



**2019 - 2020
ANNUAL REPORT**

KENELM
youth trust

**REGISTERED CHARITY
NO. 1144209**

A WORD OF WELCOME



We are delighted that KYT continues to deliver high-impact residential and other experiences for young people across the Archdiocese. KYT doesn't

just deliver the same programmes year in and year out but continues to adapt, change and respond to the emerging needs of young people. Now, in the midst of a pandemic, KYT has adapted our service and support to be available online and with exciting new Catholic well-being and mental health resources and mentoring support.

KYT has been severely affected financially through COVID-19. The government guidelines currently do not allow schools to stay at Alton Castle and Soli, which has reduced our income substantially.

KYT strives to continue to serve young people and families in new ways through the Pandemic and in particular support the mental health of thousands of young people through vibrant new resources and training for schools and parishes. We are committed to developing further our online and digital platforms, in addition to fostering new ways to communicate the Gospel with young people including fun and faith-filled activities for our parish leaders.

With gratitude to external funders and generous donations we have just upgraded the heating system for Alton Castle and we are just beginning refurbishment to top floor bathrooms and bedrooms.

Please consider supporting us through the upcoming second collection in our parishes or through an activity in your

local school or youth group:

- £400 sponsors a bike use at Alton Castle for 12 months
- £200 provides a day of training for the Mission Team
- £8.50 a month enables a disadvantaged child to experience a retreat away at Alton Castle
- £5 helps a young person to access a youth group with trained leaders
- £2,000 help us strengthen the mental resilience of hundreds of disadvantaged young people who have been impacted by social distancing and widespread changes to daily life within our schools across the West Midlands
- £50 enables us to provide a Virtual Youth *Alpha* programme for a group of young people, for free
- £3,500 provides a 12 month, live-in work placement for a Mission Team member
- £3 subsidises a young person to access the KYT *Quo Vadis* mental health and wellbeing programme
- £375 provides a virtual retreat for a Primary School
- £2 a month pledge to our 200 Club supports the work in an ongoing way

Also needed to support current projects:

- £4,000 to deliver a new *Mustard Seed* video project for Sunday Gospel messages
- £12,000 still needed for a new Ropes Course (£20,000 already raised)
- £15,000 still needed for the current refurbishment works at Alton Castle (£48,000 already raised)

Please help if you can.

Sandra Satchell is the CEO of the Kenelm Youth Trust ●

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ALTON CASTLE



JESUIT PUPIL PROFILE

The Jesuit Pupil Profile and accompanying virtue pairs are now firmly embedded in the retreat experience and shape the activity meditations by making links with Scripture as well as closer connections with classroom learning. Visiting teachers have very much appreciated this development and have frequently commented on how it has enabled a more consistent experience of retreat across the various activity groups.

DOWN TIME AT ALTON CASTLE

Last year we updated you on the successful Games Room *Awards for All* grant; this year, it has been a real joy to see that be used more and more, and to see the De Verdun Room increase in popularity. This is a second “chill out”

space, where young people who might prefer playing cards or a board game to table football or pool can feel really at home. When we had to diversify over the summer as our usual bookings couldn't take place, this was an attractive space for families to relax while staying with us for socially distant Adventure Holidays.

WELCOMING MORE YOUNG PEOPLE

Each year, the Castle is blessed with a full calendar of visiting schools, not to mention a waiting list for popular times. However, in terms of bed occupancy, we are rarely full, and while we

While the end of the academic year 2019-2020 will be remembered more for what *didn't* happen, the time until mid-March was a joyfully busy, spiritually fruitful one for Alton Castle. The academic year dawned really brightly with key new staff appointed and a strong team with a lovely return to an international flavour. We were blessed to have volunteers from Germany, Hungary, Brazil and the USA, as well as young adults from across our own diocese plus Nottingham, Menevia and Shrewsbury too.

Our team was further strengthened by the arrival of Fr. Paul Whieldon, the new Spiritual Director of KYT. As sad as we were to say goodbye to Fr Thé as he moved on to a parish in Kingstanding, Fr Paul's musical and gardening expertise helped soften the blow, not to mention his wandering chickens, who are a constant source of entertainment as well as delicious eggs for the team!

Through a unique blend of outdoor adventurous activities and inspiring retreat experiences, Alton Castle promotes personal, social and spiritual development for Key Stages 2 & 3. Our enthusiastic team enable young people to encounter Christ through creation, challenging activities and community.



MEET HANNAH

At 18, unsure of what to do after sixth form, I joined the Alton Castle team for a gap year. Little did I know at that point, that taking a gap year was the first step of many on a journey through youth ministry with KYT. After completing my gap year, I studied at university and started work as a primary school teacher. Over these years, I kept returning to the Castle, volunteering to support residential school trips as well as my parish youth group, who I brought to the *Fearless* retreat for three years.

