliant discipleship, super fun big socials, meaningful outreach in the schools and a constant encouragement to young people to love, serve and grow the local church.
3. A one stop shop for young people who want to come and see.
 - The strength of central cell will be found in the fact that everyone is in the room. We'll have a mixture of young people, leaders and churches but all with a common aim to know and follow Christ more closely. From here, non-Christian young people can be encouraged to join the local church from being part of something bigger.
4. Potential for big socials
 - We could rent a whole bowling venue, the whole of Wagamama's, a whole cinema... this would be a really easy in for a young person who is exploring faith but unfamiliar with the community.
5. God loves unity. There is a shared sense that if we managed to do this, we may start something we can't actually quantify in terms of God's blessing on a genuine gospel partnership across the churches.
 - We're well aware that an attempt of this level of unity also brings a great many challenges. Nevertheless, we humbly ask you to consider it; the joy of it working would outstrip the pain of failure. We hope.
6. Unity in vision, leadership, discipleship
 - We've found so far that this vision is one that makes sense to youth leaders on the ground and has sparked the curiosity of church leaders across the town. At the time of writing, there is a genuine shared sense of excitement among the youth leaders and church leaders for what God might do, and what the church could achieve as one body.
7. The regular building up of wider church networks and relationships.
 - A combination of networks and resources would massively strengthen what is possible in our youth provision and discipleship.
 - We'd also love to see significant relationships take shape across the churches which birth other stuff completely separate from the Cell, just because different combinations of church attenders are in the room together.

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2.3 – What don't we want to lose by doing this?

1. Personal youth leader relationships with young people
 - This is crucially important for discipleship with any age group. We think we've designed the Central Cell to ensure this still exists. Please see the next section for more information.
2. Affinity to a specific church youth group by young people. If you're a West Ham supporter, you love the England squad just as much, but not at the expense of West Ham.
 - We share the concern that Central Cell doesn't become a church in its own right. We've designed it so that this is mitigated as much as possible. In fact, without the local church getting behind this idea it will simply be impossible.
3. Good relationships with the church.
 - We don't want to make anyone mad or change things for no apparent reason. We hope this document, such as it is, demonstrates our commitment to carefully

thinking things through. Please be assured that each and every question is important and to some extent each of us are learning as we go along.

4. The concept of the crucial importance and love for the local church

- We passionately oppose the concept that a young person would come to Central Cell, love it, and stop going to Church as a result. We will design it with the continual intention that they come to Central Cell, love it, go to Church and enrich the family of God as a result.

5. Young people

- We're constantly hoping to create a context where young people can be welcomed, taken seriously, valued for who they are, disciplined effectively and challenged in their faith. We'd be really sad for this to turn young people away. We hope that doesn't happen.

6. Jesus

- We're super keen not to create a place that becomes a purely social context. At central cell we plan to relentlessly point young people to Christ, encouraging and challenging them (and ourselves) to follow him. Social contexts will be attached to the wider landscape, but central cell will be dedicated to prayer, looking at the Bible and constantly wondering together what it means to live out the Christian life.

7. Local church responsibility for the care and discipleship of their young people

- It would be a calamity if we replaced the church. We couldn't possibly and we don't want to. The Central Cell is therefore designed to be impossible without the church jumping in with both feet. AVYFC are attempting to be the reason why churches are able to work closely together each week. We're not trying to plant a new one. No way.

8. Plausible context for genuine relational intimacy to develop in terms of discipleship

- The "bigness" of this could be a reason why young people get lost in the mix. We understand this, we don't want it, and we've planned to mitigate it.

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2.4 – Summary of section 1

What you've just read through are some of the broad brushstrokes of why we're pursuing this idea.

What we'd like to show you next are the specifics of the evening and how it would run. Section three is where we'll attempt to address and answer all the questions that section 2 raises. **You can skip to it by clicking here.**

3.0 – Section 2 – The nuts and bolts

This section is written under the (wild) assumption that we're all definitely doing it. We've broken it down into a 2-hour weekly time slot with about an hour either end for set up and pack down. So here's a plan, which will be broken apart and explained in this section...

The layout of the evening		
Time	Element	Notes
18:00 – 18.45	Set up	Venue dependent.
18.45 – 19.00	Pray	This is for all paid youth leaders, the speaker, all other volunteers invited.
19.00 – 19.20	Arrive and register	20 minute countdown timer on screen so everyone knows when it begins
		We'll need music on as people arrive
		We'll need a PA and AV system.
19.20 – 19.30	Welcome, video and intro	
19.30 – 19.40	Input from speaker	No longer than 10 minutes. They will be stopped if they overrun!
19.40 – 20.20	Cells	Countdown timer of 40 minutes. This is all in Church youth groups
20.20 – 20.30	Prayer	This is in pods. 10 minutes countdown for prayer (this may become 20 as it develops)
20.30 – 21.00	Notices, chill, mingle, begin pack down	
21.00 – 21.15	Debrief	Compulsory for everyone.
21.15 – 22.00	Pack down	Compulsory for everyone.

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3.1 – Set up (18:00 – 18:45) and prayer (18:45 – 19:00)

The set up would be compulsory for all the paid youth leaders and the speaker needs to be available for prayer at 18:45. It would be wonderful if volunteer leaders could be there from 18:00 but the latest we'd need them to be there is 18:45 for prayer and a short briefing. We're not sure yet about the 18:00 "get in" time because this is venue dependent. If we can shave off time and effort on set up we will certainly do so.

18:45 – 19:00 will be a time of collective team prayer where we'll be asking questions like "what do we want God to do this evening."

