



DIOCESE OF
WESTMINSTER



Westminster Youth Ministry Annual Review 2013

Dear young friends,

I ask you to be revolutionaries, to swim against the tide; yes, I am asking you to rebel against this culture that sees everything as temporary and that ultimately believes that you are incapable of responsibility, that you are incapable of true love.

Do not be afraid to go and bring Christ into every area of life, to the fringes of society, even to those who seem farthest away, most indifferent.

The Church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity and the joy that is so characteristic of you.

“Do not be afraid!” When we go to proclaim Christ, it is he himself who goes before us and guides us. When he sent his disciples on mission, he promised: “I am with you always”. And this is also true for us!

Pope Francis

Addressing the youth of the world at WYD Rio 2013





About Westminster Youth Ministry

Faith in Jesus Christ breathes new life into our being. Like a gentle breeze, greeted by the morning sun, rooting our lives in Him is refreshing and gives us hope for the future. Life is seen through new eyes, illuminated by the light of God's eternal love for us.

In a world all too often consumed by darkness, the light of faith in Jesus Christ gives us the confidence to live life in bold colours. God enables us to cast away the mistakes we've made in the past, because He is always forgiving; He empowers us to believe the unbelievable, climb the unclimbable, achieve the unachievable.

Everything is possible with God; He is perfect! And He sent His son to us 2,000 years ago to forgive our sins and show us that there is always hope! There is always a better future! Heaven is our destination and God wants us to be with Him in His Eternal Paradise, by being the best possible person we can be, here on Earth.

We are called to greatness! We are called to be saints!

At Westminster Youth Ministry, we're working to help provide young people with the tools and support they need to be great – to be the saints and role models of the 21st century.

By working with the parishes, as well as other Catholic organisations in the diocese, we hope to ignite the flame of faith in the hearts of young people!



Diocese of Westminster

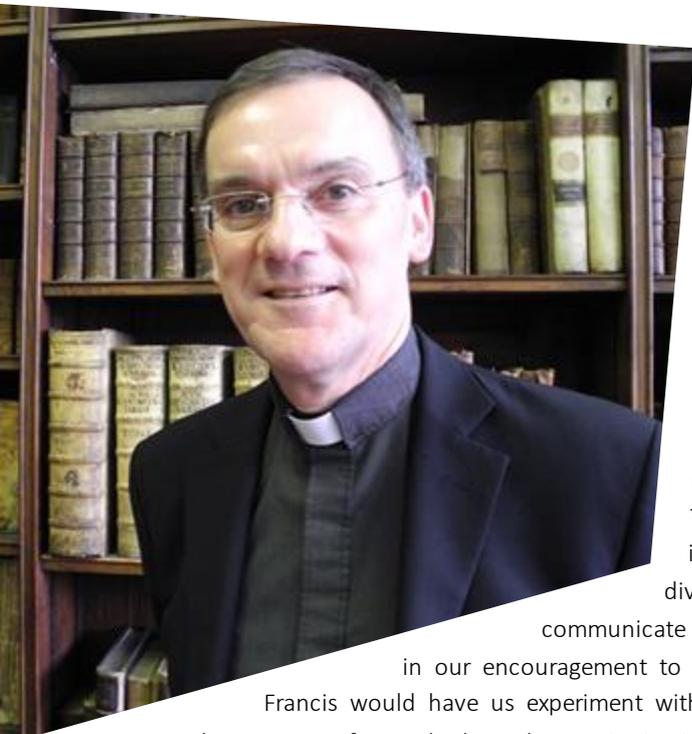
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Contents

Bishop John Arnold	6
Fr David Reilly	7
Phil Ross	8
The Team	9
Mission	10
Vision	11
Values	12
2013 Objectives	13
2013 Highlights	14
Centre for Youth Ministry	16
Parish Youth Ministry	17
Pilgrimages	18
Communications	19
Youth Worker Network	20
Young Adults Training Programme	21
The SPEC Retreat Centre	22
Youth Movements	23
Partnerships	24
Resource Library	25
2014 Objectives	26
Final Word	27



