

SYNOD CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORK COMMITTEE REPORT

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



Membership:

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

Liz Sutton finishes in her role as Secretary this months and I would like to record the committee's thanks for the excellent job she has done over a good number of years. Unfortunately, we have still not managed to source a replacement 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.

Youth Assembly:

Ten young people from the synod attended the youth assembly on 19-21 January at Whitemoor Lakes, Staffordshire where the theme was 'Pilgrimage'. Hannah Jones became Youth Moderator at the end of the weekend and Sam Brown is now Youth Assembly Clerk. Hopefully I can bring a report to the next meeting. Hannah will hopefully be speaking at this meeting.

Camps:

Kearsney Camp: Unfortunately, the mediation which took place last year was unsuccessful and the participants decided not to move on to the next stage of mediation. As it did not prove possible to resolve the issues, we will not be supporting Kearsney Camp going forward and a letter has been sent thanking everyone for their work. They are now responsible for their own Safeguarding and insurance as well and they have been asked to change their name from URC Junior Camp.

Synod Youth Camp: This year's Synod Youth Camp has been booked for 4th-11th August. It is hoped that Revd Anne Sanderson from Thames North may be available to lead, using the same theme (Temptation) and plans from last year. The necessary information will be sent out soon. Although the camp didn't happen last year, as a result of the information sent out about other events to those who had booked, three new people went to Youth Assembly this year.

Synod Strategy for Children's and Youth Work

The Strategy for Children's & Youth Work is still being finalised but among items highlighted are:
Churches with a Rep need to be identified and visited, followed by a report back to the committee.

Young Leaders' Training: There is a programme for training young leaders within the Scouting movement and some of their modules may be of use. Tom will also be looking at what other CYDOs use. Sponsoring Scout groups within churches could also be beneficial. Boys' Brigade training is being renewed in September.

SYNOD CYDO:

Children and Youth Questionnaire – The questionnaire was distributed to all churches through the annual returns. The forms were due to be returned to the Synod office by the end of January. An e-form will also be produced and sent out to children and youth contacts. From the information received, Tom will be able to establish where the greatest needs for training are.

Tom has also been running a number of training sessions including some which cover both Safeguarding and Good Practice.

Synod Youth Executive (SYE)

There are three members of the National Youth Executive who come from Southern Synod. At Synod Together Reunite, there was bowling, workshops and, of course, faith sessions.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

2018: 14th March

20th June

12th September

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

Graham Purdye, Convenor