If there's specific information about young people that needs to be shared with a church team for that evening, we recommend that this happens via Whatsapp before the time begins. Any further discussion could happen between 19:00 and 19:20.

3.2 – Arrive and register – 19:00–19:20

This will be a crucial moment for the safe and secure running of the event. We will need to establish processes for four sets of people; Christian young people, Non-Christian young people, volunteers and visitors.

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As the registration process is happening, we'll have music on, cards or easy games on tables, squash, water, doughnuts, biscuits, milling, chilling, chatting... All of this is venue dependent but we want to create a relaxed environment from the moment young people enter the main space. We'll also use a 20 minute countdown timer, projected on a screen so that everyone knows when we're about to begin and that we are about to start. This will make the transition from arriving to gathering a little easier.

As an overview we suggest the following:

- The registration and sign in process will need to be digital. Realistically we think we should use a software programme like Church Suite at an initial cost of £45.50 per month.
- We'll need tablets to make the sign in process is as smooth as possible. This will link to Church Suite; attendees and parents/guardians will be able to update all their details online.
- Depending on who they are, everyone in the building will have a lanyard which we'll retain each week.
- We'll have flex built into the system to cater for young people who just turn up on the day with no consent.

3.2.1 – Registration for Christian young people

1. Everyone who attends will need to have registered online in advance of their first evening. This will be through the AVYFC website linking to the Church Suite software.

2. Every registered young person receives a green lanyard. This lanyard will be personalised with their name, church suite number, the name of their church and the expiration date of their membership of Central Cell. This will be the September after they turn 18.

3.2.2 – Registration for non-Christian young people

We're making the assumption here that young people will walk in without consent by coming with their friends. When this happens here's how it'll work:

1. In week 1 they'll get a visitor lanyard along with a paper letter and consent form to take to their parents. We'll also take an email address so we can give their parents a notification email on the spot.
2. In week 2 they'll either come back with consent or they can come in again having forgotten to sort the consent forms.
3. In week 3 they must have followed the process for Christian young people or they'll have to leave and return the following week.
4. As part of their registration, non-Christian young people will need to choose a church which will go on their lanyard. This is important for the structure of the cell time. We would suggest that this would be based upon the name of the church that their friend(s) from school belong to. It'll be the young person's decision when they sort out the consent at home. There'll be online direction as to how to make this decision as part of the online consent process.

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3.2.3 – Registration for volunteers

1. All the volunteers involved will need to sign up as official Youth for Christ volunteers ahead of time, which involves an online form and agreement so some core policies.
2. We'll do red lanyards for all volunteers. These volunteers will belong to the local churches that are represented and they'll all need to follow AVYFC safer recruitment processes.
3. Each lanyard will have a photo for safeguarding, a DBS expiry date and the name of their church.
4. Safeguarding training for volunteers will be the church's responsibility but AVYFC will offer an option or suggestions every year. AVYFC will need to DBS every volunteer regardless of whether a local church has already done this. If anyone's on the online update service then the volunteers won't need to do this again.
5. Safeguarding training will be an essential element to have completed **before a volunteer can join in on an evening**. If necessary, a volunteer could grab a tablet and complete a course there and then before they enter the main area. The CCPAS course is really fast and effective as a starter.

3.2.4 – Registration for visitors

1. Visitors may include teachers, parents, young people with no consent, church leaders or visiting speakers. They'll all have a blue lanyard so they're easily distinguishable.
2. We'll have a physical visitor's book so we can record the time in/time out, date and a signature to confirm they'll do everything their lanyard tells them to.
3. A short paragraph on the lanyard will set out the expectations of visitors along the lines of:
 - Staying in public spaces and not being with any young people alone
 - Not taking any photos
 - What to do if there are any safeguarding concerns
 - If there's a fire then follow instructions

3.3 – Food

At this time in the day we won't be aiming to provide a proper dinner. However we're aware they'll all need something to eat and drink. We'll organise squash and water for the whole session. When people sign up and register we'll ask them to bring their own bottle to fill so that we don't waste or have to keep buying loads of cups. We'll have some spare just in case though.

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We think it'd be prudent to arrange a weekly delivery of doughnuts. Morrisons do ten for £1, so we reckon £20 would cover the doughnuts each week. We'll also have a stash of gluten free biscuits.

3.4 – Welcome, video and intro – 19.20 – 19.30

Each time Central Cell begins we'll want to make sure we're communicating the same messages about what it is, where we are, and what we're trying to do together. We quickly realised the best way to do this would be through a video that doesn't change. We'd like to get this beautifully produced somewhere with shots of Aylesbury and the schools and the churches. It would be about 3 minutes long and would include words to the effect of:

- We are the local church that AVYFC are bringing together in Aylesbury but this isn't church. It's just a little taster.
- This is for you if you're not a Christian
- This is for you if you are a Christian
- Here's what you can expect in the evening...
- Here's what else you might be able to join in on across the year...
- The whole point of Central Cell is to feed and enrich the local church, and to welcome those who don't know if Church is for them.

Obviously, it'll be snazzier than that but those are the things we'll constantly reinforce with the video each time. The video will need to be brilliant and it will need to be time-proof, as far as is possible.

Once the video is over a host will take over to welcome everyone and give night specific notices if there are any. We'll give instructions about:

1. How to go into a cell
2. What to do if you're lost
3. What to do if you're new
4. What the evening structure is

After that we'll intro the speaker for the evening, have a bit of banter with them and then hand over to them for the next 10 minutes.

The intro video is potentially an addition we would make after central cell has been running for a while and is working. To do it really well, we're looking at a few thousand pounds, so we might just survive without one in the early days!

