



St James in the City
youth@stj.org.uk
stj.org.uk

June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Focus 2023!

You're receiving this letter as your child has had contact with someone on the STJ Youth team! Maybe they come to our Thursday Youth Group at St James in the City or more likely – your child goes to Archbishop Blanch, St Hilda's and St Margaret's where Matt and Becky are the Missional Chaplains. We have the privilege of working with your young person. All our work is designed to create pathways for young people to find a home in the local church, to find a space to belong and to really enjoy going!

As St James in the City Church, we are attending HTB Focus 2023. HTB Focus is an annual Church festival run by and for the HTB Network Churches! It's a chance for the whole network to meet together – have a lot of fun and learn more about being a follower of Jesus! We have extended the invitation to our STJ Youth group and pupils part of our 3 secondary schools and your young person has expressed interest in coming! We'd love to invite your whole family to come as there's plenty going on for the whole family! or just send your young person along. We are part of a designated youth team that will be there to support and care for any young person that joins us at Focus, as well as organising some other fun stuff – regardless if they come on their own or with your family!

There are specific tailored events for young people aged 11-18 during the morning, afternoon and evening at Focus HTB. Highlights this year could be the Inflatable Assault Course, Slush Puppies, Silent Labs, Skate Park, Basketball, Football, Consoles, 6th Form Common Room, Worship or Speakers! If your young person has additional needs that could be physical disabilities, learning difficulties, health conditions or mental health challenges Focus have dedicated youth team members at The Hub to ensure that no young person lacks support. You can find more information about the whole event at focus.htb.org/focus-youth or [@focusyouth](https://www.instagram.com/focusyouth) on Instagram.

Focus HTB runs from **27th–30th July 2023** at Newark Showground (Lincoln Rd, Coddington, Newark NG24 2NY) and delegates camp with their churches. We are offering transport for young people leaving St James in the City Church, Upper Parliament St, Liverpool L8 1UR at **10am on Thursday 27th July and will return on Monday 31st July to St James in the City around 12:30pm**. Please note that we are not in the business of pulling people away from their current place of worship to St James in the City but are seeking to provide opportunities for young people of faith to have time away together.

How much does it cost?

Tickets cost £130 per young person and StJ catering charge is £20 making the total cost £150 per person. The catering will cover the cost of every breakfast, lunch, evening meal and soft drinks across the time away. There are food vans available on site if your young person would like to bring some money to pay for extra drinks or snacks whilst they are at Focus.

How do I book on?

Whether you're coming to with your whole family or just sending your young person, head to stj.org.uk/focusyouth to book! You will then be able to pay online.

We look forward to hearing from you! We'll send a kit list nearer the time with what your child will need to bring! Feel free to email us with any questions: youth@stj.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Matt Bentley and Becky Courtney

Schools Missional Chaplains (part of STJ Youth team)

Matt Courtney

Head of STJ Youth