

Wd You ?



WORCESTER DIOCESAN YOUTH OFFICE UPDATE SUMMER 09



Hello! I'm Sarah Brush the Diocesan Youth Officer for Worcester Diocese and this is the summer edition of the Worcester Diocesan Youth Office Updates **Wd You ?** For 2009 This publication is going to keep you up to date with recent and forthcoming events in the diocese, training opportunities for youth leaders and useful information for working with young people. Please make sure you pass this to all those working with young people in the parish.

Recent Events and News

Around the Diocese



In January I was invited to preach at the diocesan Plough Sunday Service at **St Peter's Upper Arley** together with the **Young Farmers** (pictured above) where we thought about the verse turning our swords into plough shares. We used pipe cleaners to think about our talents and how we can turn them into something which we can use to serve God. Later in the month I was at **Bishop Perowne** training RE co-ordinators in using Breathe and exploring with them some innovative ways of linking Breathe into the curriculum.

The Youth Council and I visited **Bromsgrove Deanery Synod** to tell them all about the work of the youth council and the Worcester Spirit Mark for Children and Youth Friendly churches.

Since January the team of Chaplains has started at **Wolverley CE High School** and as well as introducing ourselves at assemblies we've been spending time with the students in break times and in classes - even through the snowy weather!

In February, I was invited to join the people of **St Peter's Martley** church for a Taizé service and shared some of my experiences of being part of the community. If you know anyone interested in **Taizé**, do remind them that we have a group of young adults going there this summer. For more details see www.worcestertaize.blogspot.com. Later in the month I was at **St Mary's Kingswinford** for their Rock Communion led by the worship band Formal Affair.

In March I was with those training to be readers in the diocese together with my new colleague Emma Pettifer who has recently started as the **Diocesan Children's Officer**. We were exploring faith development in children and young people and the concept of all

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age worship. Later in the month I was in **Matchborough** with the young people of **Christchurch** and we used a painting of Jesus on the Cross to reflect together how we might "shine as lights in the world". I also visited **St Mary's** in **Kempsey** where their young people led the morning service with their worship band Vision 33. At the **Worcester East Deanery Youth Event**, Archdeacon Roger Morris and I shared in the fun and faith with 40 young people and their leaders from across Worcester.

In April I joined the youth and children's leaders at **St Laurence Alvechurch** for their training morning. If you fancy running some training for your leaders in your parish and need some inspiration, guidance or a guest trainer, I'm happy to come along and work with you. After an Easter in **Kidderminster**, leading the three hours on Good Friday with my colleague David Morphy in **St Mary and All Saints'** and sharing in the dawn Eucharist at **St Barnabas, Franche** and I preached at **St Peter's** in **Pedmore** on the topic of Faith and doubt.

If you would like me to come and visit your youth group, youth project or church, please do get in touch. I can come and preach, visit a youth club or lead a family service or alternative worship service. Just ask!

Resources

I've added a few things to our resource library since our last mailing:

In addition to the ***Mixing it up with The Simpsons*** book we now have season four of *The Simpsons* on DVD so you can borrow both and use the clips suggested in the book. We also now have *The Miracle Maker* not just on video but on DVD (3 copies). Another great new DVD resource for the diocese is called ***Talking About Prayer***. This has over 20 short films addressing questions such as Why should we pray? What happens when we pray? And How do we pray? With wisdom from the likes of Beth and Matt Redman and R. T. Kendall. I've also invested in a few new **books of games** so as the summer sun breaks through, think about getting your young people outside! If you want some more inspiration for that why not take a look at the pages for those working with young people over at the **Christians in Sport** website (http://www.christiansinsport.org.uk/youth_sport/youth_youth-leaders.htm) for information about events, ideas for using sport as part of Bible Study and for free downloads. We also now have a **Playstation 2** with singstar and buzz. If you fancy trying out this resource with your youth group before investing in it for yourselves or if you just want a karaoke/quiz night as a one off, get in touch!

We now have the first few **iCans**. These are self-contained resource pots with everything you need to run a particular bible study, discussion, activity or worship session. Details of those now available and those that will be coming soon are on the separate flier. If you have any particular session you would like featured in these resources, please do get in touch.

Go Ape

If your group really fancy something new, why not try the Go Ape at the Forestry Centre at Callow Hill? See the enclose flier or try their website at: <http://www.goape.co.uk/days-out-in/worcestershire/wyre/the-course>

Good Childhood Enquiry

You may have heard a lot on the news about the Good Childhood Enquiry. We've got two copies of the book based it *A Good Childhood: Searching for values in a Competitive Age* which people can borrow if they wish. If you fancy reading something a little shorter, you can visit the Children's Society page (<http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>) and have a look at the summary or the reports for each individual section (e.g. the study of values). You can also have a look at the summary report or the report especially composed for children and young people with images and child-friendly language. If you're thinking about the Children and Youth Included Award, this report has a lot to say about children and young people being integrated into a whole community.