Bishop John Arnold



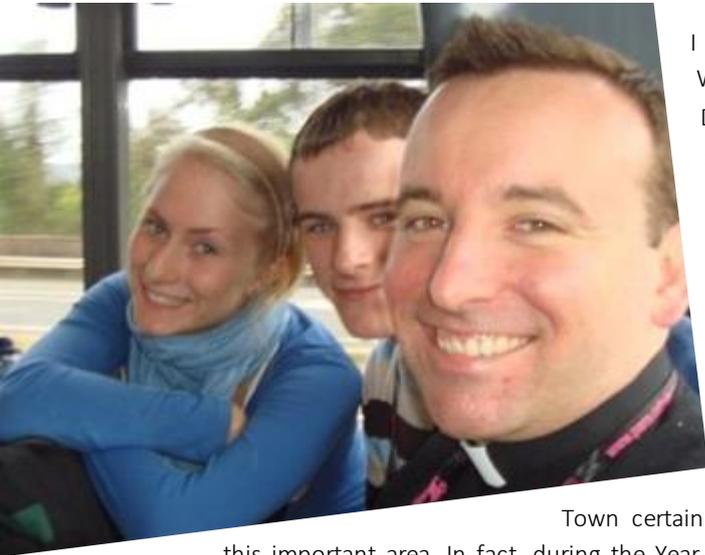
As the Annual Review is presented this year, we see a much more settled and established Youth Service in the Diocese, after the moves and structural changes of the last three years. I am very grateful to all those who have seen the Youth Service through the changes and developments that now see it firmly based in Somers Town. People have been hard-working and patient through a time of transition. I am also most grateful to those who have contributed in any way to the good work that is being done in all its various aspects.

Pope Francis has spoken on so many occasions about the priority of evangelisation and that the passing on of our Faith from one generation to the next must be among our most urgent concerns. The ministry to our young people has never been more important in our fast-changing and increasingly secular world. Given the diversity of cosmopolitan London, it is a challenge to all of us to communicate our Faith through our actions and decisions and to be generous in our encouragement to all who seek a sense of the presence of God in their lives. Pope Francis would have us experiment with new initiatives and ideas. And if we are to communicate Faith then we must first embark on the continuing journey of growing in our understanding of what we believe.

Young people have also a great deal to offer to us in their enthusiasm and expressions of the Gospel and I am particularly proud of the new resources that are being so widely used in our Youth Service that provide the context for peer ministry and development. The joy of evangelisation belongs to us all as we seek to fulfil Pope Francis's invitation to be "Missionary Disciples".

+ John Arnold
Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster
Moderator of the Diocesan Curia

Fr David Reilly



I am very pleased to welcome you to the first Annual Review for Westminster Youth Ministry. We are the Youth Service for the Diocese of Westminster and our work includes that of SPEC, our diocesan residential and day retreat centre for young people.

I have been the Diocesan Youth Chaplain for three years now. During that time, we have moved from our former office in Vaughan House to brand new, custom-made accommodation at Somers Town. This new home, known as the Centre for Youth Ministry, has become the base for all our work which reaches out into the parishes, groups and movements in the diocese. Until recently, the youth service was part of the Agency for Evangelisation. However, our move to Somers

Town certainly does not sever our connection with our other colleagues in this important area. In fact, during the Year of Faith we were able to firmly establish our commitment to the work of the New Evangelisation and, together with so many other young Catholics, our work and mission proceeds firmly along these lines to announce the Gospel and encourage others to live it and share it too.

The nature of our work is guided by the Diocesan Vision for youth ministry, mandated by the Cardinal and his council. You will be able to read more about the main aims of this Vision throughout the Annual Review. In the last three years we have begun to transform this Vision from a working document into something alive and real. As a result, we have been able to see many wonderful things come to fruition in the life of the local Church.

In Spring 2014 we also moved our project at SPEC from All Saints Pastoral Centre in London Colney to a new home at Waxwell Farm, Pinner. This move represented the final end of our connection with All Saints. It was also a major logistical operation for SPEC and the youth service. SPEC are now settled in their new home and begin preparations to recommence their retreat work there at Pinner and, for the time being, some work also in Somers Town. We are currently in a time of transition that will see the planning, building and opening of brand new residential accommodation at Pinner. In this Annual Review I would like to record my sincere thanks to all those who have worked so hard to make this move a reality, including the Archbishop's Council, the finance department, everyone at Westminster Youth Ministry and especially my colleagues Phil Ross (Director of Youth Ministry) and Jon Rogers (Director of SPEC).

