

YOUTH WORK (BYRUS) REPORT FOR ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING 2008

BYRUS is the youth work project of the Bramerton Group of Churches and operates across the 11 parishes of the Group. Jacqui Hill continues to work as our full-time Youth Worker. We currently have regular contact with about 150 young people. There are regular events held across the group as well a number of one-off events in other locations e.g. Norwich or residential camps away. Activities include:

BARE ROCK: Saturday evenings 7.30 – 10pm in **Yelverton church** (monthly). This has been going for over a year. Approx 30 young people come each time. Music is led by our youth band.

ROCK SOLID for 11-13s and ROCKAHOLICS for 14-17s at Thurton: Friday evenings. Still going well: numbers approx 15 – 20 in each age group. We have 30 – 45 minutes of Christian input and discussion amidst games and activities in the Rock Solid club. **Rockaholics** have lost a few to college but some younger ones have ‘moved up’ to the group. Many attend our Bare Rock youth service each month.

BERGH APTON youth club: Thursday evenings. I previously introduced a new system of X, Y and Z weeks for different age groups: 11-13s and 14s – 17s. The older group of 17 year olds have begun college or work and stopped coming but we still chat to them in the street and they’ve asked to come to Horstead Camp too. New members have joined each age group so the club continues.

BRAMERTON village hall club (alternate Fridays). Between 15 –20 attend. Lots of them came to Horstead youth Camp.

ROCKLAND BENEFICE CLUB (alternate Tuesdays). Approximately eighteen regulars now. Outings continue to develop friendships.

BIBLE EXPLORER RE lessons on the Old Testament - for 9-11 year olds. Lots of fun participation involved. Jacqui has now done this 5 session course in eight schools and recently trained to teach the New Testament too.

CONFIRMATION: We think there will be several young people wanting baptism and confirmation soon, who are receiving teaching in the newly started groups for different ages.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES: Jacqui takes assemblies at Thurton, Alington, Surlingham & Rockland schools.

ALL-AGE WORSHIP: The numbers at the three all-age worship services are increasing. We hope to start an all-age creative communion service soon also.

RESIDENTIAL CAMPS

1. HORSTEAD ACTIVITY CENTRE YOUTH CAMPS: In May we will have two camps as we did last year, but this year Christian Aid Norwich are assisting, co-leading and facilitating some sessions.

2. SNOCCASH: The venue has changed (now Thetford Forest) but the Camp will take place this summer and we hope to take more than usual. This is a superb camp, where the young people can grow spiritually and in musical confidence by playing in the band.

SWEDEN EXCHANGE: We recently had a visit of seven Swedish people from our link diocese in North Sweden. Jacqui arranged their accommodation and designed a programme of events, which involved some of our young people, some of whom were on the Swedish exchange trip last August.

We are very grateful for the continued support from a number of different sources including many of the Parish Councils in the Bramerton Group area. We are always in need of both financial support and people to help with the various youth activities. Anyone who would like offer assistance should contact Jacqui Hill (528534) or Rev Peter Knight (480738) in the first instance.