

Bristol District Children & Youth

NEWS UPDATE 08

23rd January 2015

1. Bristol District Youth Weekend 2015

October 16th – 18th at Midsomer Norton : Please put the date in your diaries

The planning process has begun! The theme will be Heroes & Rescue, watch this space for more news!

2. Connecting Disciples

Methodist Church conference for lay employees, children & youth workers (URGENT : DEADLINE!!)

Connecting Disciples conference for lay employees, children and youth workers , will take place on 2-5 March at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon.

The booking deadline has been extended and is actually today 23rd January but it will be worth enquiring in case they still have spaces you are wanting to go! Emma highly recommends this conference and will be going again this year, for the 3rd year running.

The theme for this year's conference is "Confident Discipleship: living faith in a changing world". We have a variety of speakers and worship leaders including the President, Kenneth Howcroft, the Vice-President, Gill Dascombe, and the Youth President, Megan Thomas.

More information about the conference and details about booking a place can be found on the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk/connectingdisciples.

3. Youth and Children's Work South West (YCWSW)

A day conference in Exeter (Saturday) with a new optional retreat the day before.

Youth and Children's Work South West **day conference** on Saturday 7th March 2015, 10am – 5:30pm, at Belmont Chapel (Exeter)

Youth and Children's Work South West **retreat** on Friday 6th March 2015, 10am – 4pm, at Belmont Chapel (Exeter)

Both featuring key note speaker with Mark Yaconelli (<http://www.markyaconelli.com/>)

With 24 workshops to choose from at the day conference.

Youth and Children's Work South West (YCWSW) is a partnership between some of the main church denominations together with Christian youth and children's organisations working in SW England.

Our primary aim is to provide a high quality day conference each spring for Christian youth and children's workers from across the region.

Full details including booking can be found here <http://www.ycsw.org.uk/index.html>

4. Youth Work Summit (YWS)

A one day event where many different Youth Work speakers have 5-15 mins to present their big ideas.

YWS is a different kind of youth ministry training event, where new and established voices, drawn from every area of the church and beyond it, explore the future of Christian youth work together. Tonbridge Kent June 20th 2015.

Our speakers have just a few moments to present a big idea: 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 15 at the very most. They'll all have something important and relevant to talk about - from ground-breaking new research to insights from the media, from unknown stories of extraordinary youth work to visionary ideas that will challenge what we do and how we do it. There are no seminars, no streams, no alternatives. We're all in this together, and that creates an extraordinary journey through the day where we've seen God speak in the most amazing ways and through the most unexpected voices.

We'll also take time to worship and pray, to make promises and commitments together; to be re-inspired and recommissioned in our work among young people. And that's not all; you can also join us at YWS Intensive the day before the main Summit, and meet other delegates and the YWS team at our evening pre-event. The Youth Work Summit. is the perfect way to inspire your whole youth team and give you the resources, ideas and inspiration to revitalise your youth work.

For full info go to <https://www.youthworksummit.com/> including information about the optional additional day event before the summit.

5. YouthWork the Conference

An annual gathering of Christian youth workers who come together to hear from God and find fresh vision for their ministry. It's moved to Swindon this year.

It's a chance to meet hundreds of other youth workers and make new connections. And if you work with a team, it's a great opportunity to get away from it all and be inspired, together.

Whatever your context of youth ministry, whether you're a salaried youth worker, or volunteer once a week, or anywhere in between, you will rediscover a passion for working with young people. You'll be reminded of how important young people are and how much God values the work that you do.

You'll come away bursting with ideas that will make sense in your context, and our seminar streams will provide training and resources that will help you in your day to day ministry.

Whether you're feeling totally burnt out and need to find fresh inspiration, or whether you're in the middle of a youth revival, our purpose is to refresh and equip you with the tools you need to keep moving forward.

We really hope that by taking a break from normal routine, this will be an opportunity to hear from God and take time to evaluate where you're at, and where God might be leading you to.

<http://www.youthworkconference.co.uk/>

6. Godly Play Core Training

Over 3 days you will develop your practice and understanding of the art of Godly Play

Coughton Lodge, Warwickshire. 20th - 23rd April 2015

The training follows an action/reflection model of learning. There is a mixture of trainer-led presentations in each genre, and participant storytelling presentations.

