

# St Mary's Youth Newsletter

Edition 1: October 2009

## Aftershock Bowling Trip

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 10 young people from St Mary's Aftershock and their friends went to Haverhill for an afternoon of bowling. Scores were taken and prizes awarded for the highest and lowest scores. Special praise should go to one leader who scored 275 (including three consecutive strikes!!) A fun time was had by all who went.



## Ride and Stride

One of my first tasks as Youth worker was to accompany the Aftershock young people on the Ride and Stride around 11 churches. We walked for 6 miles and raised over £190.



## Junior Choir Trip

On 19<sup>th</sup> September I had the opportunity to meet the Junior Choir on their Swimming Trip to Cambridge Swimming Pool. Many thanks for inviting me along and making me feel welcome on your trip.



### Aftershock

After discussions with the young people of Aftershock we have tried out a new programme in Aftershock. In addition to our social activities we are looking at six key events throughout the Bible (Creation, the Fall, the Exodus as well as the Incarnation and Resurrection). This has proved to be a good time of discussion and a chance to respond to God about the things we learn and the young people have described it as "helpful." Plans are underway for a social event every other month as well as a weekend away in February and a Soul Survivor Trip in the summer.



### Stort Valley Trust

Working alongside a member of Stort Valley Trust, I help out with a lunchtime club at County High School in Saffron Walden every Thursday. This is a time for young Christian people in the school to meet together as well as a place for non Christians to drop in share some food and discuss issues with other young people. This is a club which is valued by all who attend it and also provides a place for young people to relax during their lunch hour.

### Shockwaves

After a slow start to the term, a good number are attending Shockwaves and numbers are fairly regular each week. Many of these children have little contact with the Church and we are working on a program that looks at issues such as families, friendship, worry and temptation. The games and crafts each week are related to the theme and a Bible verse or story is also shared. We also held a quiz a few weeks ago which was a good social occasion to bond the group together.



## Sunday Club

This term has seen the start of a regular separate group for the teenagers in Sunday Club. Along with Tracey Nicholls, I run a group for those at secondary school which follows the same bible passage as the 3-11 year olds but gives the young people a chance to discuss this at their level. This term we have been challenged by passages from Proverbs as well as passages from the Gospels.



H2H is the monthly Youth Service that takes place in the Parish rooms on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at 6.30pm. This term we have met together as a cafe style service. We sell cakes to raise money for Jimmy's Night Shelter. Please feel free to support us on our next event on 1<sup>st</sup> November at 6.30pm.

## Future Events:

31<sup>st</sup> Oct – Bright Light Party for  
8-11 year olds

1<sup>st</sup> Nov – H2H (Youth Service)  
at 6.30pm

4<sup>th</sup> Nov – Diocesan Youth Leaders  
Gathering

20<sup>th</sup> Nov – “Youthwork - the Conference”  
(An event in Eastbourne for Youth  
Leaders over the country which I shall be  
attending.)

1<sup>st</sup> Dec – H2H (Youth Service)  
at 6.30pm

Please remember these events in your prayers.

### The Volunteer Team:

I would like to start by thanking all the Volunteers who have kept these groups running week after week over the last few years and without whom the groups would not be able to run. THANK YOU! However, the Church intends to expand these teams and need volunteers to help support the continued running of these groups. From November, the Church will be recruiting new volunteers. Talk to myself or a current volunteer to get a flavour of what we do. I encourage you to consider prayerfully whether this may be something that you can offer your time towards. We would like to be able to add Volunteers to existing groups as well as develop other opportunities such as work in schools. If you would like any more details about this please do not hesitate to get in contact with me using the details at the bottom of this page.

### Prayer Requests:

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

- Bright Light Party – On the 31<sup>st</sup> October, we are holding an alternative event to Halloween for 8-11 year olds on the theme of Light in the darkness.
- Existing Volunteers – Please remember the volunteers who work with each of our youth groups, who give their time to make things happen.
- New Volunteers – Please pray that new volunteers may come forward for each of the groups to help extend our work.
- Schools work – As I start to make contact within the Schools, please pray that these contacts develop.
- Young people inviting friends. – We are starting to see this happen, please pray it may continue.

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