

Synod Children's and Youth Work Committee Report

Submitted by Graham Purdye



*The good leave an inheritance to their **children's children**... Proverbs 13:22a*

Membership: 6 active members: Graham Purdye (Convenor), Liz Sutton (Secretary), Thomas Hackett (CYDO) attends as staff responsible to this committee (see below). Representatives from Kearsney Camp, Synod Youth Camp and Youth Executive.

Liz Sutton unfortunately has informed the committee that she wishes to resign as Secretary due to problems with her wrist and hand although she has very kindly agreed to stay on in the role until a new one is found. So please could everyone give some thoughts as to whether they or anyone in their congregations who may feel able to take on this role which is mainly taking minutes of 5 meetings a year. I'm sure Liz would be more than happy to discuss the role with anyone who is interested. zilecs@ntlworld.com

There is also still a need to get more involvement from Local Areas on the committee.

Camps:

Synod Youth Camp: Unfortunately, due to a shortage of numbers, the Synod Youth Camp did not take place this year, however it is hoped it will next year and Roger Jones spent a day at the Kearsney Camp with a view to getting some cross-over between the two camps.

Kearsney Junior Church (Lighthouse) Camp was held from Saturday 22th to Saturday 29th July. The theme this year was 'Space' and was attended by 60 young people (see separate report attached). Tom Hackett, our CYDO attended for a couple of days and was pleased to see everyone having such a good time!

Unfortunately, since the camp there have been various issues that have come to light, mainly within the Core Group, which the Synod is currently helping to hopefully resolve. It was originally hoped that the Constitution for the camp would have been approved by now by Synod Council, however this has had to be delayed until these issues are resolved.

Synod Strategy for Children's and Youth Work

Tom also brought to the last meeting a document 'A vision for Youth & Children's Work in URC Southern Synod 2012-14' for discussion to enable us to work towards a new strategy for the Synod which has not been updated since the end of 2014.

Synod CYDO

Tom has been continuing to visit churches after the summer break and has been to the Knitted Bible exhibition in Tooting as well as Messy Church at Reigate Park. There are a number of Child Friendly Church Awards up for renewal in the next twelve months and Tom is prioritising them.

Synod Youth Executive (SYE)

The SYE are still having ongoing talks with Thames North Synod with regards to having some joint meetings and ones are planned for pre and post Youth Assembly 2018. Churches should have received

Postcards with details of Youth Assembly and are asked to encourage any young people from their churches to attend. The Synod funded eight places this year and a similar number can be supported next year.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

2018: 10th January

14th March

20th June

Venue: Lynwood Room, St John's URC, Orpington