YEAR OF THE CHILD 2009 in BIRMINGHAM DIOCESE

During the Year of the Child 2009 we hope that parishes will make their ministry with children and young people high profile and high priority, focusing on 4 key areas:

CELEBRATION – celebrate the children and young people in your churches and communities
ADVOCACY – speak out on behalf of children and young people and, even more importantly, give children and young people the opportunity to speak for themselves – about their faith and what life is like for them as a Christian in the 21st Century
POSITIVE IMAGES – children and young people get so much bad press – lets help to change that by promoting positive images of children and young people, their faith and spirituality
STORYTELLING – we challenge you to tell the Christian story as creatively, as often and to as many children and young people in your communities as you can

How you can get involved……

Download the ***Year of the Child Publicity Booklet for Parishes*** from the Document Library Children's Section of the website – www.birmingham.anglican.org for information on what The Bishop's Adviser's for Youth and Children's Ministry are doing

National Family Week 25th – 31st May 2009

Visit www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk to find how you can link into this week of activities

Mother's Union Children's Fun Day 6th June 2009

A big picnic at Cannon Hill Park – for further details email: office@mu-bham.fsbusiness.co.uk

Big Picnic

Can you hold a big family picnic and worship event based on the story of the feeding of the 5000? It was a child who brought the loaves and fishes to Jesus. What do children and young people bring to your community? What do adults bring?

The Big Lunch 19th July 2009

Look out for publicity on the government initiative *We Will If You Will* which aims to deliver mass mobilisation of sustainable behaviours encouraging and helping people to live lower impact lives. Churches can get involved in the launch event – The Big Lunch - which aims to encourage as many people as possible to sit down to lunch together with their neighbours- by offering their facilities or growing produce to share.

Play Day 5th August 2009

This year's theme is 'Make Time'. Visit www.playday.org.uk for details

Young People's Sunday

Can you set aside at least one Sunday service this year to focus on children and young people? Join churches all over the UK to value, celebrate and involve young people. Visit www.youngpeoplessunday.org.uk for ideas and resources

Centre for Youth Ministry

The Centre for Youth Ministry are adding a new specialism – Children and Family work - to their existing degree programme, which already includes Youth and Community Work, this September. The courses combine academic study with practical experience and the college is continually looking for suitable placements for its students. Can your parish offer the required support and guidance to a student? Visit www.centreforyouthministry.ac.uk or email mcym@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk for more details

Stories of Hope and Transformation

Look through this booklet, sent to all parishes, for stories of good practice in Youth and Children's work in Birmingham Diocese. Could any of them work with your community? (If you require further copies of this booklet please contact the Bishop's Adviser for Youth Ministry, email: Helen@birmingham.anglican.org or the Bishop's Adviser for Children's Ministry, email: Claire@birmingham.anglican.org)

Will You Make a Difference? DVD

Every parish has been sent a copy of this. It has some inspirational clips of children and young people talking about their faith, discipleship and church as well as resources for parishes to use to review their own ministry to children and young people. Use it as often as you can throughout the year.