

## Proposal for Corsham Area Board – Children and Young People’s Fund

### **‘Flava Café – Neston’**

The Greater Corsham and Lacock Team of Anglican churches has recently been reviewing its provision for young people in the 11-18 age group. This comprises a mixture of spiritual activities for those already in contact with the church, and social activities for both members and non-members. We cover the communities of Corsham, Lacock, Gastard and Neston, and seek to work with the local young people in context, seeing the needs of our community as important as the needs of our own members.

In Neston there is no central meeting place for any age group, apart from the pub. Neston Church has recently started a youth café called ‘Flava’, which is open once a month on a Friday night from 8pm - 9.30pm in the Upper Room of the church. It seeks to provide a warm and friendly atmosphere, with hot and cold drinks and snacks for sale at pocket money prices. Games and activities are provided, and leaders are always ready to sit, chat and listen as well as play!

Basic café facilities are already in place, thanks to the existing ‘Café Neston’ infrastructure and the church itself. One of the activities we provide is a Wii gaming console, with games projected onto a blank wall. The equipment used is currently personal property - loaned each time - with the projector loaned from one of our other churches. We would like to be able to purchase our own equipment so that the café is self sufficient in this respect and not dependent on goodwill and the difficulties of co-ordinating the loan of hardware each time.

Our application is for a sum of £700. This would allow us to purchase a second-hand Wii games console, a selection of games, a digital projector and ancillary equipment, and a wall mounted screen. Also we want to buy a number of more conventional board games.

While some console games can be isolating and solitary, Wii games tend to be quite sociable – for example Ten Pin Bowling, Track and Field games, racing games. There is a great atmosphere, and a lot of noise, when four young people are competing to win the virtual 100 metres race! Such activities help to build community.

Submitted by Rev Steve Wilkinson, *on behalf of ‘Flava Café’, St Philip and St James’ Church, Neston.*