We work in a model Godly Play environment, with the opportunity to see a comprehensive set of resources. Each day explores one of the primary religious genres of Godly Play: sacred stories, parables and liturgical lessons. The spirituality of the child and the ways in which Godly Play is a form of spiritual guidance is explored throughout the three days.

Workshops also cover:

- Setting up a Godly Play Environment
- The Theology of Childhood
- Your particular concerns and questions.

Course participants have included children's work advisers, clergy, Sunday school teachers, youth workers, school and Head teachers and those wishing to make connections with Godly Play and adult learning and growth. Courses have been enriched by a broad mix of Christian denominations.

Dates: 20th - 23rd April 2015

starting at 7pm with supper on Monday 20 April and finishing at 5.30pm on Thursday 23 April

(with the option of staying until 24th April) *

Venue: Coughton Lodge, Alcester, Warwickshire

Please go to www.coughtonlodge.com for more details and to see photos of the dining room, sitting rooms, ensuite bedrooms, internal water garden, large walled gardens, tennis court!...

Cost: £445 residential / £345 non residential.

Residential fee includes a double room with ensuite shower room for 3 nights, breakfast, lunch and supper/ Non residential fee includes breakfast, lunch and supper for all 3 days.

Led by: Rebecca Nye and Kathryn Lord

* Please note that this Core training is longer than usual as it starts the evening before the first full day and has the option of extending over a final evening and night. This will help give more of a retreat type feel and will allow more time for getting to know each other, for reflection, for silence and for "free time." The meals will be prepared and served by everyone on the course (we'll make them delicious but simple!).

Please contact kathrynlord22@gmail.com for more details.

More information and a booking form can be found at

<http://www.godlyplay.org.uk/courses/>

7. Promoting Mental Health in Young People

A series of four age specific cards for children, young people, young adults and youth workers containing tips and info about where to get help.

Mental health is an issue of growing concern among children, young people and those who work with them. In response to this Methodist Children and Youth have teamed up with Young Minds to provide a series of four age-specific cards for children (aged under 12 years), young people (12-18), young adults (18-30), as well as youth workers. These portable and pocket-sized cards are available in packs of ten. Each provides tips on how to stay mentally healthy and information on where to get help.

Each provides tips on how to stay mentally healthy and information on where to get help.

Price £2.50 for 10 cards (plus p&p).

Buy them here <http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/search-results?q=mental+health+cards>

8. The Connexion Magazine

A NEW print magazine for the Methodist People

"The Connexion" is a new print magazine for the Methodist people. The first issue brings you news of people and projects in these islands as well as North Korea and Sri Lanka,

showing how vibrant Methodism can be.

For more details click here <http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/the-connexion-magazine> (Just for info....the magazine cover photo is of 2 of our Bristol District DYCs, taken at 3Generate).

9. Tolpuddle Martyrs Pilgrimage for young Methodists

A 10 day walk for young adults ages 18-25. Do you know any young people who might be interested?

Next July a group of young Methodists aged 18-25 will be setting off from Stroud to walk one hundred miles on a ten day "Tolpuddle Martyr's Pilgrimage", arriving in Tolpuddle in time for the start of the annual Tolpuddle Festival on July 17th. (July 8th - 17th 2015)

The pilgrimage will be stopping overnight at Methodist churches along the route and visiting historic Methodist sites such as Wesley's New Room in Bristol.

"This is a great opportunity for young Methodists to learn about Methodism's commitment to social and economic justice, as well as having some fun along the way," said Revd Simon Topping, minister of Stroud Methodist Church and organiser of the pilgrimage. "All but one of the Tolpuddle Martyrs were Methodist and their struggle to improve the working conditions for local farm workers acted as the spark for the emergence of trade unions and the labour movement. We hope this pilgrimage will not only look back upon Methodism's involvement in this story but also help to shed light on the ongoing need for improvements in the conditions of many low paid workers today."

The pilgrimage has been organised with the support of the Bristol Methodist District Youth Work Enabler, Emma Mills.