Although I loved university, and I also loved teaching, I felt a calling back into youth ministry - I fully realised this calling whilst I was preparing for KYT's *Mission Brazil*, as being back in Alton for the mission training made me realise just how much I had missed this ministry. I was so pleased, therefore, when I was able to return back to Alton, living and working here as a programme leader. It has been a blessing to be involved in youth ministry in the diocese and to support the inspiring young adults who devote a year (or more) of their lives as part of the Kenelm Mission Team."

wouldn't want to run constantly at capacity, each empty bed represents a young person missing out on a life-changing experience. Therefore we committed ourselves to increasing the number of individual students who come with each school, and to encouraging more parish groups at weekends and during school holidays. To facilitate this, we introduced a new online booking enquiry system, and focussed on

matching compatibly sized groups to maximise the impact of our unique resources. By mid-March, we were on target to have one thousand more young people visit the site during this academic year than previously. These numbers are all the more impressive given that we were closed for longer than usual over Christmas and into the New Year as the boilers and heating system of the Castle were renewed at long last! Even before lockdown, our online presence particularly across social media platforms as well as our updated website, was really boosted, particularly through the appointment of our assistant director, Tom Machin.

WORKING TOGETHER AND REACHING OUT

KYT is undoubtedly at its best when all four strands work together. This year, the Mission Team have collaborated with BCYS and Lay Chaplaincy to host events including *Radiant Girls' Day*, a Murder Mystery evening, *Church Ablaze* conference for young adults, *Mission at Home*, *Fearless*, KYT's charity ball and the *Christ is Alive* Synod training days for clergy and youth leaders. As well as hosting youth ministry events it's great to be able to engage with the local community at events such as our very well received carol concert:

"LAST NIGHT'S EVENT WAS BEAUTIFUL. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING US. WE WERE BLOWN AWAY WITH HOW THE TEAM LOOKED AFTER US ALL."

NATIONAL RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

We are one of the few outdoor centres that are affiliated to British Cycling, and in fact the only diocesan centre to offer led bike rides to the young people who come



ALTON CASTLE



62 PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS
SERVED FROM SEP
2019 TO MAR 2020



5 COUNTRIES AND
3 CONTINENTS
REPRESENTED ON OUR
TRULY GLOBAL TEAM...



...AND 1 COSY CASTLE! WE
HAVE NEW BOILERS AND
NEW HEATING THROUGHOUT
THE CASTLE, AT LAST!

on retreat. We were therefore the natural choice for British Cycling when they wanted to do a photo shoot to promote their valuable work in September 2019. The collaboration gave us some superb shots of the Castle team in action, and subsequently strengthened our successful bid in the national "I am ABLE" Awards in February 2020. We were delighted to hear that the D. M. Thomas Foundation for Young People. The DMTFYP team decided, "Your project best represented ABLE through Experiencing it, where you focus on providing confidence-building opportunities and leadership experiences for young people. We would love to award you £4,000 to help continue this project and to make a real difference to young people's lives!"

Just as lockdown was about to begin, we were successfully re-inspected for the prestigious Learning Outside the Classroom award. Not only does this mean schools can be assured of the excellence of the activities offered, it also significantly reduces the paperwork required of busy school staff. The LOTC Quality Badge is endorsed by the DfE and is the only national award that ensures "good quality education provision and effective risk management across all types of learning outside the classroom provider." We have also exceeded this by being awarded the Gold Standard by the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres, which means we have been formally accredited as consistently providing strong operational practice and high quality learning outcomes -within Outdoor Education, this could be said to be the equivalent of being graded as outstanding by OFSTED. More recently, we have also successfully achieved the newly introduced Good to Go quality mark which certifies we meet government and industry COVID-19 guidelines. ●

ALTON CASTLE PROVIDES "CONFIDENCE-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. WE WOULD LOVE TO AWARD YOU £4,000 TO HELP CONTINUE THIS PROJECT AND TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVES!"

Below A young mountain biker learns how to operate the bike's gears



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cademic year 19/20 was very much a year of two halves, marked by the Corona virus pandemic. Traditionally March - July is our

busiest season and sadly this year we were unable to welcome students on residential retreats due to government restrictions and school closures.

“IT WAS OBVIOUS HOW MUCH THE STUDENTS APPRECIATED NIGHT PRAYER BECAUSE SO MANY OF THEM TURNED UP TO VOLUNTARY MORNING PRAYER IN THE CHAPEL THE NEXT DAY” - STAFF EVALUATION

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Outreach and mission are always a high point in the Soli calendar and this year was no exception. Particular high points were the mission week at Cardinal Newman in Coventry and the opportunities we had to work with Chaplaincy teams, supporting their development. All of our Outreach is bespoke to the school community we are working with the experience of being on young people's "own turf" is a great privilege.

BEING HUMAN

This year at Soli we developed a new programme to support students with their well-being in the context of our Catholic faith. The retreat looks at how we take care of our whole person and offers tools for care of our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being, drawing on the riches of our

SOLI

Catholic tradition. Exploring prayer and Christian meditation alongside experiencing the beauty of the outdoor environment offered by our stunning location. Young people in exam years are supported in equipping themselves to better take care of their well-being and encouraged to grow in awareness of God's love their whole person.

“THE CONTENT OF THE SESSIONS WERE SPOT ON, THE CONCEPTS WERE REALLY ACCESSIBLE AND THE STUDENTS ENGAGED REALLY WELL.” - STAFF EVALUATION

FIAT: LOURDES PREPARATION RETREAT

Fiat - Lourdes preparation retreat For the second year running we offered a Lourdes preparation retreat to schools preparing for pilgrimage to Lourdes in the Summer term, unfortunately the pilgrimage did not go ahead, meaning perhaps the group's time on retreat was even more precious! Young people explored the traditions they will encounter in Lourdes, such as Eucharist Adoration and processions, learning about their significance and meaning in preparation for their pilgrimage.