3.5 - Input from speaker - 19.30 - 19.40

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Central Cell is about discipleship that is open to any interested young people. For this reason it is *not about the talk*. The talk will simply be a way to draw everyone together and introduce the theme, questions, passage or a few key ideas that will be explored during the cells.

For this reason, the "talk" **MUST** be 10 minutes or less. We'll time the speaker each time and the moment they go over 10 minutes we'll interrupt and start the discussion time. Probably best the speaker aims for 7 minutes.

To keep this consistent we'll issue a guidance sheet to any speaker ahead of time. We quite enjoyed the idea that there would be repercussions in the event of going over 10 minutes, but perhaps we can think about that another time. The speaker will then hand back to the host who will give general direction and pray as the discussion begins.

3.6 - Cell Time - 19.40 - 20.20

After the speaker, we'll break the room into Cells. This will be venue dependent but each youth group will have their own distinct area with their own youth leader and their own volunteers, according to their local church. This will be marked out with sign stands in specific sections of the room or venue. Any visitors will join the youth groups of their friends at this stage and any new attendees who don't currently attend a church will have chosen a church on a relational basis ahead of time.

Again, we'll use a 40 minute countdown timer so that it's clear that there is an end to this time and so the whole room knows when the next thing is happening.

3.6.1 – What happens during cell time?

Each evening we'll have a crib sheet of questions for the leaders. We'll always email this out ahead of the evening so all cell leaders can bring it or download it on their phones or tablets. We want to avoid paper as much as possible, and we also want to avoid volunteers having to do a load of prep. The time will be spent primarily on a bible study and discussion questions from the crib sheets. All the resources will be written or found by the CYLN ahead of time. We're really hoping to have a terms worth of material in our back pockets the whole time. We're currently working on the structure and content of the cells, which we hope will be a 4 or 5 year rotation based on four key values. We'll share more information about this as it gets firmed up, but in a nutshell, we want to encourage young people to know their bibles, love Jesus, love each other and look after the world.

To make sure the cell leaders know what they're doing we'll produce a cell leader job description. Ideally a cell leader will be committed to their cell for the long haul so that relationships and discipleship can really occur. We'd like to avoid a sort of "come if you're free to help" approach if at all possible.

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3.6.2 – Structure of cells

Our suggestion is that each cell consists of 6 young people and one cell leader. When churches have more than 6 young people, we suggest they split them down into groups of 6 with a leader from their church taking a set of up to 6 each. AVYFC will leave it to the youth leaders to decide who should be in which cell with which youth leader, and this will be as flexible or as fixed as that church sees fit.

Since no model works perfectly in reality, here's how we think we should approach group sizes and staffing:

1. 1 leader/volunteer for every 6 YP is ideal.
2. 1 leader for every 10 is possible but not ideal. When a church gets to this situation then we'll be asking that church to think carefully and urgently about providing more volunteers. Then they'd be able to split into two groups of 5.
3. 1 leader for every 15 young people just won't work since we won't avoid pandemonium and we won't succeed in meaningful discussion. 2 leaders per 15 young people is fine, but not 2 per 20.

In order to try and make it work effectively we suggest this landscape:

1. We'll need each church to have a Cell Champion. This is most likely to be the paid youth leader or where this is not possible, a key church member who has significant relationships with church leadership and young people.
2. Each church should have cell leaders each time for each set of 6 young people. If each cell leader is committed to their 6 then it will massively aid discipleship.
3. Since volunteers and leaders get ill, or go on holiday or get knackered from the rest of their lives, we suggest that each church provides a 'bank' of 5-10 volunteers who are happy to be called upon if necessary. These would effectively be 'supply leaders' if regular cell leaders are away or need a break.
4. Separate cells of 6 from one church can be together as a one off or as a last resort if key people are ill and all the volunteers in the bank are unavailable. 2 weeks of running with one leader and 12 young people will need urgent attention.
5. Churches with one or more young people and no present leaders will be spread between the other church's cells on that night. If this happens it will trigger a conversation between AVYFC and the church leadership, probably via the cell champion. That church must provide volunteers as soon as possible.
6. One thing that's crucially important is that **WE DO NOT WANT TO ALLOW CHURCHES TO ALLOW OTHER CHURCHES TO DISCIPLE THEIR YOUNG PEOPLE.** If a young person is in the room from a certain church, that church must make sure that there is a volunteer from that church engaged with the evening. If no volunteers are present routinely, the young people from that church can't be involved in this set up. This is because their local church youth provision must be being provided by their church in another context, which is absolutely fine. If churches sent their young people but not their volunteers, then this whole arrangement would cease to be church led. It would eventually become AVYFC led with a sprinkling of willing church volunteers from across the town. We think this would fail to grow the local church and really would rob local churches of their young people over time.

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3.6.3 – Resources and teaching materials

With such a diverse group everyone will need to make certain concessions in terms of their favoured approach to resources. We do think we need the whole room to look at the same thing otherwise the community will very quickly become fragmented.

The important thing is that all the churches involved are aligned as far as possible. As a marker in the sand, we're required as a Youth for Christ Centre to work according to the Youth for Christ Statement of Faith, which is based on documents drawn up by the Evangelical Alliance. We don't anticipate any real problems with this.¹ Resources of any kind will only ever be a springboard to spiritual discussion. The relationships are a much more important than the resources. The resources serve the relationships, not the other way around.

3.7 – Prayer – 20.20 – 20.30

We've planned for a 10 minute prayer slot, since our shared experience is that prayer is relatively uncomfortable for people initially. As we bed in, we may change the time of this from 20:20 to 20:10. Another timer will be displayed on the screen so people don't finish early or wonder what's happening next.

