

## Children's and Youth Work Committee Report to Synod

Submitted by Graham Purdye



*The good leave an inheritance to their children's children...*

*Proverbs 13:22a*

**Membership:** 6 active members: Graham Purdye (Chair), Reuben Watt (Acting Secretary). Thomas Hackett attends as staff responsible to this committee (see below). Representatives from Synod Youth Camp & Youth Executive.

We are very grateful to Reuben for temporarily taking on the secretary's role and taking the minutes of the meetings, despite his other roles in Synod and further afield. We are still looking for a secretary 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.

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

### **Synod Youth Camp:**

Unfortunately, due to a shortage of numbers, the Synod Youth Camp did not take place again this year. The committee have discussed reasons for this and will be looking at the possibility of running either a weekend camp or week long (Monday to Friday or Saturday to Saturday), next year. There will be some further discussions with those who showed an interest this year, and also consideration given to possible venues.

### **Youth Assembly: 18 – 20 January 2019 - One Body: We're all in this together**

A weekend to focus on Jesus, to share in community with other young people, and to explore what it means to be church together. Age Year 10 - 25-year olds. Assembly meet at Whitemoor Lakes, Alrewas, Staffordshire.

### **Booking Details and Cost on or before 11th November: £110**

**Cost from 12th November: £140** Age: Year 10 to 25 years

Please encourage your young people to attend. As usual, there will be some financial help available, so please contact Tom for details.

### **SYNOD CYDO:**

Tom is continuing to work through the renewal of Child Friendly Church Awards and any new applications as well as continued Safeguarding training.

Tom has advertised running further CORE skills sessions, however, there has been no uptake on these but several churches have said that they have done something similar and so they want something else. Possibly publicising what these "CORE" skills are could increase the uptake.

The committee have looked at other possible training subjects including:

- storytelling such as Godly Play
- Messy Church training
- mental health training (Wessex currently have run one)- Young minds.

Along with General Assembly, Tom has also visited a Holiday Club in Cheam, some Messy Churches, and meetings about the potential of employing Youth Workers etc.

### **Synod Youth Executive (SYE)**

The Youth Exec is currently looking at informally changing their name to make it sound more friendly and the two options are Youth Voice and Youth Collective. There is a music event called SING being run which will run alongside the November Youth Executive on 23-25 November with plans to then play at Youth Assembly. This is Reuben Watt's final year as the Synod youth rep and so someone else will have to take over in January. If anyone is wanting to do it then contact Reuben or Tom.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

2018: 10<sup>th</sup> January

14<sup>th</sup> March

20<sup>th</sup> June

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

