



Children & Young People Annual Report 2018

Psalm 143:8

Let me hear Your loving kindness in the morning; For I trust in You; Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to You I lift up my soul.

Every new day brings challenges, excitement, encouragement and is certainly never dull. Over the past year the mission and ministry of Children & Young People (CYP) has gone from strength to strength. Despite the hold on recruiting an adviser within the Diocesan CYP Team to bring it back to the 2016 capacity, we have risen to the challenge and prevailed to keep both the reputation and reliability of the Diocesan CYP team at a proficient level. We have and continue to work alongside parishes to Grow, Enrich and Resource local communities enabling ministry to thrive amongst children, young people and families at a local level.

During the budget year of 2017 the CYP team facilitated and conducted the following work:

Training and Events 30	Consultation & Best Practice Visits (PCC's, Clergy & Parish) 13
Employment Consultation Visits and Interviews 25	Employed Worker days 4 plus 3day retreat
Employed Worker Visits 40	Youth Council meetings and events 10 plus residential
Safeguarding Group 11	South East Collaboration, Trusts & Ecumenical Networks 24

The impact of this work is sometimes hard to quantify, often within CYP ministry it is seed planting not often fruit yielding, but one strong evidential impact is the following testimony from a youth council member at her recent confirmation. *"Then there's my amazing WON family (Rochester diocesan youth council). WON stands for, With Others Now, it's a group of amazing teenagers that I have connected with and created many memory's with and have helped my faith grow as a person. I joined the youth council October 2016 and throughout the couple of years I have made so many memories, for example our annual residential to Kingswood, this was a chance to bond as a youth council but to explore faith as a group of young adults and many things that happened helped me take the step to confirmation. One of these moments was when the group of roughly 20 of us stood in a room and sang my lighthouse by Rend Collective all holding hands and just feeling at peace with each other as well as hope and stability. Throughout the years my faith has guided me to places I never thought I go to or thing's never thought I could do which has helped me grow and bloom as a person seeing the wider world in many different ways. For me my faith is a massive part of my life and thinking about it I couldn't think what my life would be without it. It's made me who I am today, the person standing right in front of you. I'm going to end my testimony in the words of the great Ed Sheeran. This journey is the start of something beautiful."* Bethany Franqueira St Stephens Church Chatham. Beth is also one of 8 the youth council members who recently attended General Synod as observers at which they received a verbal acknowledgment and round of applause within Saturday afternoon session.

The work of the CYP team is primarily supporting, advising, training and giving guidance within CYP ministry. This work is journeying alongside people, supporting and enabling them to find ways in which to install passion, vision, discipling and nurturing, whilst providing safe, exciting and reflective opportunities for children and young people to encounter Christ in a way that is real, life changing and an ongoing relationship; training and initiating conversation is just one aspect of this. Facilitated training in 2017 covered the issues of Mental Health, Children's Spirituality, Supporting CYP in Times of Crisis and Trauma, Safeguarding and Pastoral Care, through evaluation the following comments were collated from the question - What key learning point will you take away from today?

Cheryl Trice – Diocesan Team Lead Adviser for Children & Young People's Mission & Ministry

Sarah Cabella – PA to the Diocesan Team Lead Adviser for Children & Young People's Mission & Ministry

“To role model and be a positive influence and support to children and youth I need to take time and continuously nurture my relationship with God and my journey of faith.”

“How to implement appropriate sessions in our Church”

“Importance of discussing issues of gender / mental health with young people”

“Importance of guilt free rest and strategies for serving in youth ministry”

“The importance of spiritual direction”

“Encouraging them to pray for our young people and the challenges in their lives and to be there to listen to and support.”

“I thought it was an excellent seminar / workshop. Thank you.”

“Thank you all so much for your contributions to this morning’s programme. I loved the variety of style and material and the ways in which each of you engaged with the group but also helped them to be stretched by what you presented. Lots for them to think about individually and in their context”

“Thank you so much for doing the training – as you may gather my lot were buzzing after it.”

Currently there are 48 youth, children and family ministers/workers within the diocesan network, 41 of which are employed by parishes with 7 employed with trusts or organisations affiliated to the network. The past year has seen 5 new posts created and 6 posts re recruited and all of which the CYP team has been involved with through the process of establishing the vision, creating the post and the employment interview process. There are currently 3 vacant posts and another 5 potential posts in the pipeline for 2018. Whilst it is very exciting to encourage and support a PCC and leadership team through this process it always comes with a warning that CYP ministry is WHOLE church responsibility.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for visiting us at Families Together at St Paul’s yesterday. Also, for the instrumental part you have played in working with Fr Richard and Fr Paul to shape the Families Missioner post at St George’s with The Annunciation, the job specification, recruitment (and review) process. This has made all the difference. And so, I thank you again.” Kim Curle Family Missioner at St George’s & The Annunciation, Beckenham.

The development and process of the Ebsfleet Youth & Community Officer post has taken place and we hope to fill the post shortly. Collaboratively, between external funders, project boards, consultants and diocesan departments the vision behind this adventure will come to fruition in 2018.

Launching into 2018

The Our Conversation, Our Future consultation enabled the CYP team to quantify and evidence the excellent CYP ministry that is already occurring through our diocese and highlight areas for development and much needed resource. A diocesan survey conducted in 2015 by the CYP team with a 74% response from churches revealed the following:

93% ran Sunday groups for children	41% ran midweek groups for young people	
63% ran parent & toddler groups	3% ran social action projects with young people *	*This is a very low percentage bearing in mind the evidence that if young people are involved in social action projects their faith is more likely to be sustainable by 75%

47% ran midweek groups for children	Only 7% of churches involved young people in decision making**	**Compared to 70% of churches ran groups that equates to only 1 voice being heard.
70% ran Sunday groups for young people	10% of churches develop a relationship with community or external agencies	
1% of churches engaged in vocational activities and language		

Linking the results of this survey in with the responses to Our Conversation Our Future, it enables the CYP Team in collaboration with the wider framework teams to work cohesively and intently into areas and objectives that are prayerfully responsive, targeted and visionary.

The CYP ministry has been placed within Growing Disciples stream, but we are very aware CYP ministry and work spans across streams within the whole framework. With this in mind the following objectives will be developed and initiated within the next 12 months:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantive CYP community presence on policy and decision making, Championing within the Tonbridge archdeaconry • Implement 3 Young Leaders Programmes (1 in each Archdeaconry) improving Life Long Faith and YP leadership positions within their parishes & communities • Vocation opportunities - enabling parishes to identify CYP into vocation exploration and minimalizing low aspirations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch & Implementation of the CYP Fund. The Children and Young People (CYP) Fund has been set up with a primary aim to enable applications to start from a base of which small projects and ministry can build from and be linked to the Diocesan Called Together Framework • Expanding the CYP Team, initially within the Bromley & Bexley archdeaconry to be more focused and localised to communities and its ministries, therefore more targeted
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The CYP fund has been made possible through the significant financial support of Colyer-Ferguson Charitable Trust. There will be a strong emphasis on reaching the local and immediate community with a Christian ethos behind the work of the project, demonstrating the love of Christ and following Jesus’s example of enabling people to be complete and have an identity in Christ.

Our vision for 2018, is too once again serve as a team, advising, guiding and supporting local ministry throughout the diocese. *Resourcing* churches and communities to be visionary, missional and *enriching*, alongside the wonderful opportunity of *Growing* disciples.