In addition to these large-scale developments, perhaps the greatest joy is that youth ministry is flourishing in so many parishes and schools at the local level across the diocese. This is a wonderful thing because these are the places for our young peoples' experience of ecclesial life and worship. Our youth service is privileged to support and encourage all these excellent developments.

With every good wish, and my prayers and blessings for the work of youth ministry throughout the diocese,

Fr David Reilly
Diocesan Youth Chaplain

Phil Ross



It has been a strong year for Youth Ministry in Westminster and I take this opportunity in particular to thank Fr David Reilly, the Diocesan Youth Chaplain, and my Youth Worker Team for their support, hard work and dedication.

Sincere thanks also go to Fr Michael O’Boy, the architect of the Youth Ministry Vision, and Kevin Ferros for his support throughout the year.

Thanks also to the vast number of clergy who have afforded me such kindness and support throughout the year. I hope that the youth team will be able to repay the support with real, ground-level youth ministry activity to the benefit of parish communities throughout Westminster.

Finally, I would like to place on record my gratitude to a vast number of individuals and groups scattered around Westminster; all doing spectacular work to the benefit of the youth agenda, and all who make genuine sacrifices to continue their valuable work.

Having completed one year as Director of Youth Ministry, I have seen first-hand the Diocesan Youth Vision being tangibly lifted from the page and brought to life. We have real momentum and it’s a great place to be right now.

Found in our Annual Review is a summary of our work today, as well as our vision, our mission and values, our achievements, our challenges and our long-term aspirations. I would though like to share just a couple of real highlights from this Year of Faith.

Our year commenced in positive fashion with the team moving into the Centre for Youth Ministry; a purpose-built anchor point for our work. Within the Centre we have a comprehensive youth resource library, built to enable and support parish youth groups throughout Westminster. From the Centre we are able to host youth events in the main hall, support youth groups in the meeting rooms and offer the diocesan-wide youth worker community a central point for them to meet.

The election of Pope Francis in 2013 renewed the humbleness and simple sanctity of our Ministry. To be able to spend an extended period in the presence of his Holiness during World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro was a life-enhancing period for many of us. To lead a pilgrimage to Brazil was an awesome endeavour and a thoroughly enjoyable experience for me. I am sure that the Westminster pilgrims will continue to reflect on how fortunate they were to witness and share such faith and fellowship with their brothers and sisters from all corners of the globe.

Phil Ross
Director of Youth Ministry

The Team

The team is based at the Centre for Youth Ministry and has ultimate responsibility for the Westminster Youth Ministry strategy; both in terms of development and delivery.

The team Includes (from left to right):

James Kelliher Communications and Events Coordinator

Fr David Reilly Diocesan Youth Chaplain

Rebekah Curran Youth Support Team

Christine Sterlini Youth Support Team

Alexandra Mills Administrator

Phil Ross Director of Youth Ministry



Mission



The Youth Ministry Mission Statement:

Enabling parishes to accompany young people in their journey towards Christian maturity, through the delivery of a focused and coordinated youth service.

Vision

The Westminster Youth Ministry team is committed to serving two important constituents – the young people of our diocese in all their richness, as well as the parishes who time and again identify their reaching out to young people as a primary concern. At the heart of our vision for youth ministry is a desire to support parishes in the development and implementation of a realistic pastoral plan for youth ministry.

The team draws its Vision from an extract of Luke’s Gospel concerning the meeting with Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35):

“Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’

Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.”



Values

Our values underpin our activities and are summarised as Respect, Integrity, Team Work, Excellence, Faith, Humility, Sharing and Love.



2013 Objectives

Our principal objective is to support the young people of Westminster in their transition to Christian maturity. In order to deliver on this objective we deploy a number of local parish and diocese-wide initiatives aimed at developing, building and maintaining pro-active engagement with our young people.

