

St Mary's Youth Newsletter

Edition 3: July 2010



There is much excitement in the Aftershock group as 15 of us set off to Shepton Mallet on the 11th August for 5 days of teaching, worship and fun at Soul Survivor. We shall be camping and would value your prayers for fine weather. This should be a great time to be together, learning and meeting with other Christians at this event. A full report on what happened will be given in the Autumn edition of the Youth Newsletter.

Womans Own

On the 22nd May I had the opportunity to speak at Women's own. This was a great opportunity to share some of my stories about working with young people. It was an extra special treat to be given a cooked breakfast on a Saturday morning. Many thanks to everyone for making me feel welcomed. The event finished with everyone taking a small stone to represent a young person and praying for them.

Equipping

This term I have attended the first two modules in the Diocesan Youth leaders course Equipping. This has been good to work alongside other Youth leaders from the diocese. The sessions so far have looked at the aims of youth work and youth culture. I am looking forward to the final two sessions of this course after the summer.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

On Good Friday I was part of the Easter Eggstravaganza at Swards End Church. 18 Children from Swards End had a great time exploring the main events of the Easter story, as well as making Easter gardens and games. There were four young leaders and four other adults running the event and this event was a particular highlight of Easter.



Aftershock

This term in our teenage programme, we have explored our gifts and talents and how we can use them for God. It has been good to see the young people developing, using their musical skills in H2H and their creative skills as we respond to God through painting and drawing. We also enjoyed an evening in Bridge End gardens playing rounders.

On Track

On Track has continued to grow and develop in both schools. This term we have examined "People Jesus met" and considered the difference that it made to people's lives to know Jesus. It has been great to hear the discussion from the young people as they considered how "all things are possible for God" and they are beginning to make links with the other stories we have looked at.

On Track





In April, the Church was accredited with the "Love Your Youth Worker" accreditation. This is a series of promises made by the DCC and Church to support the youth work and youth leaders at St Marys. The church was commended on their application to this scheme and is one of the first 15 in the country.

Future Events:

1st -6th August -VBS at County High School

11-16th August - Soul Survivor

18th September - Equipping Diocesan Youth Worker training.

9th October- Launch of X:site

VBS 2010

This summer is my first experience of VBS(Vacation Bible School) that happens in Saffron Walden. I will be the deputy leader in the Senior tent. Many other people from St Mary's will be involved including some of our young people as young helpers. Please pray that a good time may be had by all the people attending and helping.



X:Site

October will see the launch of an event for 7-11 year olds called X:site. This is run by Churches together in Saffron Walden and Scripture union. If you would like to find out more about this event, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Tesco's Vouchers for Schools and Clubs

Many thanks to all those people who have donated vouchers towards our youth work at St Marys. We managed to collect 3641 vouchers which we have used to purchase sports and craft equipment to use with our young people.

Volunteers :

As I approach the end of this newsletter, I am conscious of the fact that I am nearly one year into my time at St Mary's Church. I would like to thank everyone for their support this year, particularly all the fantastic leaders and helpers that I work alongside. Lots of good things have happened this year and new opportunities are already starting to present themselves for next year. It is more important than ever that there are volunteers to help keep the activities running. All the groups would benefit from people who would be willing to give time (if only once every 3 weeks) to help with a group. If you feel that you may be able to give some time to this work, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number below and I would be happy to chat with you about ways in which you could support us.

Prayer Requests:

Please remember these various elements of the youth work in your prayers:

- For the Vacation Bible School working to spread the good news this summer.
- X:Site - The project for 7-11 year olds starting in October, that the necessary arrangements will be made and remaining team members will be found.
- Soul Survivor - That our young people would have a good, safe time of learning and fun.
- Exams - This summer sees some of our young people awaiting exam results. Please pray that this may go smoothly.

BUT ABOVE ALL:

- For our young people themselves, that they may continue to grow in Christ.

For more information on anything in this newsletter contact Andy Finn on 07794518907 or email on andyfinnis@hotmail.co.uk