

# Youth Work... The Mail Out 22nd May 2008

I am a hopeless navigator! Whereas my wife seems to have a sort of inbuilt satnav. As I go out and speak to youth workers (and reflect upon my own experience) I am realising just how easy it is for us to be blown off course. The world is full of good ideas but if we do them all we will burn out. It's finding the God ideas that count. One of the lessons I've had to learn is that without a vision we will get lost. What are we about? What is distinctly Christian about the work we are doing? That should be part of the vision.

Perhaps the biggest threat to staying on course is money! I've discovered that when it comes to youth work, there's tonnes of it about! However, almost all external funding comes with strings attached, we therefore end up performing tasks that we never set out to do and playing down the stuff (usually the God bit!) that is important. Staying on course often means making life hard for ourselves, it may mean turning down funding, it will mean making the most of the churches greatest asset (its volunteers). However, without keeping to the vision we can get truly lost...

The following may be of some interest...

## **Residential Centre**

The Frontier Centre ([www.barnabus.org.uk](http://www.barnabus.org.uk)) are offering some incredibly good rates at the moment for last minute residential in June/July. Weekend rates are from £34.30 per head and 2 nights midweek from £21.50. For more details give them a call on 01933 65 1718 or email: [frontier@barnabus.org.uk](mailto:frontier@barnabus.org.uk)

## **Diocesan Mobile Cafe**

The ex library van which we have converted into a mobile youth cafe will be ready from June to be used by church based groups in this diocese. I am especially keen to use it with young people who would otherwise have little or no connections with church. During June there will be an opportunity to come and see the van, sign up for some driver training and book it for use. I'm hoping to be using much of my summer to be out on the road with the can - but I need the youth workers on the ground to really own this work. I assure you that when you see it you will be excited!

## **Youth Event Coventry**

St Christopher's Church (Allesley Park) is bursting with enthused young people who are beginning you to come along to their very cool youth event this Sunday evening (25th May). The church can be found on Winsford Avenue.

## **Canley Family Centre**

Are ready to open the doors of a new and exciting youth cafe project on Thursday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. It's still not too late to join the team! For more information please contact Tracey Smith Family Centre Youth Worker (07983727191)

Please join them and be a part of this exciting project! The launch will be on: Thursday 29th May 7pm - 8pm  
For more information please contact Tracey Smith Family Centre Youth Worker (07983727191)

## **First Sunday Youth Event - Leamington Spa**

First Sunday is a monthly youth worship event where there is time and space to worship God in the company of other young people from around the area! There is live worship and a word from God. This year the team want to focus on their local community's and make a impact in Leamington Spa! First Sunday is aimed at teenagers but is suited to people of any age who want to worship God :) It happens on the first Sunday of each month at 8pm in Leamington Spa Baptist Church. The next event will take place on the 1st June, and I shall be attending (so look out for the grey haired old youth worker!) [WWW.FIRST-SUNDAY.COM](http://WWW.FIRST-SUNDAY.COM) .....

## **Youth Resources Coventry**

The city councils resource centre for youth groups has moved to the following address: Allesley FE Centre, Birmingham Road, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9GR. Opening hours are from 8.30-4.30pm on Monday, Thursdays and Fridays. The centre wishes it to be known that whilst they no longer will be able to provide a minibus hire service they still do have 100s of items (everything from tents, to parachutes to PA's) for youth groups to hire. For more info give them a call on 024 76 786883.

## **Holiday!**

I will be away for half term next week (please pray that it doesn't rain in Cornwall!) But please do get in touch with the office 024 76 52 1326 if you would like me to come out to your group.

Take Care and enjoy half term.

Greg Bartlem  
Diocesan Youth Officer