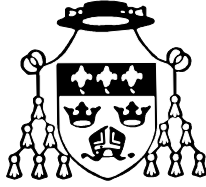


DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA



DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 32nd meeting held at the White House, Poringland,
on Sunday 20th September 2009

PRESENT (*6 members*)

Arlene Bennett, Stephanie Miles, Lauren O'Neill, Harriet Saunders, Simon Smart and Claire Wiseman with Hamish MacQueen and Bishop Michael.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Grace Garside, Katie Johnston, Poppy Nobes, Ciaran O'Kane, Greta Pells, Leah Richards, Ruth Waterson and Agata Wygnanska (and taken for granted from others who cannot come because they are now at college or university). Apologies if any apologies have been missed!

Quite a number of previously active members were no longer able to attend as they had just begun at university. It will be important to recruit some new members. All present and past members were thanked for their involvement: the DYC had been going for 6 years, and this was the 32nd meeting. Arlene and Claire had both been at the first meeting in September 2003, and Simon had started soon afterwards.

MINUTES: The minutes of the last meeting were distributed.

REVIEW OF EVENTS

- **WALK TO WALSINGHAM** (*4th May*)

This had been generally successful, with a few relatively minor difficulties, but should be done again. Next year there would be a greater focus on fundraising for World Youth Day 2011.

- **CAMBODIA 2009**

Arlene reported on her and Leah's trip to Cambodia in May/June. She emphasised what an extraordinary experience this had been, and that everyone should go if possible. Arlene and Leah will give a more fulsome report, with pictures, at the November meeting.

- **KARTING** (*27th & 29th May*)

This had been enjoyed by all, but there were small numbers (12/13 at each event). This could have had serious financial implications, but Hamish had been able to negotiate with the administrators of both venues. If karting is to be repeated, it should be at one venue only (perhaps Thetford), and plugged with various Confirmation groups.

- **THE BIG ONE** (*12th July*)

More time and energy had been put into publicising this event, and yet the numbers were slightly down on 2008. This may have been affected by concerns about swine flu, and clashes with parish events, but there had as yet been no build-up of momentum for this major diocesan event. On the other hand, many thought this was the best 'Big One' yet and had been much enjoyed, with a good spirit and atmosphere. The team hats had been a very good idea! Perhaps a more radical revamping of the games was needed in the future, so that those who come several years running do not find much the same activities. It also needs to be made very clear in the publicity that the event is free.

- **TAIZE 2009** (*25th July – 3rd August*)

Our largest group of pilgrims so far had been to Taizé this summer (23 in the official diocesan group), and all had gone very smoothly, with no problems. The group had jelled well. The only disappointment was that so few WYD veterans had decided to come to Taizé as a follow-up to Sydney. Once again, we had met two Cambodians there (Brother Jean-Marie had recently passed on their good wishes to us from Taizé).

- **DYC RETREAT** (*29th/30th August*)

The biggest number so far came together for this annual event at the White House. Including the two who could only stay on Saturday evening, 15 DYC members joined Hamish and Bishop Michael for the weekend. The

traditional Sunday roast had been much appreciated. When discussing the dates for 2010, it was agreed to move the retreat one week later, from 28th/29th August to 4th/5th September. Although a few might be adversely affected by this, as their college terms began early, most would not; those still at school would have little course-work to do so early in the term.

- **DIOCESAN CAMP at Eccles Hall**

41 8-13 year olds had attended this year's camp; so many had applied that some had to be turned away. The camp had focused on the diocesan theme of 'Stewards of God's Creation'. 10 helpers had attended. The camp for older teenagers at Ampleforth had been cancelled due to lack of numbers; it was thought that some of the regulars from the younger group might well wish to revive the Ampleforth camp in the future, when their time came.

Claire Wiseman was congratulated on achieving her St John's Ambulance First Aid Certificate, enabling her to be of extra service at the Diocesan Camp (and the Big One).

PLANNING 2010

In the light of the previous discussion on last year's events, the following programme was agreed for 2010:

- **Saturday 2nd January: Epiphany Eve/New Year Youth Mass at Poringland** (for those recently confirmed or preparing for Confirmation). Details will be discussed at the November meeting.
- **Spring-half term: Ice-Skating at two venues**
- **Monday 3rd May: Walk to Walsingham** (meeting up at the Diocesan Pilgrimage)
- **Summer half-term: activity to be decided.** Possible karting at one venue, but Hamish will look into the options for high ropes and/or abseiling (e.g. Eden Vale, Go Ape). Cycling through Thetford Forest was also suggested.
- **Sunday 11th July: 'The Big One' in one form or another.**
- **Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé** (24th July – 2nd August)
Bishop Michael emphasised that any pilgrim group may include no more than 5 pilgrims over 30. It is primarily a place of pilgrimage for young adults.
- **Diocesan Youth Council Retreat** (4th/5th September)

Alongside these events would be World Youth Day preparation activities and the Diocesan Camp.

It was also suggested that we think again about the possibility of another trip to Thorpe Park.

RELICS OF ST THERESE

Hamish recruited members to help with the Vigil at Walsingham on 6th October.

HOLY LAND 2010

Only three people from the diocese had signed up as interested. It is not viable as a diocesan event, but those three may be interested in joining a school group already organised.

TOWARDS WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011

There had been good contacts with Madrid, and Hamish was to attend a WYD meeting in London on the Wednesday after this meeting.

The Launch Day had been arranged for Sunday 4th October at Newmarket, from 1.00-4.30. The draft programme is:

1.00	Arrive. Eat packed lunches
1.45	Ice-breakers with a Spanish theme!
2.00	Presentation by Hamish, followed by deanery groups
3.00/3.30	Mass

DIOCESAN YOUTH WEBSITE PAGES

The newly-formatted diocesan youth web pages are up and running. New content is to be added.

LETTERS RE JUSTICE

Those present signed letters to the President of Azerbaijan on behalf of Eynulla Fatallayev, a journalist imprisoned for criticising his government.

After **MASS** together, **PIZZA** was consumed by all!

NEXT MEETING: Sunday 8th November