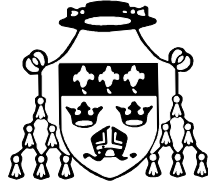


DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA



DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 34th meeting held at the White House, Poringland,
on Sunday 17th January 2010

PRESENT (9 members)

Joe Howard, Lauren O'Neill, Leah Richards, Harriet Saunders, Sarah Shippey, Josh Snape, Claire Waterson, Ruth Waterson and Claire Wiseman with Hamish MacQueen and Bishop Michael.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Heidi Barham, Arlene Bennett, Mary Boyle, Katie Johnston and Greta Pells (and taken for granted from others who cannot come because they are now at college or university).

Bishop Michael welcomed two new members: Sarah Shippey (North Walsham) and Josh Snape (Haverhill).

MINUTES: The minutes of the last meeting were distributed. There were no matters arising.

REVIEW OF EVENTS

❖ **Saturday 2nd January: Epiphany Eve/New Year Youth Mass at Poringland**

It was agreed that this event had gone well, despite the reduced numbers on a very cold and snowy evening. It had been smoothly run, with many DYC members actively involved. Special thanks were accorded to Michael Wiseman for his help. The food and fireworks were good (Bishop Michael especially appreciated his three bowls of chilli!); the snow prevented the bonfire getting going. This was the third year this event had been held. Members generally thought the event worth continuing, although it was also agreed to explore other possibilities for this annual Mass for the recently confirmed and those preparing for Confirmation. Hamish will revisit previous ideas about Mass at Carrow Road (Norwich City Football Club) and on a boat, despite the problems encountered the first time we explored these options; young people from Ipswich may be less than enthusiastic about the former option!

PLANNING 2010

❖ **Spring half-term event**

It was agreed that there should be two ice-skating events on the Thursday and Friday of half-term week (18th/19th February), one in Norwich and the other in Peterborough. Claire Wiseman and Leah offered their help as leaders. Claire Waterson pointed out that the temporary rink in Cambridge over Christmas might be another option in future years.

❖ **Summer half-term event**

Given the main option between cycling in Thetford Forest (£10 per bike per half day) and two 1½ hour activities at Eaton Vale Activity Centre (£14 total), it was thought best to opt for the latter, perhaps choosing one water event (rafting/canoeing) plus another (grass sledging, abseiling, etc). Hamish will investigate further for a decision to be made at our March meeting.

❖ **The Big One 2010**

It was agreed to hold another 'The Big One' event at St Benedict's School this summer, on 11th July (subject to agreement by the school). [*Bishop Michael's editorial extra: it should be noted that this is the date of the World Cup Final in South Africa; in the unlikely event of England reaching the Final, the time of that match may influence attendance – not least Bishop Michael's!*] We are delighted that Simon Millyard is happy to be involved again.

TAIZÉ 2010

The leaflets for the 2010 Diocesan Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé have now been printed, and will be distributed to parishes in the next few weeks. This year's version puts extra emphasis on the 17-29 age-range for the pilgrimage; people aged 30+ must make their own arrangements directly with Taizé. Bishop Michael encouraged DYC members to consider coming this year. 2010 is the 5th anniversary of Brother Roger's death, and the 70th anniversary of his founding of Taizé. Bishop Michael also distributed copies of this year's 'Letter from Taizé' written from China by Brother Alois.

YOUTH MISSION TEAM

Hamish is in discussion with St Alban's and St Benedict's Schools, but nothing has been finalised as yet. There is a weekend mission in Cambridge in March.

TOWARDS WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011

35 people had formally signed up so far, with another 25 saying they were definitely coming. Preparations and planning are ongoing, but little progress has been made so far regarding 'Days in the Diocese', due to the 'manana' approach of the Spanish Diocese currently being approached! Travel by boat remains the cheapest option, but it is recognised some may prefer to fly. The next WYD Preparation Day is on Sunday 7th February: besides updates, there will be a quiz. Members suggested that simple refreshments be provided.

SISTER ACT

Possible dates were discussed for DYC members to go to the musical of 'Sister Act' in London. Hamish is to explore possible dates during the week after Easter.

VISITING CAMBODIA

Two of our seminary students, Henry & Pádraig, were in Cambodia at the time of the meeting. Several parish groups were to visit in January/February; Sarah Shippey is paying her second visit with the North Walsham group. Harriet Saunders is to spend an extended 8-week period in Siem Reap teaching English during the latter part of her gap year; Bishop Michael gave her details of Fr Heri and the Catholic Church in Siem Reap.

CYNFED DAY

Hamish gave notice of the forthcoming day being organised by CYNFED. 15 people were going from the diocese so far. A few others expressed an interest at the meeting.

LETTERS RE JUSTICE

Those present signed letters to the British Foreign Secretary, David Milliband, asking him to do all he can to persuade the Israeli government to bring about an end to its blockade of Gaza, so that humanitarian aid can reach those still trying to recover from the violence a year ago.

MASS together (with prayers for Haiti), followed by **PIZZA** as usual.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday 14th March 2010

Further dates this year are:

- DYC Meeting: 25th April
- DYC Retreat: 4th/5th September
- DYC Meeting: 26th September
- DYC Meeting: 14th November