

# Youth Work Update

Supporting **your** work with young people



Yellow Braces 2007 has just finished and if there are any 'typos' in this letter it is because I still need to catch up on some sleep. The weekend was a great success though and has created some great memories of community, worship, fun and activity for the eighty young people who took part. We were fortunate to have a wonderful team of leaders from across the Diocese who worked together to make the event fly. A great encouragement also were the 16-18 year olds who were part of the leadership training programme at Yellow Braces who in-between their sessions worked with enormous enthusiasm and maturity with the young people and the activities.

If you want to get this event in your diary ready for 2008 then the dates you need are July 4-6th.



As a youth minister one of my favourite bits of work is 'Confirmation Preparation' with young people. The chance to listen, teach, discuss, explore and challenge with a bunch of teenagers is so rewarding. At the moment I'm exploring what confirmation preparation means to young people and would value the chance to speak to some of your young people if possible? ( phone number below). I'm also happy to advise or train on this area of

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It's been great to spend a bit of time with Bishop John and discover how pro Youth Ministry he is. For example in his recent mailing to clergy he said,

*[Youth Ministry] "This is absolutely front-line mission with an age-group that has never been so alienated from the Christian Church. It's not that they're against the Church; it's just that they know almost nothing about it. Anyone in our churches involved in youth work needs special thanks, regular encouragement and an occasional bottle of whiskey"*

In 2006 a group of young people came together at Church House to discuss and present their views on what our new Bishop should be like! On the afternoon of September the 16th they'll be re-assembling to spend some time with the Bishop and present their questions to him in person. **If you would like to bring a group to Oxford to join in with this informal and fun afternoon then let me know!**



**The following training has been run in the Diocese in the last 2 years. These sessions & others are available:**

- Running a residential
- Discipline and Young people
- How to discuss Sexuality
- Tweenagers
- The basics of youth work
- Starting from Scratch
- Sharing your faith with young people
- Contemplative Youth Ministry
- Developing your youthwork