Towards the end of 2012 we reviewed the Diocesan Vision for Youth Ministry and agreed our objectives for the following year. Some of the objectives had a defined completion date whilst others were principally aimed at building sustainable activities for the benefit of the youth community.

Here are the objectives we agreed:

- Open the Centre for Youth Ministry (CYM) and develop its presence within the consciousness of the Diocese;
- Establish the CYM as an anchor point for the Diocesan Youth Ministry activities and as a venue for training programmes, youth events and seminars;
- Build a Youth Ministry Team that focuses on parish-based youth work;
- Commence the development of a Parish Youth Ministry strategy and begin to engage with parishes at a local level;
- Lead the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to World Youth Day Rio, in July 2013;
- Build a cohesive communication strategy to encompass a revamped youth ministry website and to include social media platforms;
- Develop and launch a Youth Worker Network;
- Develop and launch a Young Adults Training Programme;
- Build relationships with youth movements active in the diocese, such as Youth 2000 and Catholic Underground;
- Evidence continued improvement in the quality of the programmes delivered at SPEC and the end-to-end experience of those attending the retreat centre;
- Commence strategy aimed at increasing the percentage of SPEC volunteers sourced from Westminster;
- Coordinate the activity necessary to facilitate a smooth relocation of SPEC to the Waxwell Farm site.

2013 Highlights

The year was one of tangible momentum with positive progress being made in every area of our Youth Ministry Mission. The opening of the Centre for Youth Ministry was a wonderful way to launch into the year and provided the team with an anchor point for our work. Parish youth ministry remained our primary enterprise and driver, although we recognised that World Youth Day would come to dominate as the year progressed.

January

Many months of hard work culminated with the youth ministry team moving into its new home. The purpose-designed **Centre for Youth Ministry** is the anchor point for the youth ministry team and offers a unique and dedicated youth venue for the Diocese.



February

It was wonderful that we were able to host **Soul Food** for one of their prayer evenings so soon after the Centre was opened. One of our running objectives is to support the youth movements who reside in Westminster and Soul Food are a primary example.

March

The Centre for Youth Ministry provided the ideal opportunity and venue to bring together the **Westminster Youth Workers** – all doing fantastic work in their local parishes. This group gathered for the first time in March and has now become a valuable, mutual support network.

April

The building of the youth ministry team gathered pace with the appointment of **Rebekah Curran** and **Frank Van Velzen**; both focusing on parish youth ministry activities. During the month we also hosted a **Public Speaking Day** for parish young adults as a part of our **Young Adults Training Programme**. World Youth Day pilgrims met for the first time – an exciting time lay ahead for this group!



May

The Centre for Youth Ministry was officially opened by **Archbishop Vincent Nichols** before he led one of the monthly **YOU BELIEVE** evenings - special nights of Catechesis that ran throughout the Year of Faith and proved to be very popular amongst the young adult population.

June

As we entered the summer months we started to be ever more involved in supporting festivals, and the wonderful **Spirit in the City** got the ball rolling – a truly inspirational time in the heart of the city. The tempo intensified as we closed in on our pilgrimage to Rio as the pilgrims came together for their final preparation meeting.

July

A real sense of anticipation was in the air as 50 pilgrims boarded a plane for Rio and attended **World Youth Day**. The group spent time with Pope Francis - words can hardly articulate the life-change experiences and the vibrancy and enormity of the global event. Being amongst 3m pilgrims was unbelievable. July also brought the annual **Redcap Lourdes** pilgrimage – a truly joyful time where young people are called to serve.



August

August is traditionally a quieter period within the youth ministry world but this wasn't necessarily the case for the Westminster team. We provided logistical support for Youth2000's Kingdom Come festival in Aylesford and took a coach of young adults to the festival to help support the wider Westminster young adult network. Planning also started ahead of the September sixth form college induction days.

September

The new school year had the team leading **induction days** for the sixth forms at St Charles's and St Benedict's, and saw many fledgling young groups start after the summer recess. **James Kelliher** joined our team to oversee our communication and events.

