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**SOMETHING
EXTRAORDINARY
HAPPENS
WHEN WE GET
TOGETHER**

St James in the City & St Mary's Wavertree
youth@stj.org.uk
stj.org.uk

March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Focus 2026!

You're receiving this letter as your young person has had contact with someone on the StJ & StM Youth team. Maybe they come to our Thursday Youth Drop In or Youth Group at St James in the City, Sundays at St Marys or your young person goes to Archbishop Blanch, St Hilda's or St Margaret's where Lydia, John and Jess 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 in a church community and to really enjoy going.

St James in the City & St Mary's Wavertree are attending HTB Focus 2026. 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 & StM Youth group and pupils part of our three 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 you can 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 other fun stuff, whether they come on their own or with their family.

There are specific tailored events for young people aged 11-18 during the morning, afternoon and for those in years 7-11 in the evening at Focus HTB, those in yr12 and 13 will be going to the main sessions in the Big Top in the evenings. Highlights have been amazing worship and seminars, inflatable assault course, Slush Puppies, silent labs, skate park, basketball, football, consoles, 6th form common room. If your young person has additional needs, e.g. 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 **23rd-27th July 2026** 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 23rd July and will return on Monday 27th July to St James in the City around 4pm**. Please note that we are not in any way

wanting to pull people away from their current place of worship to St James in the City or St Mary's Wavertree, but are seeking to provide opportunities for young people exploring faith to have time away together.

How much does it cost?

If you book before midnight on 30th March, ticket price will be £140 (after 30th March they will be £155). StJ & StM catering charge is £25, travel charge is £10 and contribution to camping space and parking is £7, making the total cost £182 per person (£197 after 30th March). 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 as a family or just sending your young person, head to stj.org.uk/focusyouth to book! You will then be able to pay online.

If your young person has already booked directly with Focus, please visit stj.org.uk/focusyouth to secure catering and travel.

We look forward to hearing from you! We'll send a kit list and more details nearer the time with what your young person will need to bring! **We want every young person to be able to come to Focus, so do get in touch if you require a bursary or payment plan. If you would like a bursary, please contact us before 26th March.** Feel free to email us with any questions: youth@stj.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Lydia Courtney
StJ & StM Youth Pastor