

Hello!

My name is Sean Briscoe and I am the Pre-Teen and Youth Worker at Wesley Hall Methodist Church in Crookes, Sheffield.

On a Tuesday afternoon (2:45ish-4:30ish) I run an afterschool session for school aged children from local schools. (King Edwards, Tapton, High Storrs, Notre Dame, Westways, Lydgate and Rivelin – there may be more but I have definitely noticed pupils from these schools)

In 'normal' times we open up our church hall and fill it with different activities for young people (Lego, mandalas, card games, a Wii, table tennis tables, table football, mini snooker and a magnetic darts board amongst other things I may have forgotten due to not doing this in over a year and a half!) We then invite them into the hall to have a hot chocolate or ice cream with all the trimmings, dependent on the weather.

This used to be very popular inside, but during the pandemic we of course couldn't run this as normal and have had to adapt. Attached is a picture of how our hall is set up currently to allow the local young people of the Crookes community the ability to still come and takeaway a cup of hot chocolate or tub of ice cream. During the pandemic, 'Drop Inn' has gone from strength to strength with almost weekly gains of young people, many being recommended by their friends. We have run every week that we possibly could to provide a light to these young people in such hard times.

At the time of writing, since September 2020 we have run our session 16 times and served hot chocolate or ice cream to 1669 young people and 91 adults. That is an average of just over 104 young people, and just under 6 adults per session. I believe amazing things are happening in Crookes and especially in Wesley Hall. I would like to thank the young people for still being so positive after all they have been through, and for my volunteers (3 of my 4 regulars pictured above) as without them, the session wouldn't be able to run, and definitely wouldn't be anywhere near as successful as it is.

We look forward to restarting 'Drop Inn' in September and hope the young people will be just as excited. To add in an extra faith aspect, in September we aim to restart a mini session tacked onto the end of Drop Inn, that will involve some of the young people staying for a little longer for a conversation over a specific topic or piece of scripture alongside a slice of pizza. This had been started just before the pandemic hit, and was beginning to gain traction before everything shut down.

Many thanks and God bless,

Sean Briscoe

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Wesley Hall is part of Wesley Ebenezer Methodist Church, registered charity number 1150284