We hope to continue to offer this opportunity to begin the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes with a retreat experience that supports young

Soli supports schools and parishes in offering life changing retreat and outreach opportunities for young people up to 25. The Soli experience is tailor made to support the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing of young people through deepening of relationships with each other and moments of encounter with Jesus led by a dynamic peer ministry team and experienced qualified staff.



people in entering deeply into all it has to offer, encountering each other and Jesus in life changing ways!

“THEIR [THE TEAM’S] INSPIRATION, ENTHUSIASM, CREATIVITY, PRAYERFULNESS AND MOST OF ALL THEIR FAITH COMMITMENT WAS EXCEPTIONAL. WE CAN’T WAIT TO TAKE THE STUDENTS NEXT YEAR! THIS IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PILGRIMS’ PREPARATION FOR LOURDES.” - STAFF EVALUATION

ST. CHAD’S SANCTUARY

This academic year we were able to continue to build on our links with St Chad’s sanctuary, offering the Soli team an opportunity to understand the the reality of the life of refugees in this country. The team’s first experiences of leading a retreat was a day retreat for some of the faith sharing group who are served by St Chad’s Sanctuary. This day out of the city was a wonderful opportunity to share experiences, times of prayer and enjoy the beautiful Churnet Valley. The team led the group on a walk, an archery session and prayer stations! In December the team were invited to lead carols at the St. Chad’s Sanctuary Christmas party, team members Becca and Luke were already on their Christmas break but made their own way there to share in the celebrations and be reunited with friends they had made on retreat at the start of term. One team member noted, “The people at St. Chad’s Sanctuary are so friendly and warm, and working with them was a huge blessing. It was inspiring to hear about the journeys they had been on to get to where they are today.”

BAPTISED AND SENT

Archbishop Bernard invited the team to be a part of a day of

Below Talking to Sr. Angela Marie at the *Radiant Girls* vocations day

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61% OF SCHOOLS BOOKED FOR RESIDENTIAL RETREATS THIS YEAR WERE RETURNING SCHOOLS...



...AND 39% OF SCHOOLS BOOKED WERE NEW TO US



34% OF RETREATS BOOKED WERE KEY STAGE THREE GROUPS...



...AND 66% OF WERE KEY STAGE FOUR GROUPS

mission for the Extraordinary Month of Mission in October. This interesting day was challenging for all of us, those who have been serving the Church in ministry for a long time or only a few months. We were stretched outside of our comfort zone as we were encouraged to participate in different kinds of outreach experiences. Some of the extraverts on team loved meeting new people on the street and engaging them in conversations about faith. A particular highlight for many of us was the experience of meeting a missionary based in Pakistan, facilitated by James Trewby of the Columban Missionaries. The day broadened our understanding and experiences of mission and was a great opportunity to participate in a shared initiative with KYT, the Vocations Office and the Evangelisation team.

RADIANT GIRLS DAY

Another shared initiative the ladies on team had the great pleasure of being a part of was the Radiant vocations day for girls alongside young women from schools across the diocese. Hosted at the very fancy Coombe Abbey we were treated on so many levels! Incredible input from Katie Prejean McGrady from America, Sr Emanuela from Wigan via Rome, and Sr Angela Marie from Nashville via Elgin, Scotland, beautiful times of prayer and worship, a wonderful lunch all in the most beautiful surroundings. The day explored the feminine genius, the gift we are to the world as women and the calling placed on all of our lives. It was a really enriching day and we really did feel spoilt to be invited to be a part of it! ●

My name is Rebecca, and I was part of the 2019-2020 Kenelm Mission Team. For most of the year we did our usual activities at Alton Castle and Soli, welcoming young people from all over and bringing them to Christ through the activities. We had the opportunity to become instructors in activities such as mountain biking, climbing, archery, and many more. The support we had from the staff throughout the year ensured that we were giving the best versions of ourselves to the young people. As with anything, there were good days and bad days, but on the bad days there was always someone I could go to for help, direction or just a chat. We also had catechesis on a weekly basis to develop our faith, as well as Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Having the opportunity to live and work with 12 other young Catholics was very refreshing and allowed me to deepen my faith. Every day we would have time for morning prayer together, and some days would be prayers of our own, allowing us to research and create our own prayers based on a Bible verse. I had the opportunity to make things such as creative night prayers, and presentations linked to the theme of the retreats. This allowed me to express my faith in my own way and to show the young people how passionate I am about it.

In March of 2020, our style of ministry changed. Because of lockdown, we could no longer host retreats to the young people, so we found ways to reach young people virtually! We were given the opportunity to stay and continue our ministry, we wanted to be creative. We created a 'How to Pray' series, a series of videos leading the viewer through different prayers and the meaning behind them. As we were in a bubble, we could celebrate and livestream Mass, as well as creative prayers and praise and worship sessions. As a musician these sessions allowed me to develop confidence in leading worship which has now become a huge part of my life. The opportunities that were given to me over the year have been life changing. I am now studying Youth and Community Work and hoping to continue working with the Trust to bring more young people to Christ. For anyone who is looking at joining the Mission Team – do it! It truly was one of the best decisions of my life. ●



**MEET
REBECCA**



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Thank you for reading about our important work this year. Please **pray** for the young people of our Archdiocese. Be a voice of **encouragement** when you see young people at Mass; don't wait until National Youth Sunday to say: 'Great to see you here today' or 'Thank you for serving on the altar'! Of course, the Kenelm Youth Trust also relies on the **financial support** and **time** of volunteers and you could also support our work, in the following ways:

