

Christian Youth Activities in Kibworth

Background

Kibworth is a large village community in south Leicestershire. The two churches in the village are the Methodist Church and the Church of England Church of St Wilfrid. The Methodist church is part of the Market Harborough circuit sharing a minister with three other churches. It is a fairly small church (about 60 members) but is very active in the community. St Wilfrid's is part of a benefice with the smaller villages of Smeeton Westerby and Saddington. It is a fairly informal and lively church which has recently appointed a new Rector.

Summary of Present Activities



Kibworth Methodist Church

The church runs a very popular weekly Tuesday night youth club for 10-14 year olds. About 30 young people attend - membership numbers are constrained by space and the number of helpers available. Most are from non-church families. Activities are mainly sport or craft based. There is no junior church at the Methodist Church. Instead there is a weekly informal family service at 5pm on Sundays called The Space. Several 10-14 year olds attend with their families.

www.harboroughmethodistcircuit.org.uk



St Wilfrid's Church

Rock Solid (11-16's) meet on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday mornings during the 10am service. This is a group of up to 12 young people. We follow the Youth for Christ (YFC) RS2 material which has a Christian focus on everyday issues.

Rock Solid also meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, a high proportion of the young people attending are from non-church families and differ from those on a Sunday. Fridays have a more 'Youth Club' feel and we do a variety of activities. On some Fridays we use the YFC Rock Solid material.

Once a year we have a weekend away camping and we try to involve Rock Solid in the life of our church through being involved in services and events. www.stwilfs.freereserve.co.uk

From one of our young people

Hi, I'm 15. I go to St. Wilfrid's pretty much every Sunday and to Rock Solid if it's on (usually twice a month). Recently we ran the family service in Church and had a great time doing it. We set up our own band from the talent within the youth group and hopefully we changed some of the people's views on what goes on in Church who came to see the baptism.

I think if we had a youth worker, we would be able to take this a lot further and develop it into regular youth services, at the moment our leaders don't really have time to help us work out what to do. Also, I think that it would be really nice to have someone leading at Rock Solid who is not someone's parent, because it can be awkward sometimes. And, we would be able to have Rock Solid every week! Everyone who goes really enjoys it and we have nothing to do on a Friday night when it's not on!



Christ Church, Smeeton Westerby

Smeeton Westerby is a smaller village close to Kibworth. Young people from Smeeton come to Kibworth to both Rock Solid and the Methodist Youth Group. Christ Church pcc contribute to youth work at St Wilfrid's.



Together

Although much of what happens in our churches is separate, a number of the young people attend both youth clubs. Both churches belong to the Teamwork Club Association through which we take part in activities at Rutland Water.



The Well

The Well is a house in the centre of Kibworth which is being set up by Christians as a community resource. It will be a permanent place of Prayer and will offer facilities for all but particularly those in need and young people. The young people and Youth Worker will be involved in this development.

YP4L

Part of this post is funded by the Diocese of Leicester Young People for Life (YP4L) strategy for youth work. This began last year by the appointment of a Director of Youth Ministry, Robin Rolls. This is an exciting time in the Leicester Diocese as more youth workers are funded, work together and get support.



Young People for Life is a wide ranging and comprehensive strategy for youth work, consisting of new initiatives and a considerable financial investment by the Diocese of Leicester. This long term investment includes:

- New expressions of 'Youth Church' in the form of brand new church plants and projects
- A Bishop's Youth Council
- The funding for up to 15 full time youth work posts (Kibworth is the first of these)
- A new validated training course for youth workers
- A new expression of creating young leaders through training, worshipping together, etc
- A new web site to help create a virtual community of young people – www.yp4l.com
- A new support network for paid youth workers including retreats, training, etc.
- A dedicated and passionate commitment from central staff to this initiative for the long term.

This central strategy is wide ranging and will have a considerable impact upon the Diocese of Leicester over the next few years. The financial investment is continuous and is not just for a few years! The strategy was launched by a high profile event on January 13th with 800 young people attending. Pictures can be viewed online at www.yp4l.com.