Report of the Bay of Plenty Youth Oversight Committee to Synod 2012

BoP Regional Youth Facilitator: Jo Keogan
Chairperson: Adrienne Bruce (Bishop's Chaplain)

Youth Work in the Region

Last year's key focus on the development of the Youth Council has continued with young people from three parishes now engaged and meetings being held on a more regular basis.
Jo Keogan as the Regional Youth Ministry Facilitator (RYMF) continues to visit and engage with parishes to encourage someone in each parish to undertake ensuring youth ministry is a priority, especially where there are only one or two young people in a parish. This is not easy work as it requires a response from the parish personnel who too would love to see youth ministry flourishing but struggle with the realities. To be a person of 'hope' for parishes is therefore an important part of Jo's role.
With several new vicars in the region the committee has encouraged Jo to make connections with these new people. The Rev'd Richard Vialoux from Mount Maunganui has brought with him the Black Dove Programme which has developed quickly in Mount Maunganui and interest has been shown diocesan-wide as to how this might be used in parishes as they are encouraged to 'make it their own'.
We are grateful to Richard for his willingness to share this with others out of a desire to see young people thrive in their faith development.
The committee continues to recognise the tension between running larger diocesan events and work with parishes at the 'grass roots level' to develop this ministry. The role of mentoring young people has become a significant role for the RYMF. In the past year this has included the continued mentoring a young person in running a youth group in her parish and also regular work with the youth interns when they have been based in the region.
Again, the Bay of Plenty, and Jo in particular, took a large load in the organisation of Top Parish based at Keswick as well as assisting the Diocesan Youth Ministry Facilitator, Jocelyn Czerwonka, with Parachute.
We look forward to our young people's involvement again this year at the Youth Synod and Diocesan Synod and are delighted that we have had Bay of Plenty representation at the National Youth Forum.

Youth Oversight Committee

The Youth Oversight Committee has seen changes in membership again this year. The committee struggles to find representation and we were very pleased that Richard Vialoux has agreed to join the committee with his experience of working with youth. The Regional Executive continues to place youth ministry in the region as a high priority and the committee wish to acknowledge this encouragement.

Wider Diocesan and National Work

Jo has also continued to attend the PADYS (Professional Anglican Diocesan Youth Staff) gatherings for ongoing training, support and fellowship, and has received regular supervision. The four Diocesan youth staff also meets together regularly and Skype weekly whenever possible.
This year Jo has also attended the Diocesan Youth & Families meetings but this has been reassessed as it is acknowledged that this expectation alongside so many other calls on a half-time position is unrealistic (see Diocesan Youth & Families Report).

Finally as chairperson I would like to thank Jo, Jocelyn, Jenny & Richard for their hard work in the past year in youth ministry in the region.

Adrienne Bruce (Chairperson) 3rd July 2012