

## **Toastie Tuesday and Hot Chocolate**

We have had a good start with Toastie Tuesday in 2025, as we've seen our regular attendees continue to come around, as well as a few new boys from Richard Hale joining us many weeks. Each week we get to welcome 5-10 young people from Hertford into St Andrew's and offer them drinks and crisps and cakes (Bakewell tarts have been popular recently!) and toasties. After they've had a chance to eat and play pool or table tennis or cornhole, we gather for an all-play game of some sort. Then Bryan usually shares a story and message from one of the Gospels— this term we looked at the seven “I am” statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John, inviting the young people to consider what they personally make of Jesus's claims about himself. While we would certainly love for more young people to be coming in the doors each week, it is particularly encouraging that for many of those who do come consistently, that this is their only regular touchpoint with a local church. That is to say: we are very grateful for the privilege that it is to be in these young peoples' lives and to get to share the hope that we have in Jesus with them.

On Wednesday mornings we have continued to hand out hot chocolates to students from RHS, Simon Balle, Presdales, and The Sele School as they walk to school. While it varies week-to-week how many we hand out, we have generally been giving out 40-60 hot chocolates every week. We consider these to be precious moments as we get to briefly chat with the teenagers as we stir the hot water into the powder, and bless them as they head off to school for the day. Our prayer is that these moments would lead to more young people coming to Young Life activities or to church at some point, but regardless of whether or not that happens, we are once again grateful to get to be salt and light into their worlds.

We are very appreciative of the support we enjoy from St. Andrew's, and especially for May Muhr, Leslie Self, and Rosemary Willis who are helping at Toastie Tuesday most weeks. Thank you for partnership in ministry in Hertford!

If you would like to get involved with Toastie Tuesday or to support the ministry of Young Life more generally, please be in touch with Bryan Fries at [bfries@ylinternational.org](mailto:bfries@ylinternational.org). As a charity we are reliant upon the generosity of community members to support and sustain this important work of ministering to teenagers, and we would appreciate your prayers and consideration.

Bryan Fries