Because we want this to be discipleship focussed, the prayer time will happen in pods, which are groups of 3, perhaps up to 4 but definitely not 5. The only exception to this is if there are individuals who have visiting friends who are already in a 4. We'd split groups of 6 in half.

In terms of which young people are in which pods, this is another thing we'll leave to the churches to decide upon since they know the relational dynamics the best.

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We'll also encourage leaders into pods so that leaders and volunteers are not observing the prayer but we're engaging in it as well. This is a moment where young people will go off on their own and are not youth leader led. We'll be encouraging them to get to know a couple of others and support them in prayer every week. The individuals in the pods won't change, the same as cell groups won't change, in an ideal world.

We'll always have pods in gender groups. For uneven weighting among youth groups (1 boy and 5 girls in local church context) leaders will place young people into pre-existing pods with either friends they already know or by Connect leaders in their school.

The prayer time will be introduced by the host so that it's a deliberate moment for the room and so that cells don't just drift off. This is *not* a time of intercessory prayer. It's a time for discipleship and building each other up, so we want to be praying for one another on a personal level. We'll encourage people to pray along the lines of:

- General week coming or gone

¹ To see this document, please go to <https://aylesburyvale.yfc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2018/11/4.-Statement-of-Faith.pdf>

- Family
- School
- Friends
- Church
- Hobbies
- Big decisions/life changes
- Mental wellbeing
- God and faith

Non-Christian young people who are there won't have to pray but they will be in pods so they can get a sense of it, probably just wherever their friends are.

The churches themselves will decide which young people are in which pods, since they're the ones with the relationships. We'll try to find a way to hold this information centrally so that it can be accessed and edited as necessary throughout the week in the local church context.

3.8 – Gather, notices and chill - 20.31 – 21.00

The host will officially close the pod time but we'll be mindful of any pods that are still praying. The vibe in the last half hour will be to mill about and socialise, any remaining food and drinks will be available and these are the other things that will be on offer:

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1. We'll offer prayer with leaders for anyone who would like it off the back of anything that's been raised during the evening.
2. We'll have an information point for anyone who wants to ask about anything. Young people will be signposted to churches, Connect groups, future events and other people who may be able to answer faith questions from there. We'll also have a constant opportunity for young people to feed back to us about the evening from this point. We like the idea of creating a ginormous question mark on a stick to mark out this area.
3. Projected on a loop we'll have the following information:
 - Unite updates
 - Social updates
 - Connect times and places on a loop including photos of Connect leadership teams
 - Any other pertinent info

We'll share any really key information from the front at this point but most of it will be available on a loop and from the information point.

4. Similar to the beginning, we'll have cards and little games out during this time. We want to make sure there's space for people to mill and chat after everything has "finished." The best conversations usually occur during after the 'official' stuff is over.
5. We'll probably start elements of the pack down between 20.33 and 21.00 but we'll still be very much available for people.

3.9 – Debrief - 21.00 – 21.15

This will happen before pack down and is for all leaders including volunteers. There'll be an expectation on the leaders that they don't leave to drop off young people since the debrief will be really important for team dynamics.

We'll discuss stuff like:

- "What was a major win this evening?"
 - This will be super important so it doesn't become a big whinge fest... ☺
- Any safeguarding concerns
- YP that need to be picked up on in churches in terms of pastoral issues or a real area of developing gifting
- New people that have come that we need to look out for next time
- Any communication that needs to happen between AVYFC and X church about X. We guess this will most often be about volunteers and upcoming events
- We won't be taking feedback during this time in terms of logistics and major tweaks. If we did this then the debrief would be about an hour long. Instead we'll create and encourage people towards a feedback system online. We'll pick all this up during the week as a team before the next Cell night.

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3.10 – Packdown – 21.15 until we're done (hopefully before 22.00)

This is for everyone, both paid youth leaders and volunteers. The only exception to this is in exceptional circumstances that have been pre-arranged. Depending on the venue, we should be able to get everything put away in less than half an hour if everyone stays on.

We'll prepare and make available a to-do list that is venue specific so we can tick off all the jobs as we go and make sure no one person or people are doing everything. The fact we'll be on neutral ground should help with this as well, so there isn't just one person who knows where all the stuff goes and ends up doing it all.

4.0 Section 3 – Q&A

We've tried to give you all as much detail about the evening as we can at this stage so you can visualise what we're imagining. Since we're hoping these imaginary things become a reality, here are some of the questions you might have, and what we think we're going to do about them at this stage.

4.1 - How many young people are we actually talking about?

Having spoken to youth leaders and church leaders, we've come up with an initial highest number and an initial lowest number.

We think that if we pooled the 9 churches and all the young people we're in contact with showed up, we'd start Central Cell with about 170 young people in the room. This would mean we'd also have 23 leaders and volunteers (based on one leader or volunteer per 6 young people.)

We think that if we pooled the 9 churches and the young people showed up who we see regularly and we know are pretty committed already, we'd start central cell with about 80 young people in the room. This would mean we'd also have 13 leaders and volunteers (based on one leader or volunteer per 6 young people).

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4.2 - Where is this going to happen?

The truth is, we don't know yet.

