

Year of the Child 2009



By Jasmine Milton age 5

Details of events and resources in Birmingham are available on the Diocesan website: www.birmingham.anglican.org

For details of what's happening around the country visit www.yearofthechild2009.co.uk

Dear Friends in Christ

YEAR OF THE CHILD 2009
A major opportunity. What are you doing?

2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Child. This is an outstanding opportunity for us to celebrate childhood, children and young people in the life of the Church.

The way we treat children is a measure of the health of society. Churches have a significant role in ensuring that every child in the Diocese of Birmingham, whatever their circumstances or background, is equipped to be a confident, faithful and flourishing citizen.

During 2009 I want to ensure that every child has an opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus.

I am encouraging and challenging you to:-

- engage with and celebrate children in their local schools and communities
- provide opportunities for children and young people to speak and act both in their own church and their communities
- raise the profile and encourage the confidence and faith of young people in the worshipping life of the church
- tell the Christian story creatively amongst local children and young people
- promote positive images of children and young people, their faith and spirituality.

Thank you for what you are already doing.

This leaflet includes ideas for deanery, parish, group or individual participation.

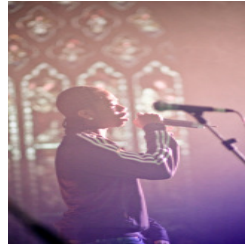
I shall be praying with you and look forward, as does Bishop Andrew Watson, to hear all about your progress.

Yours in Christ

The Rt Revd David Urquhart
Bishop of Birmingham



www.birmingham.anglican.org



A 'Tour' of the Diocese

Over the last 2 years the Bishop's Advisers for Youth and Children's Ministry have been visiting Deaneries to give them an overview of what's happening in their area. Along the way we've collected lots of stories of good practice, new beginnings and exciting events.

To launch Year of the Child 2009 in Birmingham, we'd like to share these stories with clergy, children's and youth workers in a 'virtual tour' around the

Diocese. During the morning, parishes will be given a copy of the booklet 'Transforming Church for Children & Young People' and the DVD 'Will You Make a Difference?' made especially for Year of the Child.

There will also be a film of stories from across the Diocese and an opportunity to talk to the children's and youth leaders involved to find out how they got started and what energises them to keep going.

Date: 31st January 2009
Venue: St Philip's Cathedral Church, Birmingham
Time: 11.00am - 12.30am
To Book: Contact Jelena Cammack 0121 426 0435,
email: jelena@birmingham.anglican.org



Deanery Events

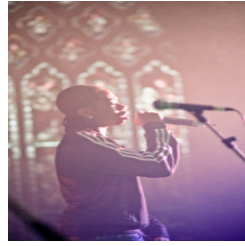
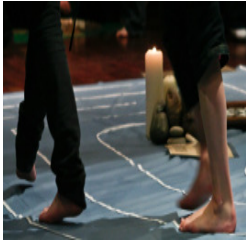
During the Celebration of Children's & Youth Work Evenings held in Deaneries during 2006 - 2008, a desire was expressed to have more events for children and young people held locally.

This is an opportunity for Deaneries to hold an event for children and young people, in the period before Lent, to launch the Year of the Child and to celebrate and give thanks for the rich contribution children and young people make to our

communities. Children and young people are encouraged to invite their friends to these events. This could be a praise party, a Christingle service, a pancake party, a celebration of Education Sunday etc.

Following on from the Celebration Evenings children's and youth workers are encouraged to continue to work together to organise an event in a parish in their Deanery, tailored to their local context .

Deaneries are welcome to consult the Bishop's Advisers for Children's and Youth Ministry for ideas.



Lent Challenge

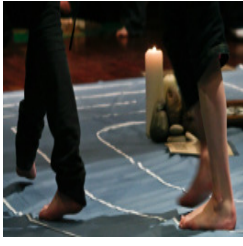
'Command them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share with others' [1 Timothy 6:18 (Good News Bible)].

Children and young people have much to contribute to their local communities. During Lent they are encouraged to take part in a series of challenges based around social action and generous acts. The challenge will be to complete as many of the

actions as possible within a set period of time.

Parishes can choose when during Lent the Challenge takes place in their area and are encouraged to record the activities by either taking photos, making a film or writing about them for inclusion in the exhibition at St Philip's Cathedral Church later in the year.

The actions will be published on the Diocesan website early in 2009.



Summer Activity Day

Each Deanery is asked to sponsor 12 children aged 8 to 16 to attend an outdoor adventure activity day at Blackwell Court Scouting Centre in Bromsgrove. The centre offers a wide range of activities including abseiling, canoeing, zip wire and indoor climbing.

Deaneries are asked to sponsor children and young people who would not normally have the opportunity to attend

such a centre, perhaps due to their family or financial circumstances, but would benefit greatly from doing so.

It is hoped that the cost will be borne by the child or young person's parish and transport would be organised by the Deanery.

Date: Tuesday 28th July 2009
Venue: Blackwell Court Scouting Centre, Bromsgrove
Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Cost: £20.00 per person
To Book: Contact Jelena Cammack 0121 426 0435,
email: jelena@birmingham.anglican.org



Malawi Youth Encounter

2009 sees the launch of Malawi Youth Encounter, a new initiative from the Youth Adviser and the Mission Department. This trip has been envisaged, not only to continue to deepen our relationship with Malawi, but also to mark "International Year of the Child". Young people from each Deanery of Birmingham Diocese will gain an understanding of culture, and life for children and young people in Malawi through a hands-on dynamic programme.

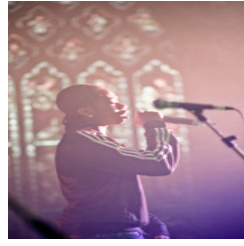
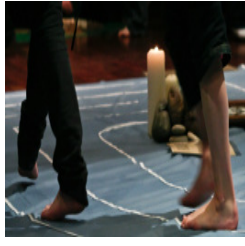
The Young people from Birmingham will work alongside local workers at Zoa Tea Estate in southern Malawi and meet local children and young people in Mwaya, a village on the Estate and Blantyre, Malawi's second city to compare their involvement in church life and future leadership with that of their peers in Malawi.

This unique and life-changing experience will finish with a visit to Lake Malawi and Liwonde National Park.

Contact Helen Tomblin, Bishops Adviser for Youth Ministry for more details or to sponsor a young person.

Tel: 0121 426 0433

Email: helen@birmingham.anglican.org



Autumn Exhibition

How has your parish celebrated Year of the Child?

- Have you started something new, strengthened existing relationships, worship and activities, told the Christian story in your local community or raised the profile and voice of children and young people?
- How will you continue this work in 2010 and beyond?

Whatever you've done we'd like you to celebrate it with

us in an exhibition throughout November at St Philip's Cathedral Church, Birmingham.

Parishes are invited to send in (to the Bishop's Advisers for Youth and Children) photographs, films, and written reports by the end of September 2009 for inclusion in the exhibition.

Families coming into the city are invited to drop in to the Cathedral to see the exhibition

Date: November 2009
Venue: St Philip's Cathedral Church, Birmingham

For more information on any of the events in this booklet contact:

Helen Tomblin

Bishop's Adviser for Youth Ministry

0121 426 0433; helen@birmingham.anglican.org

Claire Wesley

Bishop's Adviser for Children's Ministry

0121 426 0432; claire@birmingham.anglican.org

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