Anyone interested in joining the pilgrimage should contact Simon Topping at simon.topping@methodist.org.uk

For more information: Tel: 01453 764818 Email: simon.topping@methodist.org.uk

10. 3Generate 2015

Children's and Youth Assembly of the Methodist Church : Nov 13-15 2105

3Generate is a weekend event for children and young people ages 8yr – 23yrs. This year it's 13 – 15 November 2015 At the Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire. (The event starts from approx 7pm onwards on the Friday evening and finishes at lunchtime on the Sunday.)

There will be 3 age streams each with age appropriate activities: 8-11 (yr 4-6), 11-18 (Yr 7-13), 18-23s, with opportunities to :

- spend time with friends and make new ones
- take part in activities both indoors and outdoors e.g. sports, music, games, outdoor challenges
- explore issues affecting you, the world and the Methodist Church
- worship together in different ways
- speak out and have your say including voting in elections

It's a time for fun, faith and friends!

The young people attend alone without Youth Workers which means you don't need to check your diary before encouraging them to go (although there are fab opportunities for Youth Workers to help out as volunteers during the weekend).

Tickets will be on sale from June 2015. More details on how to book will be available nearer the time.

Click here to watch the promotional video for 2015

http://childrenandyouth.org.uk/?attachment_id=9633

Click here for full details <http://childrenandyouth.org.uk/category/3generate/about-3generate/>

11. Big Church Day Out

The Big Church Day Out is for ALL AGES. It's one of the UK's largest annual Christian events that draws together all ages, from all denominations, for two action-packed days of fun, fellowship, music & worship

23rd – 24th May 2015 : Wiston House West Sussex

The Big Church Day Out reaches out to both those inside and outside the church, and has fast become one of the UK's largest low-key evangelistic events.

The Big Church Day Out loves unity and each year more than 20,000 people from all over the UK, and also increasingly from mainland Europe, gather together on the beautiful Wiston Estate in West Sussex.

Our aim is to encourage and inspire people to press in for all that God has called them to do, both locally and further afield, and to provide a relaxed environment to introduce friends and family who have little or no experience of church. We are committed to giving those who attend the opportunity to respond to the gospel message each year.

We are not a money-making event, and are blessed with donations from generous donors who have invested heavily in the vision of the Big Church Day Out. That vision sees us

reaching out to as many people as we can, which is why our ticket prices are so heavily discounted.

The Big Church Day Out will be taking place at Wiston House, West Sussex ,BN44 3DZ on 23rd & 24th May 2015 <http://www.bigchurchdayout.com/>

12. The One Programme

Do you know of a project that could benefit from a young person working with them?

The One Programme is a paid year out opportunity for young people aged 16 to 23. One Programme Participants (OPPs) are paid to work an average of 15 hours a week, most of which is spent in a local project (with some hours 'banked' for connexional work and training). Each year the Methodist Church funds ten places for OPPs, chosen by a panel of young people and key workers. We are currently searching for host projects for the 2015 - 2016 academic year. Deadline for applications is 6th March 2015.

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=10152870150776085&fref=nf>

13. Pride of Somerset Youth Awards

Are you able to nominate a young person from Somerset who has achieved something special?

The 2015 Pride of Somerset Youth Awards is now open for nominations!

The awards have run for several years, and are a fantastic way to give recognition to young individuals who have achieved something special in your area.

Anybody can make a nomination – and we're looking for yours! As long as the individual is under the age of 20 and is from Somerset, you can nominate them!

The types of achievements somebody could be nominated for are really varied – whether they have excelled in a sport or an art, carried out an act of bravery, cared for someone, or overcome a personal difficulty – there are countless ways for someone to shine!

The prize giving ceremony will be held at Somerset College in Taunton by BBC Somerset's Emma Britton on the 6th of March. The deadline for nominations will be at 6pm on February 5th, and the judging on February the 12th.

If you have any nominations for the awards, please do get them in before the deadline closes.

We look forward to hearing your nominations, and to making this yet another successful year for the Pride of Somerset Youth Awards!

Nominations can be sent :

By email to somerset@bbc.co.uk

By mail to Pride of Somerset Youth Awards, BBC Somerset, Park Street, Taunton, TA1 4DA.

To nominate someone, you need to send us your name and contact details, the young person's name, age and contact details (or their parents or school or group if that's more appropriate), and around 200 words on why the young person has made you proud.