- **Click here to join the KYT 200 Club!** Contribute £2 a month and have the chance to win cash prizes. Half of the all money received by the KYT 200 Club becomes prize money and the other half supports youth ministry across the Archdiocese.
- **Organise a school or parish fundraising activity**, such as a a non-uniform day, a cake sale or a sponsored sale out. **Please get in touch** if you would like ideas or support with fundraising
- Fundraise with an **Employee Matched Giving Scheme**
- Visit **smile.amazon.co.uk** and make the Kenelm Youth Trust your chosen charity. Amazon then make donations at no cost to you
- Visit **easyfundraising.org.uk** and make the Kenelm Youth Trust your chosen charity when you shop with a range of retailers including eBay, Argos, Sainsbury's, John Lewis and M&S
- Come along to one of our fundraising event such as *Afternoon Tea at the Castle* or the *Kenelm Youth Trust Charity Ball*. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for news of when these will be
- Contact **Sandra** or **Maria** to see how you can be involved in youth ministry locally
- Have a look at Page 21 to see upcoming events and opportunities for young people. Invite young people that you know to these events! Page 21 is also available as an A4 or A5 poster. Let us know if you would like copies to put up at on your noticeboard at home, in your parish or in the classroom
- Follow us and subscribe to our content on social media. Each of the four agencies have their own social media accounts. Feel free to share our posts on your own social media too!
- **Click here** to make a one-off or regular donation

BCYS

BCYS work across the 17 deaneries of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, which incorporates 224 parishes. We currently have 46 Parish Youth Groups with a new group about to start in the North Staffs Hub.

BCYS offer support in establishing a vision for parish youth ministry, the formation and training of parish youth leaders and young leaders, providing resources and fresh ideas for established groups, assist with the recruitment of new volunteers as well as offering opportunities for young people to engage in the wide range of events on offer through the Kenelm Youth Trust.

TRAINING AND FORMATION

During this academic year, BCYS have led 40 training sessions. Sessions have included; Accompaniment, Beginning Parish Youth Ministry, Building a Core Team, Relational Ministry, Insurance and Risk Assessments,

Creating an Engaging Youth Programme, Exploring how to Share the Faith with Young People, Group Work and Leadership Skills. We have also led training workshops in safeguarding, with other Diocesan agencies. Since lockdown we have also coordinated training in Mental Health Awareness and created mentoring training for schools and parishes.

The BCYS team have led training for 28 young leaders aged 14 - 17 years through the VITAL training course created by

BCYS provides a highly experienced, qualified and ambitious team ready to support your parish as you engage and serve young people. Let us do the hard work! We are here to inspire, recruit, train and resource your volunteer parish youth ministers. It is going to be a rewarding journey - Let's get started!



BCYS. This course develops leadership skills, confidence and encourages participants to take up a role or responsibility in the life of their parish community.

BCYS have also trained volunteers to facilitate the John Paul II Award (for those in Year 10+) and launched the Faith in Action Award (for those in Years 6-9) in schools and parishes. Both of these award schemes encourage young people to be actively involved in social action and the mission of their parish community.

We hosted 6 training sessions in key locations for volunteers to find out more about running these awards. Since lockdown we have also met virtually and led training in these awards, using Zoom. BCYS also led workshops as part of the the liturgy course for school lay chaplains.



“WE WERE GRATEFUL TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF BCYS. WE WERE HELPED TO BUILD A YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM FROM SCRATCH. WE LEARNT HOW TO APPROACH DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS, LOTS OF ICEBREAKER GAMES AND HOW TO INTRODUCE YOUNG PEOPLE TO WORSHIP” - YOUTH LEADER AT GREYFRIARS, OXFORD

PARISH YOUTH WORKER POSTS

BCYS have supported this new development of parish clusters employing a full time youth worker. We have been part of planning groups, steering groups and taken on various tasks; creating job descriptions and person specs, producing adverts and supporting parishes with the publicity of posts.

EVENTS

Events on BCYS' calendar this year included:

- *Fearless*, BCYS' annual retreat for parish youth groups. This year over 100 young people and young leaders came to Alton Castle for challenges, activities, prayer, formation and leadership training. The young leadership stream offered Year 10+ students expert training from *Catholic Voices* on how to engage with others about the faith, as well as practical leadership challenges to empower them to support the younger groups during their weekend together.

Left Young leaders at *Fearless* **Below** An Edge group makes a splash during Lockdown



A PARISH PROFILE

St. Edmund and St Frideswide, otherwise known as Greyfriars, in Oxford were supported by BCYS as they brought together a team of leaders to host a Youth Alpha: a programme for evangelisation. Young people who became friends on their Alpha joined the *Mission at Home* initiative and chose to run an afternoon tea for seniors. This was followed by a regular YouCat study group which has continued virtually into lockdown. When churches first reopened for private prayer, young leaders volunteered to be stewards and played a key role in welcoming the community back to church.