But the *ideal* venue we'd like to find would have the following features:

1. Close to, or in, the town centre
2. Kitted out with a projector and PA system
3. One big, open meeting space
4. Potentially some smaller rooms to accommodate the cells
5. A space that lends itself to registration before people move through to the main area
6. Nice and secure in the interests of safeguarding
7. Not a church
8. Not a school
9. Free (as in available)
10. Free (as in doesn't cost us anything)

The reason we're keen to avoid both churches and schools is that we want everyone to meet everyone on neutral territory. We're certain there are churches in Aylesbury who would kindly host us, and we'd be delighted to accept, except that we want to avoid both a single church shouldering all the work in reality and we want to avoid the perception of benefitting one local expression of church above others.

Schools could technically work as venues, but we didn't want to put anyone off since they've already been in school all day. They may not want to either stay in their own one or go to another. A neutral venue would afford us the opportunity to set our own atmosphere.

So at this point, we'd like to throw it open to the local church. Does anyone know someone who knows someone who could help us out? Are there any ideas people have which could serve our purpose without being prohibitively expensive? A lot hinges on the venue so we'd appreciate your prayerful support on where we could do it. We've had some ideas including:

Bucks New Uni
Multicultural centre
Ex Serviceman's Club (currently up for sale...)
Army Reserves Centre
Waterside Second Space
Aylesbury College
UTC building
Queens park arts centre
Primary Schools
Community Centres

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As September comes closer and if venues are not forthcoming, we'll need to rethink where we don't want to go!

If you do have any ideas, resources or contacts, please do get in touch with us.

4.3 - What day of the week is this going to happen?

We're hoping to do it on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening. It was reflected back to us that Wednesdays are a common evening for adult small groups to take place which would create a volunteer and discipleship clash. Since this is the case, we tentatively wondered whether we could adopt a system where youth discipleship takes place on a Tuesday and adult discipleship takes place on a Wednesday or Thursday.

We want to avoid Fridays because a Friday feels like a social night and we're really keen to have a meaningful time of thinking deeply about the Bible and looking after each other. Social stuff is super important but is not the focus of central cell.

We're planning to let the church know by March 31st, having thought it through more widely. Hopefully that means that families, volunteers, churches etc have 6 months to plan for the adjustments it would entail.

4.4 - What if my young person can't make the day you choose?

Sad to say, but they just won't be able to come. We're aware that anything that happens in the week will clash with something and we're attempting to create something here that will be worth prioritising. We humbly invite you to consider making it a high priority activity for September 2020.

4.5 - How much is this going to cost?

We're not exactly sure, as the whole thing pretty much stands and falls on whether we can find a viable venue. But here's a summary of the stuff we think we'll need and the approximate costs of them. Some of the costs are only initial start up costs and some are ongoing.

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Item	Cost per evening	Cost per month	Start up costs	Annual cost	Notes
PA system	-	-	-	-	We're hoping that this will be included in the venue. Failing that, we'll start asking around...
Venue	-	-	£50 per evening?	-	In reality, this idea will only work if we can find a place for a nominal amount. If you have any contacts, resources or ideas, please get in touch with us.
Food	£30	-	-	-	100 doughnuts is about a £10, plus squash, plus biscuits.
First print of flyers	-	-	£60	-	We'll get 1000 double sided, A6 flyers for this.
Roll up banners x 5	-	-	£325	-	We can get five 800mm banners printed for this. We may not need five but this is indicative.
Church suite	-	£45.50	-	-	£45.50 is for up to 199 individuals involved. £60.50 is for up to 499.
	-	£60.5	-	-	Total shown below is for up to 199 individuals, so initially £45.50 per month.
8 tablets (estimate)	-	-	£1,280	-	This is based on brand new tablets for as little as £160 each. We wouldn't need more than eight but the last thing we need is not enough. It's possible that there are volunteers who are willing to lend us theirs for each evening, but this is logistically unideal.
200 Lanyards (badge holders)	-	-	£71.80	-	20 packs of 10 badge holders for £3.59 ²
114 young person lanyards	-	-	£51.30	-	114 at 45p each ³
50 visitors lanyards	-	-	£34.50	-	50 at 69p each
36 volunteer lanyards (assuming up to 4 volunteers per local church initially)	-	-	£32.04	-	36 at 89p each
Indoor showcard stands	-	-	£47.88	-	10 stands, one for each church ⁴
Intro video	-	-	£500 - £5000!	-	This is an estimate and as mentioned above, might be worth leaving out initially. High quality production has a high price tag unfortunately. The best case scenario is that a young person who is studying media and production could do it for one of their pieces of coursework!
Teaching resources	-	£30	-	-	Hard to guess this. We may want to use Youth for Christ resources for free, write our own or use something else. We would encourage churches to resource their cells depending on what we're exploring together. Centrally, a typical subscription is £30 a month so the price reflects this possibility. We suspect it would actually be lower.
Totals					
Total Costs per evening (based on a 39 week year)	£1,170	-	-	-	

² https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B01NIQ2QM9/ref=sspa_dk_detail_4?psc=1&pd_rd_i=B01NIQ2QM9&pd_rd_w=CZ8Mp&pf_rd_p=e2bfa5b5-111e-4906-b089-5d691a51d45f&pd_rd_wg=NK6ta&pf_rd_r=XN40QADQFC4MZA4HGXYZ&pd_rd_r=b3325dd5-812b-11e9-8f6e-13e541aad909

³ <https://www.lanyards.co.uk/flat-plain-lanyard/>

⁴ https://www.ukpos.com/indoor-showcard-stand?vat=2&gclid=EAlaIqBChMnMTnMK-4glV4b3tCh1ZCggcEAQYASABEgISkfd_BwE#sku:SS22A4R&infinity=ict2-net-gaw-ar-188762148914-kw--mt--cmp-UKPOS%20%7C%20Shopping%20%7C%20Bestsellers

Total monthly costs (based on 12 months)		£906	-	-	
Total start up costs (including £500 for intro video. In reality, we may miss this off saving £500 off the total cost below)			£2403	-	
Venue cost (unknown)			£50 per night?/£1950 per year	-	
Total spend for year 1 (including nominal venue cost)				£6,428.52	

4.6 - Will you divide the cost of this equally between the churches involved?