October

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor led a **YOU BELIEVE** evening this month and a good crowd benefited from his inclusive style – a truly fun evening. Work alongside many **Parish Youth Communities** continued apace with many more coming on stream and keeping the team full engaged.

November

The **Young Adults' Training Programme** was brought back into focus as we hosted a **Media Training Day** in partnership with **Catholic Voices**. A well-attended day offered some clear direction and guidance on media processes and subject management. The **Year of Faith** came to an end with a celebration Mass at Westminster Cathedral led by Archbishop Vincent Nichols.

December

As the year drew to a close, the team joined forces with **Youth2000** and **Maria Fidelis Catholic School** to host a wonderful and vibrant year-end retreat. This annual event brought young people from across the UK to spend quality time together.

Centre for Youth Ministry



The Centre for Youth Ministry is within the St Aloysius Parish complex and hosts a fully-refurbished suite of rooms, occupied by Westminster Youth Ministry.

The CYM and the Parish Hall complex form one extended facility, used by both the parish community and the Youth Ministry team.

The complex includes a large hall, separate meeting rooms and fully-fitted kitchen. The CYM also has an extensive Youth Ministry resource library.

Archbishop Vincent Nichols opened the Centre on Tuesday 14 May 2013.

Parish Youth Ministry

The development of an active and sustainable Parish Youth Ministry programme throughout the Diocese is one of our primary long-term objectives.

Many parishes have the desire and determination, and normally the local infrastructure, capable of building a parish youth group; our role is to bring the energy and expertise to make this happen.

During 2013, the team engaged with upwards of 20 parishes in order to support local young people initiatives and several have developed youth groups; and all continue to flourish.



It is a thoroughly joyful enterprise to see young people gather to share time together.

The list of groups in formation or building for the future (a true roll of honour) includes: Harpenden; Hemel (the HIYA initiative); Potters Bar; Ponders End; Uxbridge; Borehamwood; Bishops Stortford; Clapton; Mill Hill; Holloway; Somers Town; Chiswick; and Tring – to list just a few!

Another group of parishes are amidst early development activities and we remain hopeful that these they will also have youth groups very soon.

Also during 2013, we facilitated a deanery

event in Enfield and their 'Youth Alive' series has now taken place three times, with each parish in the Deanery having the opportunity to be showcased.

Working with parish youth communities is our principal mission and one where we can engage at a local level and make a real difference.

These communities will hopefully build sustainable futures and gradually be capable of supporting the wider parish community.

Pilgrimages

The youth ministry team has a strong desire to open up the world to our young people to show them the diversity of the Catholic faith. An on-going programme of pilgrimage helps facilitate this desire.

The Catholic youth world was dominated in 2013 by World Youth Day (WYD), in Rio de Janeiro, and we led a group of 50 pilgrims to this global event (see image right). Little did we know when we started to make arrangements back in 2012 that WYD would see us spending time with the relatively newly-elected Pope Francis – a truly remarkable opportunity for all. And what a joyful experience it was.

WYD is certainly a life-affirming, or life-changing, event for most who attend and, given the challenging weather in Rio, our spirit of togetherness and fortitude was certainly tested. A change of Vigil site didn't seem to dampen anybody's enthusiasm and to see over 3.5 million people resident on Copacabana Beach for 24 hours was a truly spectacular sight.



During the year we also supported the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes (see image left) and we saw this event as an opportunity to be a part of a pilgrimage that provides our youth with an opportunity to help those people less able than themselves.

There is a move to make deanery youth pilgrimages a part of the calendar and we attended the Hertfordshire Confirmation Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Communications

The ability to communicate with the young people of the diocese in a current and relevant fashion is crucial if we are to remain engaged with this section of society. The development and implementation of our communications strategy has been key to this.

The website has continued to be the main source of information for youth activities and news in the diocese. However, the blog was relocated to a dedicated WordPress site, to increase user-friendliness and simplicity for the contributors to the blog. In 2014, this will continue to be developed to maximise outreach to young people in the area.

Our social media outreach has continued to grow and our Twitter account now has over 1,000 followers. Additionally, Facebook has seen a number of changes, with the total followers trebling in the last half of 2013. Greater emphasis has been given on creating original, WYM content, such as in-house Photoshop designs and diocesan events promotion.



