

Samuel Lashwood, 2nd Year Physics with Theoretical Physics

The Charity:

[St Andrews Church](#) is a contemporary Evangelical Anglican Church, based in Furnace Green Crawley. The church has developed a basement youth centre and runs several clubs for local community children.

The Project:

The records for the children's work at St Andrews were currently being stored on paper in filing cabinets and new forms filled in (in entirety) at the start of every school year. I designed a database system to hold the children's details, designing electronic forms to collect the data, and managing the transition to online storage.

I have come to appreciate the importance of planning when writing an application. If I had not started by making a vague plan of where I wanted to take the project, I would have been working very ineffectively and would probably had to redo a lot of my work, which would have made progress slow.

I have also learned about the importance of 'AGILE' working. Having very regular meetings with my supervisor to recap what I've done, what I'm planning to do and what she requires of me has helped me to manage my time efficiently and stay on track. It also prevented me from getting near the end of my project and discovering that large amounts of my work were useless to the requirements of the system.

I very much enjoyed the placement and have a much better idea of what working in the software industry would be like as well as now knowing a new computational language. I believe that the project has greatly helped the charity too, which is ideal!



Highlights:

- Effectively planning algorithms and then executing them- I don't usually plan that far ahead on paper when I code and being forced to do it in this context will help me in my future degree work.
- Feeling that I know the VBA language now properly. I am now able to write code for automatic process without needing to look up the syntax for the involved code. This has helped my productivity and working efficiency to increase greatly.
- Meeting new people in the Church café whilst on breaks has been one of the highlights, as it has enabled me to appreciate the atmosphere of my workplace more fully.