No. Instead we'd like to invite any church, and any individual within any church to contribute whatever they're willing. In our experience, this usually covers the cost. There will be no financial requirements for individuals or churches involved. But there's always the gentle invitation to contribute if you can.

4.7 - Are you really suggesting that we stop all our church based youth ministry?

Yes and no. We're suggesting that any youth *discipleship* happening in isolation in local churches should be replaced by a team approach at central cell. In effect, we're inviting you to move your cell groups into a room with the rest of us, so we can create and run it as one team. We think working like this will produce much more fruit and relational width and depth. One of the key things is that we're inviting everyone currently involved in youth ministry to stay involved, but to do it all together each week instead of separately.

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We're staying out of whatever happens in a church on Sunday morning. We'll be encouraging anyone at central cell to be in church on a Sunday, just as any local church would be doing in their own context.

We'd also suggest (though not stipulate) that local churches still run regular social drop in contexts locally. This would be a further item on the menu of ways that young people can join in with what the church is doing. Hopefully it's a little easier running table tennis and games consoles than it is producing and running a discipleship context. That's also why we're not centralising all social activities, though big socials will be a factor.

4.8 - Is it definitely going to be at these times and for this long?

No, at this point, not definitely. We think we have a window of between 18.30 and 21:00 to run the central cell time. Any earlier and we think we'll

struggle for volunteers, any later and we fear it'll be prohibitively late for some families in terms of bed times. Having not done it in reality, it might be that we shave off some time from the beginning or the end in terms of set up, registration and pack down. Again, a lot of this is venue dependent. We're conscious that a 10pm finish each week is pretty late, especially if volunteers have arrived at 18:45. At this point, we're trying to feel our way into it, be realistic, but we'll also try to save time wherever we can.

4.9 - I'm currently a youth ministry volunteer. What do I need to do about this?

Hello, wonderful person. First thing is to chat to your youth leader and get your head around it. If you're happy to join us in delivering central cell then we'll need you to sign up as an official Youth for Christ volunteer. This will involve agreeing to a code of conduct and statement of faith, but we don't anticipate this will cause a problem. In terms of the youth work itself, we hope we won't be changing too much about what you do in the room. It's just that you'll be doing it alongside other young people and other youth volunteers from across the town each week.

4.10 - I'm not a volunteer at the moment. Could I be?

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Good question. First thing to do is chat to your youth leader or church leader and see what they say. If they think it's a good plan, then so do we. You'll need to do some online forms and then all the information you need will come through your local church about how it works and what you'll need to do.

4.11 - Who is ultimately responsible for this whole thing?

In terms of GDPR, safeguarding, safer recruitment, resources, church relationships and finance, the Trustees of Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ will hold legal responsibility. Involvement of local churches will be on a close partnership basis but without official, legal responsibility. Anything that goes right will be because the church has kindly partnered with us, anything that goes wrong will be Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ's fault. If you'd like to consider joining the trustees at Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ as we explore this further, please get in touch with us.

4.12 - Is there an official chance to think this through within my church?

Yep. We're asking each of the CYLN to run an evening or evenings for their youth, parents, volunteers and other interested parties. We're not arranging those centrally, but they'll have or be making a plan as to when those will take place.

4.13 - I've got another question you haven't touched on in this document

Yep. First thing we'd suggest is to attend the evening or evenings mentioned above. After that, here's what we suggest:

1. Speak to your paid or voluntary youth leader in your church.
2. Speak to your church leadership.
3. If you still want to speak to someone at Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ (aka, Tom or the trustees) then option 1 and 2 will have made that clear and we'll happily arrange it with you. You can also make your questions known to us by going to:

<https://aylesburyvale.yfc.co.uk/centralcell>.

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5.0 – Some Final little details

5.1 – Safeguarding

The safeguarding policy will operate from Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ. As a centre we have a close working relationship with Thirtyone:eight⁵ who we can go to for help and advice whenever necessary.

We'll need to make it super clear at the beginning that discussions had with young people at central cell can never be guaranteed confidentiality. For this reason, there'll always be a balance between open and honest discussion and raising safeguarding concerns as they occur.

5.2 – Volunteer training

Training of volunteers would remain the responsibility of the local church. AVYFC would provide options each year in terms of safeguarding training, first aid and other seasonal events which may enrich the youth provision of the local church. None of the options laid on by AVYFC will be compulsory but AVYFC will need to ensure that training is being undertaken by the volunteers for their continued involvement.

5.3 – Final Church involvement

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For a church to say a final “yes” to this, we’re planning to compose a church covenant document which sets out all the arrangements and expectations which would be placed upon a church. The leadership team of any given church would need to sign this to confirm they understand the structures and they will do their best to uphold them.

5.4 – Encouraging Christian young people back into church

We hope, pray and will continually intend for young people to enrich their local churches by being a part of Central Cell. For this reason, any potential we spot in young people at Central Cell (in terms of leadership, service, speaking or anything else) will be referred back to local church leadership with our encouragement for those young people to be involved in those ways in the local church context. We may well invite young people to lead things at Central Cell, but we’d rather encourage them to lead Connect groups in schools or elements of local church life. So in effect, central cell is where we look after them, Connect and Sunday mornings are where they get stuck in.

