



# Conference

21st March 2026



## Programme

9.00

### Registration (Foyer)

- Refreshments served in Hub
- Marketplace (Classrooms 3 & 4) and SP&S Roadshow (Classrooms 5 & 6)

10.00

**FOLLOW**

### Main Session 1: 'Follow' (Assembly Hall)

'Formed by Who You Follow'

Speaker: Samuel Taylor, Plexus Salvation Army

11.30

### Morning Break

- Marketplace and SP&S Roadshow
- Marketplace Demo: How to find CY Resources online (11:40 - 11:45)

12.00

**TRENDING**

### Keynote: 'Trending' (Assembly Hall)

'Meet Gen Z and Gen Alpha'

Speaker: Laura Hancock, Youth for Christ

13.15

### Lunch Break

- Buffet lunch served in Dining Room & Recreation Room
- Marketplace and SP&S Roadshow
- Marketplace Demo: Prayer Partners (14:00 - 14:05)
- Marketplace Demo: Side-by-Side (14:10 - 14:15)

14.30

**IN REAL LIFE**

### Session: 'In Real Life' (Assembly Hall)

Featuring three interactive talks:

'The Influence of AI on Relationships, Identity and Faith'

Speaker: Gareth Cheesman, Youth Worker

'Beyond the Negative Feed'

Speaker: Joel Saunders, Presenter & Social Media Content Creator

'Young Voices Shaping Our Mission.'

Speakers: Antonia Dixey, Jeremy Williams and Megan Perkins, Participation People



16.00

### Afternoon Break

- Marketplace and SP&S Roadshow
- Marketplace Demo: Design For Life: Children & Youth (16:05 - 16:10)
- Marketplace Demo: Upbeat: Boys' Emotional Wellbeing (16:15 - 16:20)

16.30

**GOING VIRAL**

### Main Session 2: 'Going Viral' (Assembly Hall)

'Raising Influencers, Not Audiences'

Speaker: Captain Jonny Whitmore, Territorial Youth & Children's Secretary

18.00

### Close



Children & Youth

# CY Conference Guest speakers

# INFLUENCED



## Samuel Taylor

Samuel Taylor is part of the Plexus Salvation Army Team, where he works at the intersection of faith, culture, and digital life. With over a decade of experience in youth & worship ministry in various contexts, he's passionate about engaging the next generation in the Christian faith. Samuel lives in Liverpool, is a soldier at his local Salvation Army corps and is an avid follower of Arsenal Football Club.



## Anais & Khaim Spencer

Anais and Khaim Spencer, siblings from a musical family, are a duo who share a passion for music. Anais and Khaim both graduated from the University of Chichester. They love performing, writing and leading worship together. They are really excited to come back to the CY Conference again this year.



## Laura Hancock

Laura is a part of the team at Youth for Christ and oversees Ministry & Research. She loves volunteering with her church's youth group, leading a small group and helping people think through how we might creatively communicate Jesus to the next generation. She lives in Halesowen with her husband Andy and her two kids where they all attend Lifecentral Church. She loves reading, running, shopping and never says no to an offer of pick and mix!



## Gareth Cheesman

Gareth Cheesman (BA MPH) is a JNC qualified Christian youth worker and has been facilitating youth work and relationships and sex education for over 15 years. Gareth has worked across churches, youth clubs, schools and alternative education units. As the Esteem Network Director for acet UK he oversaw the development of digital and physical teaching resources tackling contemporary topics such as porn, sexting, deepfakes and consent from a Christian foundation.



## Joel Saunders

Joel is a twenty-year-old presenter and social media content creator from Surrey / London. He has been making videos for over six years now and has been presenting for various people for nearly two years. He runs two social media profiles: one centred around fitness, and the other focused on street interviews about faith.



## Antonia Dixey

Antonia Dixey is CEO of Participation People, a youth engagement agency that helps organisations move from 'youth voice' to 'youth influence'. She and her Young Consultants work across the public, voluntary and commercial sectors to co-design playful, purposeful ways for young people to shape decisions, services and systems.



Antonia will be joined by two Young Consultants, Jeremy Williams and Megan Perkins.



Children & Youth