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**46 PARISHES
HAVE YOUTH
GROUPS**



**MORE THAN 40
TRAINING
SESSIONS
DELIVERED**



**28 YOUNG LEADERS
COMPLETED THE
'VITAL' TRAINING
COURSE**



**OVER 120 YOUNG
PEOPLE SERVED
ON A MISSION @
HOME PROJECT**



**OVER 500
PEOPLE RECEIVE
THE BCYS E-
NEWSLETTER**

- Workshops to share and explore the outcomes of the Synod
- BCYS' *Accompaniment Training*, exploring the Synodal theme of accompaniment and what this looks like in practice
- *Baptised and Sent*, a day of Mission in Birmingham city centre, involving 50 young adults, as part of the Church's Day of Mission (see p.7 for more!)
- Day trips, Christmas residential and winter camps for the Andrew Robinson Young People's Trust
- The annual leaders' retreat led by BCYS and Fr. Desmond Devenney
- *Mission @ Home* events encouraging young people to engage in local projects helping those around them. The Coventry Deanery organised 'Helping hands' working with over 100 young people who; collected key items in their school for the homeless; organised a drop in café serving lunches in the local city centre parish of St. Mary and Benedict's; created bespoke bags for the homeless to take away with much needed items. On the following day the team of young adults created a Sunday lunch and entertainment for over 80 elderly guests from parishes in disadvantaged areas of the city.
- Virtual *It's a Knockout* for parish youth groups who submitted videos of individual youth group members completing a series of crazy activities. Congratulations to winners Edge Nuneaton and Bedworth!
- *Church Ablaze*, was a brand new a conference for young adults. It was a

response to the voices we had heard during the Synod process calling for young young adult to be supported in discerning their charisms and finding meaningful roles within the church.

SOCIAL MEDIA

During lockdown, the BCYS team worked to schedule a calendar of online social media events to reach out to young people, ahead of being furloughed! This included a series of Instagram Live talks, held on a Friday night, which covered a number of topics from Black Lives Matter to local social action projects and the importance of prayer and caring for our mental health. There were also daily features; inspirational quotes, live prayer, the Rosary and stories of gratitude.

COMMUNICATION

BCYS produce monthly newsletters for parish youth leaders and young adults. BCYS also launched a Young Adults' Communications Team for young adults to share good news stories and reach out to young people across the Diocese.

During lockdown we have met online with parish youth group leaders supporting volunteers with resources, sharing good practise and training. BCYS host network meetings, regular gatherings to bring those involved in parish youth ministry together for prayer, sharing good practise, and planning of local events. Since lockdown these have taken place on Zoom. ●



KENELM CHAPLAINCY

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s schools played a pivotal role in what will be a memorable year, Chaplaincy continued to grow and develop, shaping the lives of the young people and the communities we serve.

CHAPLAINCY MASS

Our year began with a beautiful celebration at St. Chad's Cathedral. Bishop William presided over our annual Commissioning Mass where Lay Chaplains and student's chaplaincy teams come together to pray for the coming year and to be commissioned into their ministry. Cardinal Newman School lead the congregation in their sung worship with a huge choir of beautiful singers. Their Lay Chaplain, Laura Byrne, ably lead them and the whole church with both traditional and contemporary hymns.

It was at the end of Mass where 13 of our Lay Chaplains were presented with their Certificates in recognition of having completed the Diocesan Certificate in Liturgy and Collective Worship.

We were delighted to be joined by around 300 people for this celebration and the refreshments and cake after is always a great chance to catch up, share ideas and support each other in our ministry!

Top Clergy at the Christ is Alive conference **Below right** Students attend a training day as they work towards their *Chaplaincy Team Certificate*

From the moment a school decides to appoint, the Chaplaincy Project supports with advertising, shortlisting, interviewing and induction. We aim to support and train all Lay Chaplains in secondary schools, with bespoke training and tailored ongoing formation. In this way we ensure quality-control and a diocesan wide approach within your own school context.



25
SCHOOLS
HAVE LAY
CHAPLAINS



OVER 35 STUDENTS
ACROSS 11 SCHOOLS
TOOK PART IN THE
CHAPLAINCY TEAM
CERTIFICATE



13 LAY CHAPLAINS
COMPLETED THE
LITURGY AND
COLLECTIVE
WORSHIP COURSE



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KENELM CHAPLAINCY

CHAPLAINCY TEAM CERTIFICATE

This year saw the Chaplaincy Team Certificate being offered to our schools again; a chance for our Lay Chaplains to accompany some of their Student Chaplaincy Team during a year's worth of training and growing together! Covering topics such as presentation skills, Catholic Ethos, budgeting and planning the young people who took part were stretched and challenged in new ways but all of them rose to the occasion. The course is designed so that a handful of representatives from each school attend training days throughout the year. They then take what they have learned back to their communities and pass their new knowledge onto the rest of their peers within the student chaplaincy team. The whole team then undertake a project in their school which the representatives feed back to the group during the training days. Although the course was cut short by the pandemic, we will be picking the course up again as soon as is practical!

"I ENJOY THE WORSHIP BAND THAT HAS FORMED THROUGH CHAPLAINCY, MY FORM LOVE TO HEAR THE MODERN WORSHIP SONGS." - YEAR 9 STUDENT AT RYE ST ANTONY, OXFORD

CHAPLAINCY INSET

Our INSET continued this year with some great input on Theology of the Body from Kerri Christopher in preparation for

the new regulations around relationships and sex education in schools and Danny Curtain joined us to unpack all that happened during the youth SYNOD. Again, our programme of training was cut short, but the days were very well attended and give our Lay Chaplains the chance to support each other, pray together, learn and trouble shoot together. These invaluable times happen 6 times a year and provide crucial training and catechesis for all our Lay Chaplains.