5.5 – Thank-you’s and socials

We think it’s be super important to value and thank our volunteers as best we can. To this end, we suggest having an Easter, Christmas and Summer thank you. Each of these will happen on the last week of the Christmas,

⁵ <http://thirtyoneeight.org>

Easter and Summer terms and for that reason Cell Night will be replaced 3 times a year. To make this work properly we'd love to ask a different church each time to host and cater for us. If the churches who are involved are happy to do this, it would mean that no church would do this more than once every 3 years.

We'd also love to run socials 3 times a year for all Cell attendees and their friends. We think these would be best placed in October, February and June. This would be a natural place to invite friends who have never been to cell or church but may have heard about them through school. If we had enough attendees we could book an entire bowling alley or cinema. We'll try to be mindful of keeping costs as low as possible.

5.6 – Thanks for reading...

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Thank you for making it to the end. We anticipate there are many questions that this still raises, but we hope it's begun to communicate the potential that is held in trying this.

If you'd like to explore this with us further, here's the plan:

1. Keep your eyes peeled for the evenings that will be run in your church; Tom will try to be at some of those if it's helpful.
2. Ask your questions and raise your concerns with your youth leader and church leadership.
3. Get in touch with us again if it's helpful.

May the Lord bless us and keep us.

Love,

Tom Rawling
Director
Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ.
January 2020.

Appendix 1 - Questions from church leadership

For further information and context, here are some of the things we've been thinking through with church leaders...

1. You're Youth for Christ. This is a proposal to start a church. Why would we as a church pay to fund your church?

One of the things we really want to underline is that we're not empire building. We're trying to have a kingdom focus. We genuinely believe the best way to grow the kingdom of God is in close unity.

We also want to acknowledge that the word "Church" presents us with a semantic problem. Structurally, we are aiming to bring together those who are affiliated and loyal to a local expression. We're doing this for those who are nothing to do with any churches. We think it's the most effective way it can be done since we can constantly display who the church us to those looking in.

We're not trying to be separate from the local church, we're trying to feed it. Young people, (Christians or otherwise) need a safe space to process, think and discuss and this is what we're hoping to create. We want to use it as a catalyst for lifelong involvement in the local church.

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We also feel we're creating a stepping stone that is fair to the local church. If a youth leader meets a group of young people at a Connect group the youth leader could say "come to my church, it's the best," but instead we're trying to say "come and be in the company of 'The Whole Church'." We want to create a neutral space so that Connect attendees can make a free choice based on their own relational contexts. We intend to constantly communicate from the front that Central Cell is *not church*. Rather, it's a stepping stone into the church. We are committed to *not* robbing the church of its young people and we think we've created something that will serve this purpose.

2. Small churches will lose young people to big ones

To be honest we can't promise that this won't happen. What we can tell you is that we want young people to be for their local Church, to love it and be fond of and affiliated to it. We will try and use language to do with not being too distinct about churches specifically. We certainly will avoid holding one church up above any other. Apart from anything else, we are all one church anyway.

In addition to this we want to empower "small" churches to develop their ministry. We'd love to see "small" expressions of church thrive and grow in their discipleship of young people.

We don't want any churches to think we're doing their youth work for them. We've designed it so that this is not possible. There will be genuine

and crucial responsibilities placed onto all local churches who want to work with us in this way, which is why we're trying to plan far in advance.

The youth leaders present were all of one accord that it isn't any youth leaders agenda to gain more young people for "their church" at the expense of another. We want to grow the individual young people and honour their relational contexts in the process. This may entail young people moving from one church to another, regardless of the size of their church but we want to hammer home to them that Sunday morning is the family gathering which establishes a *lifelong* journey. We'll also make it known that sometimes it's about showing up even if it's not "fun".

In this whole process we will invite and encourage church leader dialogue. We'll establish processes for keeping everything in the light. This would mean that if a young person wants to move church it would trigger a conversation between AVYFC, the young person, the young person's youth leader and the young persons vicar or pastor. We don't want to see young people or families changing local churches on a whim.

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Implicit in the central cell idea is the assumption that church leaders would support and encourage each other. We'd expect church leaders to discourage new members from other congregations if there wasn't a good reason. But we think those kinds of conversations are happening already.

3. What are the financial costs of meeting in this way?

We've included a full breakdown of this above. Where we have unknowns, we've declared them. The headline is that year 1 would cost about £6500.

4. We don't want to lose any of our current benefits from our youth ministry. Instead, we want to gain more than we stand to lose.

We agree! Though we'd need to understand a little more what you mean by 'gain' and 'loss'. Hopefully some of this has been answered above. We think one of the massive wins of this is that youth leaders as individuals will spark off and encourage each other. This is in addition to what we stand to gain by pooling resources, materials and networks. We think we can establish a genuinely healthy and dynamic team from which everything else will flow.

5. We don't want it to be a youth club. We want it to be a space for spiritual encounter.

We can't promise to consistently deliver a spiritual encounter, but we do promise we'll always give it our best shot. It's simply impossible that Central Cell will be a 'secular' youth club. We just won't allow it. That is categorically not going to happen.

Historically at AVYFC, all the teaching disappeared and it all became about running purely social clubs. We understand that there may be some nervousness surrounding this and it's worth underlining again that this way of working is pretty much impossible under the current leadership of AVYFC.

6. This depends heavily on the relationships between the Christian Youth Leaders Network. How does that impact? Doesn't it make it fragile?