Greater use of Photoshop has also meant an increase in the number of posters being created for upcoming events, as well as for internal use. Regarding the latter, several large posters have been made, celebrating some of the saints (see image left) and activities that the Church can offer young people. Regarding the former, posters are now made on a regular basis which are designed using a template that allows them to be published online, as well as in standard format paper sizes, such as A4 and A5, for posters and leaflets in parishes and elsewhere.

We also started printing business card-style hand-outs, which have been part of our strategy for increasing awareness of WYM and boost the numbers of Facebook page 'likes'.

In the second half of the year, we started publishing some test newsletters, to get a feel of feedback and what our numbers were in terms of scope of delivery. In 2014, this initiative will continue to be developed and refined, in light of feedback and improved experience.

After collaboration with the Communications Office, there was a desire to form closer cooperation between the two departments. In light of this, it was decided that a process should start whereby the WYM Flickr account would merge with the Diocesan account. Furthermore, it was decided that WYM and the Diocese should form a new, united YouTube account, to post all video content.

From this mix of platforms, the team is able to continue to communicate with young people wherever they are.

Youth Worker Network



A number of parishes in the Diocese have recruited youth workers to develop local strategies to support the spiritual growth of the young people of their respective parishes. These youth workers are spread across the Diocese and provide much-needed local knowledge and permanent parish presence.

Westminster Youth Ministry provides support to this important group of people and this support ranges from simply easing their sense of isolation through to some practical training and development work.

Young Adults Training Programme

To help build the profile of our young people within their parishes, and to enable them to feel confident and able to support their local community, we introduced a Young Adults Training Programme.

We started with a course focusing on Public Speaking (see image right) and were grateful that Tish Nichol was available to lead the day. By improving young peoples' self-confidence in this area we hope to enable them to pick up responsibilities in their local parish.

Following the Public Speaking Day, we were joined by Catholic Voices for a Media Training Day; looking to provide young people with the ability to speak with confidence about their Catholic faith.

Planning is at an advanced stage for some practical training days; namely First Aid and Safeguarding – both subjects are

key considerations when running a youth group and vital subjects for volunteer leaders to recognise their responsibilities and understand the range of protocols included.

Into 2014, the intention is to host a Music Ministry Day and discussions are well underway with a number of key personalities who would bring life and colour to this important ministry. This will almost certainly be a fantastic – if not noisy – day!

As a team, we are looking to build a leadership programme in 2014 for young adults, to help them principally with their youth group work – an increasingly important aspect of their ministry.

It is crucial that youth leaders and volunteers working at a local parish level have the training and tools to work with young people with confidence, and this support should be on-going, relevant and meet the needs of this important group.

The Westminster Youth Ministry team will continue to develop and sustain our young people with ever more interesting training opportunities.



The SPEC Retreat Centre

Until recently, SPEC was situated within the grounds of the All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney. SPEC offers schools and parishes in Westminster, and occasionally visitors from other dioceses, a range of day and residential retreat programmes geared specifically to young people.

The SPEC project has been running since 1992 and has developed into an integral component of Youth Ministry in Westminster, and their work is highly regarded.



The SPEC Team is led by a Director, Jon Rogers, who has many years of experience working alongside his Assistant Director, Terry Toolan, and a team of retreat leaders and volunteers. SPEC also has strong operational, administrative and catering teams.

Jon, the leadership team and the programme delivery teams are resident at SPEC; this provides much-needed continuity and on-site retreat support.

The leadership team produces a range of retreat programmes each year that reflect the calendar of the Catholic Church in England and Wales

and including the Year of Faith.

Each year, SPEC welcomes a group of volunteer missionaries who work alongside the resident team on programme delivery, with a significant focus placed on the formation and spiritual needs of the volunteer missionaries. The comprehensive induction, training and on-going guidance given to the volunteer missionaries provides them with valuable life skills and real self-confidence.

The hope is that as they leave, the volunteer missionaries will take their experiences and new found skills back into their parishes and empower the young people in their home communities.

Annually, the SPEC team delivers excellent programmes to more than 7,500 young people. The feedback we receive provides much-needed support for the work done at SPEC and an insight into the direction of travel for our schools and parishes.