"I REALLY APPRECIATE THE SERVICE THAT THE LAY CHAPLAIN PROVIDES TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY... COMMUNITY. THE BEST THING ABOUT HAVING A LAY CHAPLAIN IS I KNOW THAT I ALWAYS HAVE SOMEWHERE TO GO IF I NEED HELP.. I HAVE RECEIVED GREAT ADVICE IN MATTERS OF FAITH AS WELL AS EXCELLENT PASTORAL CARE." - SIXTH FORM STUDENT AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, ALDRIDGE

ONLINE GATHERINGS

In April of this year a Virtual Coffee Morning began for all Lay Chaplains. Hosted on Zoom, these sessions were a chance for Lay Chaplains to come together to share their experience of Lockdown and to talk about their current and altered working life! Lasting for around 75 minutes, these gatherings were a valuable time for Lay Chaplains who were shielding to interact with other professionals, those who were helping to support key worker children to share their stories and in general to come together to pray and offer a listening ear in the hardest of circumstances. These online sessions will continue into the new academic year as the pandemic continues to disrupt normal ministry. ●



QUO VADIS

The past few months have seen all of us needing to adjust, adapt and deal with challenges we couldn't have even imagined a year ago. Our young people in particular are in a huge period of transition and change and even now as they look to the future, so much feels uncertain...We know that we need to process what has happened to us, that we need to acknowledge all the mess and hurt that this time has caused.... we need to take a moment and ask, "How am I actually doing right now?"

Our newest programme helps us to do just that. *Quo Vadis* is a new Catholic Mental Health and Wellbeing programme which aims to help young people explore their feelings and emotions whilst giving them the tools and resources they need to look to the future with confidence and hope.

It has four different elements:

- Mental Health Training for staff in schools being offered in partnership with Mental Health First Aid England
- A staff-student mentoring programme
- A peer mentoring programme
- A 12-session classroom resource. 12, ready to use 50-minute lessons exploring everything from anxiety to anger, from loss to hope for the future.



We have worked with experts in the mental health field and we have gathered friends from around the world to contribute to this resource.

We are pleased to be able to offer a resource that uses tried and tested mental health tools to empower young people; that uses music, art, humour and creativity to deliver the message and that draws on the scriptures and the lives of saints to share with young people the richness of our Catholic faith. Click [here](#) to find out more. ●



Above Students discussing *Quo Vadis* in the classroom

Below Custom artwork of the *Quo Vadis* patron saints





SUMMER CAMP ONLINE

We were very excited to take Summer Camp online this year: Whilst we knew that it wouldn't be quite the same experience, we were excited by what God had in store for us all! Using YouTube, Zoom Instagram and Facebook, Summer Camp online reached out far and wide, attracting registrations from 11 different dioceses! Our theme this year was New Fire and our friends from *LifeTeen* in Nashville returned once more to lead us. Dom, our host, led our talks whilst his wife Sarah, led us in online worship - a first for some but a highlight for many. With daily prayer led by Jimmy Mitchel and daily Mass celebrated by Summer Camp priest chaplains past it was a moving retreat filled with challenge and encounter.

There was also lots of silliness during the weekend, often provided by our amazing MCs Fr. Brendan and Meg Cox - they held the whole weekend together and ensured that our young people were able to take part through the comments and video submissions. We had a strong team of young adult leaders who ensured that our 10 small groups ran smoothly via zoom. These online small groups offered a time of games, discussion and reflection as well as giving the young people an opportunity to build relationship with each other in this new way.

Left Filming takes places in the *Summer Camp* studio
Right The team host 'virtual tea and biscuits' after Mass

**"THIS YEAR'S CAMP ONLINE
 HAS GIVEN ME A MUCH
 DEEPER AND BETTER
 UNDERSTANDING OF THE HOLY
 SPIRIT AND HOW IT WORKS IN
 OUR EVERY DAY LIVES...
 EVEN DURING A PANDEMIC"
 - MATTHEW, YEAR 12**

The feedback from the weekend blew us away! The young people, as ever gave their all to this event and their testimony's (fondly called Glory Stories at Summer Camp) really showed that God was on the move and that He is wants to encounter young people even in a virtual environment. This was highlighted by the fact that a huge number of young people cited our evening of online adoration as their highlight - "I didn't think I would be able to feel Jesus through a screen, but I did" said 15-year-old Bridie. What a great encouragement to us all as we continue to embark on this new adventure that is online ministry! ●

DIGITAL MINISTRY

For the Mission Team, Alton becomes a home away from home. Our volunteers form a community, living and working together for a year, or more, of service. However, when a national lockdown happened, our team found themselves in a unique position with a choice to make: be locked in as a community in Alton, or return to their families. The Mission Team did not let lockdown phase them. They decided to remain in Alton to continue their ministry...online. The team worked hard to ensure young people were served in a time of great need and worked to learn all the skills they would need to minister digitally.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday Worship realised a need to bring prayer, particularly through song, into schools and homes for children of primary school age. The team chose their favourite praise and worship songs and taught the songs and actions with live YouTube videos every Wednesday. The team set up the Kenelm Youth Trust YouTube channel, coordinated promotion on social media and set up all the necessary technology. Wednesday Worship enjoyed regular viewers, and the team even received letters from some young people who enjoyed watching and praying with us.