Yes. And yes. The mighty strength and Achilles heel are found in this one aspect. It does totally depend on CYLN relationships so we would really want to guard them. This is why in practice the CYLN would need to be routinely meeting, praying, planning, encouraging and supporting each other. The impact of this kind of working is significant and here are just two foreseeable knock-on effects:

- Lessening the availability of youth leaders in and around the Church building during the week. Instead they'll be facilitating Connect groups in schools, planning and delivering Central Cell with the CYLN, mentoring young people and getting ready for the next seasonal event. All as one team.
- AVYFC would humbly ask to be heavily involved in all future recruitment for paid positions, with a voice that is heard and taken very seriously. This is critical if we're going to guard the relationships and dynamics in the inter-church team. It would be part and parcel of doing Christian youth work "this way."

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We would guard the relationships as best we could. And we would need the churches blessing to do so, as it inevitably means we need meaningful, regular time together.

7. Why are we taking discipleship away from local church?

This is exactly what we're intending *not* to do. As we hope you'll see in section 2, the design of the Central Cell totally depends on the local church gathering to disciple its young people. This whole idea is deliberately impossible without firm and dedicated commitment from the local Church.

8. Aren't Youth for Christ overstepping the mark here? You're an evangelistic tool to be used, not an organisation that's supposed to take over.

Yep, we get that. Youth for Christ have certainly been viewed this way historically and still are to a large extent. It's probably worth declaring that National Youth for Christ have not fed into this idea since every centre is effectively an autonomous (though chartered) charity. It's the opinion of the current director of Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ that there's no such

thing as effective, disciple-making evangelism outside the context of meaningful community. That's why this is being designed to link in with the schools work and the local expressions of church. Youth for Christ are a tool to be used in this case. We are needed as an impartial central body so it doesn't become about one single church. The feeling among the youth leaders is that we either let that central body be Aylesbury Vale Youth for Christ or it would have to be another external body, or it wouldn't happen. The youth leaders who know their contexts and working patterns are willing to take this risk.

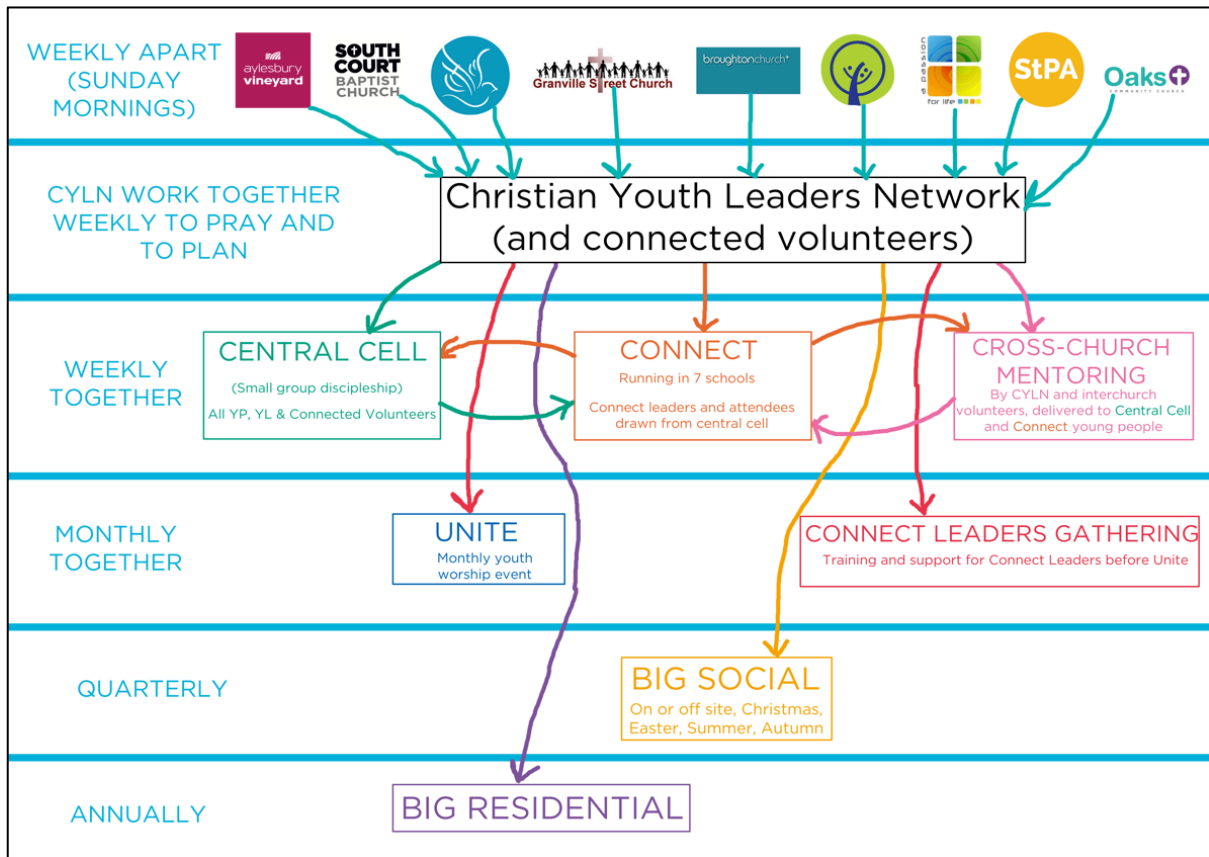
9. Why is this weekly? Does it need to be weekly?

It's a weekly event for the same reason that local cell groups meet every week. This regularity will build relationships and rhythm. If we were to "test" it on a once a month basis, it wouldn't start out as a true reflection of what we're proposing.

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Appendix 2 – The big idea in a picture

For those of us who like things visually, here's the big idea on one page...



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