Work continued on the plan to relocate the SPEC programmes to Pinner (see image above) – to be based at an established retreat centre site previously under the occupation of the Grail Community. This site will provide the SPEC community with a home that is dedicated to their youth ministry activities.



Youth Movements

A number of active youth movements are based within the Diocese of Westminster and they provide our young people with a diverse range of charisms to support them in their faith journey. By partnering with these youth movements we are able to positively extend our reach.



Partnerships

Within the Diocese of Westminster there are a number of active youth movements and all contribute to the overall success of our wider youth engagement strategy.

These youth movements range from those that operate on a national basis, e.g. Youth 2000 (see image right), to those that are more locally focused, e.g. Young Friends of Westminster Cathedral.

It is important to recognise that each of these organisations has a different style and approach to youth ministry, which enables our youth to enjoy a wide spectrum of charisms. Over the year we have worked tirelessly to engage with these youth movements. We were pleased to host Soul Food at the Centre for Youth Ministry for one of their prayer evenings.



With Youth 2000 we were able to support their 'Kingdom Come' Walsingham Summer Festival, by coordinating and managing a coach from London, and providing event promotion. Also with Youth 2000, we helped facilitate their Year End Retreat – thanks especially to Maria Fidelis Catholic School, who kindly provided the huge space needed to accommodate a vast number of young adults.

Catholic Underground has long supported young adults of Westminster and, working with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, provides an adoration and music evening every two months – always well-attended, grounded in faith and great fun! Catholic Underground is moving its evening programme to the Centre for Youth Ministry and we hope that this development will further enhance this much-loved and well-organised youth organisation. We look forward to its 5th anniversary evening in the spring of 2014.

We are working ever closer with our friends at the TenTen Theatre Company and see their vision and programmes as both spiritually strong as well as offering practical, sound advice to our young people. Their production of 'Kolbe's Gift' is particularly highly regarded and they continue to develop fresh productions with great regularity.

The RISE Theatre Company also provides insight through drama and we are also pleased to be associated with such a wonderful organisation. We are looking forward to hosting their 'Soldier to Saint' production in the spring of 2014.

We are truly blessed that artists of the calibre of Edwin Fawcett and Ooberfuse have continued to work alongside us and we hope that our relationship will continue into 2014. Plans to engage with an even richer variety of youth movements is in place for 2014.

Resource Library



At the Centre for Youth Ministry, we host a comprehensive Resource Library where contemporary books, programmes, films and music are available to preview. These resources provide parish youth group leaders and volunteers with the information and guidance that may be needed to run a sustainable community strategy.

2014 Objectives

2013 was a year in which Westminster Youth Ministry made great strides in pushing the boundaries of youth engagement in the diocese – and 2014 will be no different. Using the foundations we have developed, we will continue to move on an upwards trajectory and increase our outreach.

In light of this, here are objectives we have set out for 2014:

- Ensure the smooth transition of SPEC to their new home in Pinner;
- Develop and manage a Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Land;
- Provide co-ordination and support to the Redcaps' Lourdes pilgrimage;
- Plan for a youth pilgrimage to Santiago in Spring 2015;
- Continue to work alongside the Youth Worker Network and host a Retreat Day for this group;
- Build on the foundations of the Young Adults Training Programme and in particular host a Music Ministry Day;
- Re-introduce the 'Young Adults of the West' (and similar with other regions) evenings;
- Continue to help parishes develop their youth communities; it is hoped that we can support a further twelve groups throughout the year.

Final word

It is important to remember that we are here to do God's work and that our faith underpins every activity we undertake. We are here to serve.

The Youth Ministry Team is in a unique position to guide our young people towards Christian maturity and we are blessed that we have the dynamic support of other Diocesan agencies - this support and guidance is a vital contributor to our on-going success.

Please pray for all those directly involved in Youth Ministry and for all those people who help us in our mission.



Keep in touch with Westminster Youth Ministry

Web – dowym.com

Our website has all the latest news about our work, blog, upcoming events, pilgrimages and much more.

Facebook – facebook.com/dowym

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