YOUTH ALPHA

The Mission Team worked with chaplains and youth group leaders to lead Youth Alpha courses. These courses enabled young people to gather online, discussing and deepening their understanding of their faith in a safe

environment. Our team lead small group discussions and were able to share their own faith experiences. The course was so well received that Youth Alpha courses will continue into the next academic year.

PRAISE & WORSHIP LIVE

The team were very keen to share their love of praise and worship, and their musical skills, with those at home. Every other week, the team curated a set, performed worship songs and led prayer. Our engagement on social media was great and we had regulars who routinely joined us for worship. The Team set up a temporary studio from which to live stream Praise and Worship Live.

RESOURCES

Our creative volunteers created many great resources, including videos and help sheets, to support future ministry (for future teams and for those working in our schools and parishes).

**THE MISSION TEAM DID NOT
LET LOCKDOWN PHASE THEM...
THEY CHOSE TO CONTINUE
THEIR MINISTRY...ONLINE**

YOUTH MASSES

When parishes began to live stream Masses, Kenelm sought to serve a need and offer live streamed Youth Masses. Our volunteers advertised the Masses on social media; our musicians lead young people in prayer with hymns and worship during the Mass; bidding prayers were written each week to include the intentions and needs of the young people in our diocese; the team had upskilled themselves with technology, using software that enabled them to stream Mass on YouTube, using multiple camera angles, visuals and responses to help lead young people in a Mass offered for them.



Above The refreshed branding features newly designed roundels for KYT and the four agencies
Right The Mission Team produced a teaser trailer to announce Summer Camp Online

CREATIVE PRAYER

Every other week, in response to feedback from our social media followers, the team planned and lead creative prayer. It was streamed on Facebook and Instagram, making use of our volunteers' creative and exciting prayer ideas to support the prayer lives of young people.

SUMMER CAMP PREPARATION

As summer camp was fast approaching (a summer camp that was, for the first time ever, going to be held completely online), the team here in Alton supported the preparation works for camp. The team planned, filmed, edited and produced a 'teaser trailer' video for camp, which showcased all of the online ministry skills that they had honed during lockdown. This video, and the other projects team worked on to get Summer Camp Online 2020 going, encouraged young people across the UK to get involved with camp. We had many young people register for camp online this year, and it was a roaring success!

**WE HOPE THAT OUR FRESH NEW
BRANDING WILL COMMUNICATE
SOMETHING OF THE VIBRANCY
AND ENERGY OF OUR WORK
WITH AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

COMMUNICATIONS & BRANDING

During lockdown the staff who were working with the team from Alton also had the opportunity to work on our communications and branding. Our branding was refreshed, building on previous work, to modernise and create options for the many different medium we communicate with our various audiences. We hope this fresh new look will communicate something of the vibrancy and energy of our work with and for young people, as well as the level of professionalism and quality associated with the work of KYT.

WEBSITE REFRESH

We also had the opportunity to refresh the Kenelm website, the home of KYT



DIGITAL MINISTRY



online. Updating the website with refreshed branding and simplifying the website menu with the intention of clearly communicating the main areas of the Trust's work with young people in with the work of KYT. We also had the opportunity to refresh the Kenelm website, the home of KYT online. Updating the website with refreshed branding and simplifying the website menu with the intention of clearly communicating the main areas of the Trust's work with young people in various settings. The new navigation menu has been adapted based on feedback, in order to simplify and help people to find what they are looking for more intuitively, based not so much on how we work internally but based on what our users might be looking for.

SOCIAL MEDIA

During the last six weeks of lockdown the mission team based at Alton were given the challenge, with support and training, of taking on the KYT social media channels. The feedback on social media during this time was overwhelmingly positive, with one past team member describing it as "the best it has ever been". The team came up with initiatives such as "Soli singers" and daily Rosary reflections, shared on social media. We also started a TikTok account with our Pentecost post featuring clergy from the Archdiocese reaching over 15,000 people at last count! Sharing joyful fun posts like this is a significant way of sharing the vibrance and life of the young Church.

LOOKING FORWARD

As we look forward to the next twelve months, we face a landscape and challenges we have not faced before. The pandemic gives rise to certain challenges and questions for us to address in our ministry over the coming months:

- How do we build and foster community when meeting in person is severely limited?
- What does social action look like under the Current circumstances?
- How do we reach out to others and serve our brothers in sisters in practical ways?
- How do we strike the balance of making the most of this opportunity to reach out to young people using methods as yet unexplored and still issue the invitation to return to worship in all its physical fullness?

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, WE FACE A LANDSCAPE AND CHALLENGES WE HAVE NOT FACED BEFORE.

In practical terms, some of the projects we will be engaging in over the coming months for young people in parishes (and hopefully even some of those who typically wouldn't be found in our parishes) will be a regular online event with talks, small groups and Adoration, online youth Alpha and a monthly youth Mass and online youth group. If there is one thing that is certain about youth ministry in any context it is the fact that the young church is always the pioneer, treading new paths and exploring new territory. ●



Clockwise from right A sense of achievement after mastering mountain biking; Religious and youth ministry veterans host 'listening hubs' to facilitate accompaniment at *Church Ablaze*; Two *Church Ablaze* delegates find out about SVP; Two friends at *Fearless*; Afternoon tea for seniors as part of *Mission @ Home*; Baptised and Sent missionaries get warmed up for street evangelisation in Birmingham city centre and later a passerby joins the worship band (and he's very good too!)



