

# **YOUTH WORK IN THE EARSHAM BENEFICE**

## **2007 - 2008**

May I start by thanking everyone who has helped to fund our stipend for this year, whoever you are? (Thankfully, we have no idea!) The opportunities we have gained to meet and get to know many of the children and young people of the benefice and beyond have blessed us greatly. The second thanks goes to the band of volunteers who have found themselves, (some quite reluctantly!), roped into one or more of the various forms of children's and young people's ministries. Without you very little would happen!

### **YOUTH GROUP.**

This happens every Thursday night of term time, and is open to any schoolchildren year 6 and above, (that's 10 years and over!). We have shared the venues of Camphill and ECR pretty evenly throughout the year. Youth Group is very much a social group, and while the team of 7 adults provides a teaching structure to 2 of every 3 evenings, the young people would be more than happy to chat in the safe comfortable environment that Youth Group provides. They do it at 180dbs! It's deafening! Youth Group highlights have been a visit to Fisher Theatre to see Amazing Grace (kindly sponsored), which 31 young people attended, a Mothering Thursday which 14 mums came to, and an Ascension Day Celebration.

### **YOUTH HOME GROUP**

A totally new project which started in September, which, while under the Benefice umbrella, was conceived and is run by Alan and Jo Chappell, and Adam Gunton YHG is open to Year 10s and above (14+), and is intended as a session within which older Youth Group members can explore their faith more deeply. It happens every Sunday evening at the Chappell's house. Alongside this Jo conceived and has been producing the fortnightly News4 Ewe which offers a different perspective of youth affairs to the church community.

### **HOUSE PARTY**

House Party saw 21 young people, 7 adult leaders and 2 children, spend 3 days at the new venue at Horstead Centre. Much of the time was spent either dangling from ropes or submerged in the river! But there was time for teaching, praying, and getting to know each other, and there was a great feeling of encouraging each other and team building.

## **BROOME BREAKFAST CLUB**

This has been a success story in so many ways. The temporary closure last November of the Village Hall signaled the time to rethink the running of the club. It reopened in March with a new 'management team', and a rota with members' mums included alongside regular volunteers.

## **ASSEMBLIES**

Every week of term, 2 of the 6 assembly team members present an assembly in each of the 3 church schools. The assembly reflects a biblical perspective on the Diocesan theme set for the schools to follow each week. WE involve the children as much as possible, acting, praying and singing. (Children knee high to a grasshopper know the Lord's Prayer!)

## **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

These happen twice a term in each of the 3 schools. That's 18 times a year! We see these as probably the most important and expanding ministry. Whereas assemblies involve a 'captive audience', ASC's attract children who could go home, but choose to come knowing they will hear about Jesus and other bible characters - and they love it! ASC's last for 90 minutes, and in that time we try to slow things down so as to really get to know the children. We have had as many as 48 children in one afternoon! But....we need more volunteers if this valuable outreach is to continue.

## **HOLIDAY CLUB**

This successful venture called 'Wastewatchers', held at the end of July, was an attempt to alert children to the world God has given us. Again using the two venues of Denton and Ditchingham, we placed a ceiling on the number of places available for children between 5 and 11, and encouraged parents to book through the schools. This worked well, and we are thankful for good relationships all round. Team work is the secret of its success! At least 4 generations of people were involved; and the young people especially enjoyed helping.