

St Albans Diocesan Youth Strategy: 2008 - 2011

To provide parishes with a theological framework and practical ways of engaging young people in the context of mission:

- a) Produce a theological framework for working with young people drawing upon the Board of Education 'Going for Growth' document and the Every Child Matters government agenda for young people.
- b) Work with colleagues within and beyond the diocese to explore and provide insights into what 'missional youth work' looks like in a parish.
- c) Examine examples of the use of 'Fresh Expressions' with young people and explore how these might be encouraged and promoted within our parishes and deaneries.

Continue on-going conversations with parishes building on 'Let's Talk Mission: Let's Talk Youth'

Working with Diocesan colleagues to interrelate strategy within Diocesan priorities.

Our purpose:
To help parishes identify their vision for young people & act to reach it.
To facilitate young people coming to an active faith in Christ, where they can grow in their faith and where that faith impacts on the way they live, the decisions they make, who they are.
Our vision includes supporting those who are vulnerable, the disabled, excluded, those who feel that they have been let down.

Ensure that all communications from DYS are accurate and of high quality.

To provide support to parishes to undertake ministry with young people

- a) Explore ways of shaping youth ministry in parishes and develop models for employed workers on full, part-time or sessional basis.
- b) To encourage high standards in employment of staff through initiatives like "We love our youth worker"
- c) Work with Eastern Region colleagues, voluntary organisations and local authorities to develop appropriate quality assurance guidelines to help parishes to self-evaluate.
- d) Share best practice within and beyond the diocese with particular reference to specific needs e.g. working with boys, safeguarding & first aid and provide relevant and locally delivered training

To provide and support events & opportunities where young people can gather, grow and give out

- a) Promote, support and encourage events at diocesan, deanery and parish level involving young people and address obstacles to participation e.g. transportation
- b) Work with ROP and partner with other organisations that provide opportunities for young people to grow and find expression in their faith, particularly to pilot Urban Saints Emerging Leaders programme, and to encourage global links.
- c) Work towards the greater involvement of young people in decision making at all levels of the church creating appropriate structures & mechanisms that give young people a clearer voice.

Develop website and online presence, encouraging users to engage with us to think through and change what we do and how we do it, to benefit young people.

Ensure that those not yet fully engaged in online communications are not disenfranchised.

Leadership & Management

Working with parishes to deliver all work to the highest standards.

Working with Reach Out Projects (ROP) in supporting youth work activity.

Working with deaneries in responding to need and sharing best practice.

Communications