

# **Youth Work at St George's Church – Parish Council Report**

## **Youth Café**

We currently run two after-school Youth Cafés each week, providing a safe and welcoming space where young people can relax, socialise, and enjoy some pizza together.

On Mondays, we typically welcome 6–11 young people, mostly from Years 7 and 8, with a few from Years 9 and 11. The sessions focus on building relationships, encouraging positive social interaction, and providing a supportive environment for conversation and games.

On Wednesdays, the café is attended by around 6–10 young people from Year 11 and college age. These sessions have included structured activities and discussions designed to help young people reflect on their values, make positive choices, and explore questions about life. Over the past year, the engagement and depth of discussion in this group has grown significantly.

## **Youth Weekend Away**

We have now done two weekend away trips for both cafés. The group visited Condover Hall just before the summer holidays and took part in activities such as rock climbing, aerial trekking, zip-lining, and team games.

It was encouraging to see young people actively participating in outdoor challenges, building friendships, and spending time away from screens. One highlight of the weekend was a campfire evening, where young people played games, shared experiences, and reflected on positive personal values. The weekend provided a valuable opportunity for young people to develop confidence, teamwork, and social skills.

## **Pontesbury Festival**

The Pontesbury Festival was a community weekend organised by local churches, the parish council, and community groups. Our focus was to provide activities for children and young people.

We organised a Family Fun Day at Mary Webb School, featuring four large inflatables, an ice-cream van, face painting, a coffee stall, tug-of-war, and garden games. Approximately 300–400 people attended. The event offered families a fun and safe environment and gave young people opportunities to engage in active play and enjoyment with peers.

## **Holiday Youth Drop-In**

Holiday youth drop-in sessions provided a relaxed and welcoming space for local young people during school holidays. The sessions offered opportunities for socialising, games, and informal support, with resources such as a pool table and table tennis proving especially popular.

The drop-ins enabled us to connect with teenagers from across the community, including some who do not regularly attend other organised activities. Over time, this helped build positive rapport and

trusted relationships with local young people in an informal setting. The sessions contributed to providing safe, supervised leisure opportunities and a sense of belonging during holiday periods.

### **Limitless One**

We took four young people to Limitless One, a regional youth event in Halesowen attended by approximately 300 young people.

The young people engaged well with the event's activities and discussions, asking thoughtful questions and reflecting on topics relevant to personal and spiritual growth. Events of this type help young people broaden their horizons, meet peers from other areas, and gain confidence in expressing their thoughts.

### **Year 10 Work Experience**

Two Year 10 students joined us for work experience at St George's. They assisted with youth activities and practical tasks, supporting younger groups and helping run sessions.

The placement offered a valuable opportunity for the students to gain experience of teamwork, planning, and responsibility in a community setting, while providing staff with additional support for youth activities.

### **Overall Reflection**

Youth engagement at St George's continues to be positive. Young people have been open to participating in activities, contributing ideas, and as a result we have a very good rapport with many young people in the area.

These activities give young people an opportunity to develop confidence, social skills, and resilience while providing safe spaces for fun, discussion, and learning. We will continue to explore new ways to engage and support the youth in our parish.