



## **YOUTH REPORT 2015-2016**

There is lots of exciting youth and children's ministry going on at S. Martin's. It is a mixed and rich economy with Sunday ministry, children's parties and experiences, youth events etc. Some of our youth ministry is done quietly by members of our St. Martin's family and some in more high profile ways.

We are aware of the challenges of youth ministry. Our youth work is not about getting 'good numbers' for our diocesan returns, or supplying a future cohort for our particular parish church's survival. It is about nurturing young Christians' relationship with God in Jesus Christ through His Church, and helping them to see it's centrality in their lives now and in the future.

With all this in mind, we try to be imaginative in our youth ministry and we are constantly developing our youth provision - it's a work in progress!

Just *some* of things that have happened or are being planned (there is much that I don't know about) are:

Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham, Youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham, School (BWI and BR) visits to church and clergy and others' involvement in school, Trip to Taize (17-30 years), Holiday Club and young people helping at Holiday Club, Orchyd Holiday and young people helping at the Orchyd Holiday, Easter and Light (autumn) children's activity parties, K@sm - Wednesday night play/activity sessions normally with a 'God slot', Local Primary and Secondary Schools S. Martin's Public Speaking Competition, Toddler group on Fridays, Young Church on Sundays for children, Uniformed Organisations.

MOY has transitioned to be a series of engaging events throughout the year. These are designed to be fun, adventurous and grow our young people in faith. So far they have included: The Nightfire all-night vigil in Advent and the Mystery Mission adventure hunt across the City of London.

We are aware of the challenges in engaging teenagers in the Faith - especially those in our church families who themselves exist on the fringes of S. Martin's. This is one of our projects for the next year or so. We have also been mindful of nourishing our 9-12 year olds such that their faith is strong enough to carry them forward into their teenage years well.

This is a challenging and rewarding area of our Christian family's life. If you think God may be calling you to be involved in such ministry or you are already doing it quietly, please be in touch.

**Fr Jack Noble**