**FOR
YOUNG
PEOPLE**

WHAT'S HAPPENING

XLT

FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE & YOUNG ADULTS SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

XLT is a virtual event featuring a guest speaker & a Q&A (live streamed on YouTube), small groups for different ages (on Zoom) followed by adoration and worship (live steamed on YouTube)

VIRTUAL YOUTH GROUP

FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

All the energy of a parish youth group, including games, activities & prayer, hosted by the Mission Team & live-streamed to your location!

YOUTH ALPHA

FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE GET IN TOUCH TO ARRANGE YOUR YOUTH ALPHA

Youth Alpha is an established evangelisation programme with a simple format. An engaging video series explores the Christian faith and young people have the chance to discuss in small groups

YOUTH MASSES

OFFERED FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE SEE WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA FOR DETAILS

Youth Mass, with music led by the Mission Team, offered for the intentions of young people will live-streamed from Alton and the Mission Team are even looking to visit parishes where possible!

RETREATS AT ALTON CASTLE AND SOLI

FOR PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE GET IN TOUCH TO BOOK YOUR RETREAT

Both Alton Castle and Soli can lead a retreat for your school or parish group which can be delivered virtually, or in person

QUO VADIS

FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE GET IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT MORE

Quo Vadis is a mental health & wellbeing resource, for young people to explore their 'new normal' through the lens of our Catholic faith

TRAINING

FOR YOUNG LEADERS AND YOUTH MINISTERS GET IN TOUCH AND WE CAN HELP!

KYT host *Vital*, a young leadership programme for 14 -17 year olds, plus training for adults on all areas of parish youth ministry including new training on virtual ministry, mentoring & Accompaniment

KENELM
youth trust

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1144209

**FOR MORE DETAILS & TO SEE WHAT ELSE IS
HAPPENING, VISIT KENELMYOUTHTRUST.ORG.UK**



I think 2020 will go down in many people's memories as the year that never was! Yet for people of faith, nothing happens in God's world by accident and for

naught. The past year has presented us with many challenges, some seemingly insurmountable at times, but we have also witnessed so many who have risen to those challenges and grown as a result.

'Normal' routine here at Alton seems a lifetime away now, but life proceeded largely as normal for the Kenelm Youth Trust, prior to the March lockdown. Some personal highlights were the Chaplaincy Mass at St. Chad's, where we celebrated the ministry of our lay chaplains, and recommissioned them for their important work in our schools. We also welcomed friends to Alton last September to the *Christ is Alive* Synod conference day. It was a special joy to welcome His Grace the Archbishop who celebrated Holy Mass to conclude this special day for us.

As we celebrated the festive season together, few could have imagined what the New Year would hold in store! As we enjoyed the input and the beautiful surroundings of Monserrat at the *LifeTeen European Conference* in February, there was a sense that something foreboding was beginning to develop across the world, and upon our return we found ourselves facing a global pandemic, and in lockdown.

Lockdown was a strange, bitter-sweet time! Our international team members had to leave us, and those who wished to stay here did so. We kept busy: we tidied the Convent Garden, and the site in general, we developed an online ministry of which we could be proud, with limited resources and in short time. Life with the 'Quarant-Team' was intense, but a blest time too! I shall long remember the beautiful Easter Vigil we celebrated together: A timely reminder that Christ is still the Light of the World and a Light that the Powers of Darkness can never prevail against!

A WORD FROM FATHER PAUL

COVID-19 has brought much uncertainty. There is confusion about rules and regulations, fear, and for many the pain of loss is keenly felt: loss of loved ones or the loss of a way of life. Yet we also see opportunities for renewal. We can challenge ourselves whenever we're tempted to say 'Well that's how we have always done it!' Much in our world was broken and far from 'fit for purpose' and so in our time and place, we can each reassess what needs to be done differently in our own lives, that they may be lived ever more after the pattern set by Jesus. I am utterly convinced that whatever has been, and whatever is to be, will be ok, if we keep close to the Lord, and that whatever we build back will be of the Lord, and founded on solid rock, if we have made Christ the keystone.

WHATEVER WE BUILD BACK WILL BE OF THE LORD, AND FOUNDED ON SOLID ROCK, IF WE HAVE MADE CHRIST THE KEYSTONE

The Kenelm Youth Trust has had to adapt to our new circumstances. Sadly we have lost several members of staff prematurely to redundancies, and losing any family member is a time of sorrow and is felt by all, but life is changed not ended. We have done sterling work responding to the current situation, not least with *Quo Vadis*, an ongoing project I think we can all be proud of.

"Rain came down, floods rose, and gales blew, but the house stood firm for it was founded on rock"

Fr Paul Whieldon is Spiritual Director to the Kenelm Youth Trust ●

The Kenelm Youth Trust, in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, accompanies our young people though life in a multifaceted way: through retreat experiences, parish based projects, chaplaincy interventions within our Catholic schools, and through an ever expanding digital media presence, communicating the love of Christ and His Church to those we seek to serve.

The Kenelm Youth Trust comprises four agencies. **The Soli Centre for Youth Ministry** hosts retreats for young people aged 14 -25 as well as offering an outreach programme to school and parishes. **Alton Castle** is a Grade 2 listed, Gothic-revival castle that is home to a residential youth centre for young people aged between 7 and 14. **Kenelm Chaplaincy** partners with school staff to support chaplaincy within secondary schools across the Archdiocese. **Birmingham Catholic Youth Service** supports youth ministry in parishes across the Archdiocese.



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