Funding Opportunities

As I said in my last mailing, this year Worcester Diocese is one of the dioceses to receive the Youth Evangelism Fund. Details are enclosed. The **deadline for applications is 1st July**. There are also various other funding opportunities around at the moment. For more details http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/work_of_the_diocese/YouthEvangelismFund.php

Job/volunteer Opportunities

Worcester East Deanery are currently advertising for an **Assistant Youth Worker** to start in September 2009. This is for someone who is intending on training to be a youth worker through the Centre for Youth Ministry Course. See enclosed flier for details.

This is also the time of year when some people are thinking about their **Gap year**. If you or someone you know is interested in a Gap year, I've put some links to Christian Gap year opportunities here: <http://wdyou.blogspot.com/2009/02/christian-gap-years.html>



Worcester Diocesan Youth Council welcome new members. Forthcoming meetings are on Tuesday evenings at Perdiswell Young People's Leisure Centre in Worcester from 7.30pm on the following dates: May 5th, July 14th, September 8th, November 10th. See also <http://www.worcesterdyc.com/>

Training & Best Practice



Inspire

Having cancelled due to snow in February, Emma Pettifer, Robin Sharples and I will be running the rescheduled day at St John's Bromsgrove for anyone in your parish who works with children and young people. There will be FREE RESOURCES for all those churches who send representatives. We hope to give you some ideas and have you share your ideas with other groups too. Book now for inspiration!

Do you want to think more deeply about your role and how to understand children and young people and help them develop? Or do you want to know more about how teams work and how you might work

ALMtraining
being a community learning to serve

with other young people in your local community? As part of the Authorised lay Ministry training starting in September, Emma Pettifer and I will be training those working with children and young people. See the enclosed flier and check out the diocesan pages for more details: http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/work_of_the_diocese/AuthorisedLayMinistry.php

Child Protection training sessions

Here are the dates and approximate locations of this year's child protection training events.

Tuesday 28th April REDDITCH, Wednesday 3rd June WORCESTER, Monday 6th July EVESHAM
contact Judy Baker 01905 20537 jbaker@cofe-worcester.org.uk or go to http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/work_of_the_diocese/child_protection.php

Internet Safety

Many people ask me about advising young people and parents on using the internet safely. I now have a DVD resource for running sessions with parents to raise their awareness of the internet and the safer ways of using it for their teenagers. If your church would be interested in hosting a session for parents on this topic. Please get in touch.

We love our Youth worker

Churches who employ a full time youth worker should check out the new charter for youth workers at <http://www.weloveouryouthworker.org.uk> which celebrates and encourages good employment practice.

we love our youth worker!



the national charter for church youth workers

Forthcoming events in the diocese

Salt 'n' Light

If you loved Rock the Cathedral, you'll be pleased to hear that the youth council are running an event on 12th September this year. Salt 'n' Light is a day (4-9pm) to encourage young Christians through workshops, prayer and worship. *The Relentless Craving* who were so popular at Rock the Cathedral are coming down to us again and the new line-up of Formal Affair will also be playing. Bishop David will also be joining us to share some wisdom. See the attached flier.

Happening 09

See the enclosed flier for details of this weekend run by young people for young people. At the end of July this summer.

Independence Day

If you're in the Redditch area, the churches are organising a day to encourage young Christians over the weekend of Independence day 3rd-4th July. There'll be a worship evening on Friday 3rd July and a day conference on Saturday 4th July about passion purpose and power, encouraging young people how to be Godly guys and Godly gals. Contact Stu Avis for more details at stu@engage-redditch.org.uk

Summer Coffee bar

If you're going to be in Worcester during the summer, Ashley from Worcester Are Schools Project is going to be running a summer coffee bar in St Helen's with opportunities for sports and drama workshops courtesy of the sports and drama teams from Youth For Christ. There will also be worship at the end of each week, a barbecue and much more fun. Keep an eye on the WASP website for details at: <http://www.wasp.me.uk/>

Far Forest Centre



The Far Forest centre now has its own website. Check out the information for new users, suggested local activities and photos of the centre at www.farforestcentre.blogspot.com

Other events

Medianet Academy

The Churches' Media Council is running a free 3-day training academy this June to help young Christians (18-35) to break into the exciting world of the media. 8-10 June 2009, Swanwick, Derbyshire. For more information see www.wdyou.blogspot.com or call 0845 652 0027

Electronic wD You ?

Want to share what you've read on here with others working with young people? Why not point people to the electronic version of *wD You ?* at <http://www.wdyou.blogspot.com/> for everything on here as well as current news on funding, events and resources available to those working with young people in the diocese.



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