

Notes from Youth Forum Meeting 18th November 2009

Opening devotions were led by Ian, Jamie and Susan

Informal introductions followed, and the meeting was attended by Ian Thomas, Jamie Price, Svetlin Iliev, Gloria Passmore, Paul Knight, Mark Rowland, Lisa Pucknell, Andrew Tyler, Cath Taylor, Gauri Taylor-Nayar, Laura Evans.

We spent time discussing the **purpose of the Youth Forum**. Our main task was defined as follows:

“To gather and support leaders who support young people from across the Cardiff Methodist Circuit

To find out what we can do better together than separately to enable a critical mass of young people

To develop a joined-up approach to our work” (Young people are those aged 11-18 years).

The Youth Forum is facilitated by the team of Circuit Youth Worker, Minister for Youth Work and the ONE programme participant (project worker).

In achieving our purposes communication was seen to be a key issue especially in those churches where there are not organised activities with young people. We were reminded that we need to remind people of their signpost role in encouraging young people to attend Circuit Youth activities. We will therefore try to find a “youth enthusiast” in each church to ensure the message gets out.

The meeting therefore wanted to encourage the active involvement of every church in the Youth Forum, recognising that people may not be able to attend every meeting.

We asked **what can we do together?** And talked first about training requests. The team was asked to explore the current training options for Youth Work in the Methodist church (i.e. follow on from Spectrum) and also to put together a menu of modules for training on issues such as safeguarding, first aid, small group work, handling money, leading devotions & spirituality. **ACTION SM & TEAM**

Planning an event various suggestions were made for events through the year.

- Autumn
 - Circuit Youth Weekend (*already planned by another group*)
 - The first weekend of Half term (22nd to 24th October in 2010)
 - A residential weekend
 - Disco
 - Evening event (could be weekend or mid-week)
 - Pirate Party, Caribbean Crew, Boogie on a Boat, Boogie on a bus
- Spring
 - Circuit Youth Weekend (*already planned by another group*)
 - The first weekend of Half term (12th to 14th February in 2010)
 - A residential weekend (2010 to be in the Ameila Trust Farm)
 - If you do know of anyone interested please let Ian know as soon as possible so that he can keep an eye on what places are left.
 - You Choose
 - A session of a variety of things for young people to do, including;

- sports, computer gaming, mocktail bar, music
 - PROVISIONAL DATE - Friday 26th February, 6pm to 9pm.
 - Venue to be decided. (initial suggestion Cyncoed)
 - Planning group: Ian, Laura, Jamie, Paul and Svet.
 - Easter Sunrise Celebration (*Planned by another group*)
 - 4th April 2010 (Sunrise being at 06:28 in Cardiff)
 - A gathering of young people in the open air early morning to share in the rising of the sun on Easter morning in a celebratory service together.
 - Possibly preceded by a sleepover to facilitate the Young People coming together and getting to the open location in time for sunrise.
- Summer
 - Outdoor BBQ and Worship Event
 - A large, outdoor event
 - Saturday/Sunday Afternoon into Evening
 - After Exams and before the end of term
 - Breakout
 - 9th to 11th July 2010 at Cliff College
 - A national event organised by the Methodist Church
 - “Safe” for young people to attend as everyone on site must be appropriate to work with young people
- Summer Holidays
 - Get on a bus and go
 - Weekly trips to somewhere on a minibus/coach
 - Trips not far, not expensive but different
 - Sandcastle Competitions, beach ball games, bucket and spade, coastal walks
 - A holiday for those who don’t go away
 - Time away with your church friends

There was a short discussion on the place of the Youth Space brand with regard to the work of this committee in gathering young people from across the Circuit together. In particular, as part of the work of Youth Space is to encourage the youth work of the Circuit as a whole. It is now understood that whilst the Youth Space team is not to organise events brought by this committee, Youth Space policies and branding will be adopted by any event or gathering being planned. Any supplementary event will, at least for the time being, be held geographically away from the Youth Space premises and the committee will actively look to move their events around the circuit.

Newsletter Central to our communication is the Youth Forum newsletter. Everyone around the table was encouraged to write a short article for the newsletter. DEADLINE 23.11.09

Ian informed the meeting that he had prepared a “newsletter pack” for individual churches to put information about Youth Space in their newsletters and magazines. This was available for download from the Youth Space website. Members were encouraged to check the website for information. (youthspace.cardiffmethodist.org.uk)

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING 2ND MARCH 2010 @ 19:30 in Youth Space.