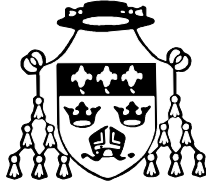


DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA



DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 30th meeting held at the White House, Poringland,
on Sunday 15th March 2009

PRESENT (9 members)

Arlene Bennett, Lindsay Bradley, Charlotte Dore, Paul Gorzelak, Joe Howard, Lauren O'Neill, Leah Richards, Harriet Saunders and Claire Wiseman, with Hamish MacQueen and Bishop Michael.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mary Boyle, Grace Garside, Katie Johnston, Joe Millyard, Timothy Tittensor and Ruth Waterson (and taken for granted from others who cannot come because they are now at college or university).

WELCOME: Bishop Michael gave a warm welcome to Lindsay Bradley and Lauren O'Neill, who were attending the DYC for the first time.

REVIEW OF EVENTS

• **ICE-SKATING**

The two ice-skating sessions during half-term week had gone well, with 20 attending in Norwich and 30 in Peterborough. There had been no injuries! The glow bracelets had been appreciated. It would be good to advertise such events in Norwich at year assemblies in Notre Dame High School (especially Years 7 & 8). It was agreed that the dual-venue approach had worked well.

• **ST IVES YOUTH TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND**

Bishop Michael reported on his half-term trip to the Holy Land with 8 young people from St Ives parish. This had gone very well, and illustrated the viability of events such as the proposed diocesan youth trip in 2010.

• **PARISH EVENTS**

Several members reported on recent youth activities in their parishes. This included a new youth group in Newmarket (with Brandon/Mildenhall) which meets monthly; events so far had included ice-skating and bowling & pizza. 10-15 were attending. The 'Wonky Haloes' group in Poringland for 8-13 year olds was going well, as was the young people's fencing club; the parish hoped to set up a group for those aged 13+.

PLANNING EVENTS

• **KARTING** (*Summer half-term week*)

As last year, Ipswich would be booked for two hours from 2pm, this time with a maximum of 26; Swaffham would be booked from 4pm, with a maximum of 20. A subsidised charge of £17.50 was agreed (up on last year's £15, but still very reasonable).

• **WALK TO WALSINGHAM** (*4th May*)

Members agreed that we should retain the idea of an overnight camp (perhaps at Burnham Deepdale), leading to the walk on the morning of Monday 4th May. It would be for those in Year 10 and above (subject to Hamish discussing and agreeing the matter with Barbara Warwick); CRB-checked adults will be needed.

• **THE BIG ONE** (*12th July*)

There is some frustration that the 'Big One' has not grown any bigger since it began, although it is clearly enjoyed by those who attend. Various parishes are to be targeted for the Big One 2009, and the involvement of DYC members will be important. Paul agreed to talk to St Benedict's School (and did indeed get to work very quickly!); Arlene would encourage the Felixstowe Confirmation Group; Harriet would see what she could do in Costessey, as would Lindsay at St Mary's, Ipswich, Claire generally in Ipswich, and Lauren in Poringland.

Bishop Michael suggested that it would be good to involve Sister Cinzia in Peterborough. The general format of the Big One was thought good; some new games would be introduced; perhaps the band could play before as well as after the Mass, to allow a time of 'winding-down' after the games.

OLEM PAINTBALLING

The OLEM (Cambridge) youth group has decided to go paintballing in Royston, outside the diocese, and so it will not be a diocesan event. DYC members will have to wait until their paintballing and overnight retreat on 29th/30th August.

TAIZÉ 2009

Ten people have so far expressed an interest in joining the Diocesan Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé this summer, and two have already paid. We leave on Saturday 25th July and return early morning on Monday 3rd August.

CAMBODIA 2009



Arlene and Leah's flights to Cambodia in May/June 2009 have now been booked, and Fr Totet in Battambang is arranging their programme.

A deceptively charming Vampire Gecko from Cambodia, ready to welcome Arlene and Leah!

HOLY LAND 2010

The cost of the proposed youth trip to the Holy Land in spring 2010 has already risen from £650 to £750. The Felixstowe Confirmation Group (21) are already lined up to go.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008

The final diocesan-organised reunion will be on 29th March in Bury St Edmunds. Hamish will use the occasion to encourage people to come to the 2009 Taize Pilgrimage and the 2010 trip to the Holy Land.

TOWARDS WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011

Hamish continues to explore the options for travel to Madrid, and venues for the 'days in the diocese'. The diocesan preparation will begin in Autumn 2009. Some surprise was expressed at the length of the ferry travel option – 36 hours on a boat from England to Bilbao!

NOTRE DAME MISSION DAYS

Past and present members of the DYC were hopefully to be involved.

DIOCESAN YOUTH WEBSITE PAGES

Members approved the proposed new format for the diocesan youth web pages, with the proviso that the colours be bright (and especially that the orange be fluorescent!).

LETTERS RE JUSTICE

Those present signed letters to the President and the Chief Military Prosecutor of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with regard to the ill-treatment by soldiers of the children of a human rights worker there.

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

NEXT MEETING: Sunday 26th April 2009