

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COMMITTEE – REPORT TO SYNOD 2015

The ministry offered to and with children, young people and their families in the Diocese reports to the Children, Youth & Families Committee approximately four times a year. This committee in turn reports to Standing Committee and the Diocesan Synod. There are three key areas of focus – Youth, Children & Families and SafeHere.

The Committee holds the vision that *every praying community has children, young people and their families as an integral part of every aspect of that community's life.*

The following is a summary of the ministry of the last year.

Staffing:

In February 2015 Jo Keogan resigned as the Bay of Plenty Regional Youth Ministry Facilitator (RYMF) after over 10 years in the role. Jocelyn Czerwonka picked up this area along with her work as the Diocesan Youth Ministry Facilitator. Sandi Hall, the Hawkes Bay RYMF has also covered the Eastland region.

Youth Councils & Youth Synod:

For a number of years we have endeavoured to establish a Youth Council in each region and had held a Youth Synod in conjunction with the Diocesan Synod.

This last year has seen a change in focus with the decline of young people available at the regional level and a stronger emphasis has been placed on encouraging ministry at a parish level including to elect a Parish Youth Synod Representative to be supported and mentored by the parishes.

Leadership Training For Youth – LT4Youth:

A small number of young people across the Diocese are actively engaged as enrolled members with LT4Youth. Other young people enjoy coming along to events but have not been willing or able to commit to a 2 year programme. Five young people received a Bishop of Waiapu Award last year. It is notable that those who do enrol and stay engaged in LT4Youth appear to be more likely to stay connected to their parishes.

Mentoring and support for mentors and young people has continued over the past year.

The Great Waiapu Road Trip:

April 2015 saw a group of eight travel around the East Coast meeting and staying with communities along the way. This trip was based around the LT4Youth module 'Telling Our Story' and provided a bi-cultural experience as the group enjoyed the hospitality of Tikanga Māori around the coast from Gisborne to Ōpōtiki.

Mentoring Resource:

In May & June 2014 Jocelyn Czerwonka went on study leave and produced 'A Mentor's Guide' for use with LT4Youth.

Top Parish 2015:

135 people attended Top Parish plus 10 marshals who came as day visitors. This continues to be a significant Diocesan event with groups attending from around the Diocese as well as from Te Hui Amorangi o Te Manawa o te Wheke and Te Hui Amorangi o te Tairāwhiti as well as. While the costs for participants has been kept as low as possible over the years registration fees will need to be increased in the coming year to meet the full cost of the buses which have been subsidised by the regional budgets in the past.

Fundraising for Top Parish has been important each year to subsidise costs, with Sandie Speeden co-ordinating the sale of First Aid Kits.

This successfully resulted in \$1,000 being raised this year. Many support Top Parish Fundraising for which we give thanks.

Ministry Internship:

The Parish of St Andrew's Taupo hosted Soatame Tu'ifua for the entire 2014 year as the Diocesan Ministry Intern. Tame is now at St Johns Theological College in Auckland after being selected to attend by Tikanga Pasifika.

In February Samuel Frost became the part-time 2015 Ministry Intern. Samuel is based at Waiapu Cathedral.

Three Tikanga and National Events:

The Diocesan and Regional youth staff work closely with members of the Toru Youth Commission to encourage diocesan young people to engage with Three Tikanga youth activities enabling them to develop their understanding of the Three Tikanga Church. This included being part of Te Tairāwhiti's Kawea te Rongopai.

Upcoming planning:

A Pilgrimage to Oihi Bay is currently being planned for young people 16 and older for several days in December of this year.

Children & Families Enabler:

This ministry is staffed by a part-time enabler, The Reverend Jo Crosse. For the first semester of 2015 Jo has been completing her theological degree at St John's Theological College in Auckland. Prior to this the work included the following:

Meeting with ministry leaders:

Regular gatherings of children's ministry leaders were held in the Bay of Plenty and Hawke's Bay. While the numbers attending were small, the leaders reported that they found the networking and resource sharing helpful.

SafeHere:

Sandie Speeden has continued to lead this aspect of the ministry amongst Children, Young People and their Families in the Diocese. Awareness of the importance of safe practices and policies is growing around the diocese, and the people who have attended training sessions have given positive feedback. Sandie offers valuable resourcing and advice to parishes and has held training days in each of the regions.

Side-by-Side Mentoring:

This initiative offers some great possibilities for building relationships with young families in our wider communities. The first three day training series took place in Hawke's Bay with seven Waiapu people graduating. Another series of training days is planned for the coming months, and consideration is being given to finding the best ways to support new and existing mentors in this ministry.

Messy Church Conference:

Lucy Moore, one of the founders of Messy Church, was in New Zealand to facilitate a number of conferences. Waiapu hosted one of these in Te Puke with a good number attending from Waiapu. The workshop inspired and encouraged many to consider the possibilities for Messy Church here the intention is that we continue to build on that initial enthusiasm in coming months.

The Reverend Adrienne Bruce (Chairperson, for the Committee)

This report prepared with assistance from Jocelyn Czerwonka & Jo Crosse