



A LOOK BACK
AT OUR YEAR

KENELM
youth trust

REGISTERED CHARITY
NO. 1144209

KENELMYOUTHTRUST.ORG.UK

FOUR AGENCIES. ONE MISSION.

The Kenelm Youth Trust, in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, accompanies our young people through 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.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Read on and find out what the four KYT agencies have been doing 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, KYT also relies on the **financial support** and **time** of volunteers and you could also support our work:



- **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**, e.g. non-uniform day or cake sale
- 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 and M&S
- **Come along to our next event** to support the mission of KYT such as *Afternoon Tea at the Castle* or the *Kenelm Youth Trust Charity Ball*
- Contact **Sandra** or **Maria** to see how you can **be involved in youth ministry locally**
- **Click here** to make a one-off or regular donation.



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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.

The academic year 2019 - 2020 dawned brightly with key new staff appointments and the arrival of a strong team of volunteers from all around the world. Fr. Paul Whieldon, our new spiritual director also arrived, along with his flock of chickens!

This year, the Jesuit Pupil Profile virtue pairs were firmly embedded in to our retreat programme, which strengthens connections with classroom learning for visiting children.

Each year, the Castle is blessed with a full calendar of visiting schools, as a well as a waiting list for popular times. However we rarely fill every single bed, so this year we created an online booking system to better match groups with the available spaces. By mid-March, we were on target to have one thousand more young people visit the site during this academic year than previously.

We were pleased to once again be awarded the prestigious Quality Badge for Learning Outside the Classroom as well as the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres' Gold Standard. We were also awarded a grant by the DM Thomas Foundation for Young People, who noted that:

ALTON CASTLE PROVIDES "CONFIDENCE-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE [THAT] MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVES!"

Alton Castle is one of the few outdoor activity centres affiliated to British Cycling. We were delighted to host British Cycling for a photoshoot to promote their work. See if you can spot the photos throughout this newsletter! ●

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

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!



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SOLI

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.

This academic year was very much a year of two halves! Traditionally, March to July is Soli's busiest season and sadly we were unable to welcome groups on residential retreats due to government restrictions and school closures. Outside of this period, our new 'Being Human' retreat (looking at caring for the whole person, offering tools for physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being whilst drawing on the riches of our Catholic tradition) was very well received:

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

For the second year running, we hosted a retreat for young pilgrims preparing to go to Lourdes. The pilgrimage to Lourdes itself did not take place, and so perhaps the time spent in retreat was even more precious! We also continued our association with St. Chad's Sanctuary: the team's first experience of leading a retreat was for some of the faith-sharing group who are served by St. Chad's Sanctuary. One of team remarked that, "Working with the group was a huge blessing. It was inspiring to hear about the journeys they had been on to get to where they are today." The team also collaborated with other KYT agencies on a number of joint projects. Highlights including *Baptised and Sent*, a day of outreach and mission in Birmingham City Centre and *Radiant Girls' Day*, a vocations day for young women from across the Archdiocese. ●

Below Young women talk to Sr. Angela Marie at the *Radiant Girls' Day*



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

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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 friends at *Fearless*; Clergy receive input at *Christ is Alive* Synod conference day; 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!)





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 endeavoured 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. The team put together numerous resources and created lots of content, all designed to be accessed remotely, including:

- **Wednesday Worship:** A weekly feature to teach prayerful song to children of primary school age. The team chose their favourite praise and worship songs and taught the songs and actions via live YouTube streams.
- **Youth Alpha:** The team hosted this established evangelisation programme virtually, facilitating small group discussions and encouraging young people to explore their questions about the Christian faith. The course was so well received that the initiative will continue into the next academic year.
- **Praise & Worship Live:** An extended period of contemporary worship music and prayer, streamed live from the temporary studio that the team had set up!
- **Resources:** The team made a number of resources, including videos and session plans, for use in schools and parishes, for when youth ministry can once again be delivered in person.
- **Youth Masses:** The team led the music and were trained to use 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 their intentions.
- **Creative Prayer:** Evening prayer aimed at young people was live streamed on Facebook and Instagram, making use of our volunteers' creative and exciting ideas of ways to engage young people in prayer.

As well as the above content, the team were involved in facilitating an online version of Summer Camp. Proceedings were live streamed from Alton Castle, including games, challenges and activities, as well as the usual prayer, worship and input, with a little help from friends elsewhere in the world! KYT staff also used lockdown to refresh the Trust's branding which you can see pictured above and featured throughout this newsletter. The website also was refreshed in this time, so why not visit and see what you think! Head to kenelm youthtrust.org.uk ●

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BCYS



OVER 120 YOUNG
PEOPLE SERVED
ON A MISSION @
HOME PROJECT

MORE THAN 40
TRAINING
SESSIONS
DELIVERED

28 YOUNG LEADERS
COMPLETED THE
'VITAL' TRAINING
COURSE



Above Friends at *Fearless*

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 HELPED US 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” - PARISH YOUTH LEADER IN OXFORD

BCYS supports parish youth ministry of all shapes and sizes across the Archdiocese. There are currently 46 parish youth groups. This year, we have led over 40 training sessions including our comprehensive parish youth ministry training as well as new training modules on the Synod theme of 'accompaniment'. Since lockdown we have 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 our *Vital* programme. BCYS have also trained new facilitators for 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.

Much of our ministry was online this year (including *Virtual It's a Knockout* competition for parishes who submitted video entries and virtual network meetings for parish youth leaders) but we were pleased to facilitate the following, 'real life' events outside of the lockdown period!

- *Fearless* retreat for parish youth groups, attended by over 100 young people and young leaders. Older groups joined a bespoke young leadership programme.
- *Baptised and Sent*, a day of Mission in central Birmingham for 50 young adults
- Day trips and residential camps for the Andrew Robinson Young People's Trust
- The annual leaders' retreat led by BCYS and Fr. Desmond Devenney
- *Mission @ Home* which saw 120 young people involved in local mission projects.
- *Church Ablaze*, a new a conference for young adults, in response to the voices we had heard during the Synod process calling for young adults to be supported in discerning their charisms and finding meaningful roles within the Church. ●

KENELM CHAPLAINCY



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

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 a particular school's context.



Our year began with the Chaplaincy Mass at St. Chad's Cathedral, where we were joined by Bishop William, Lay chaplains and Chaplaincy

teams from schools across the Archdiocese. After Mass, 13 Lay Chaplains received the Diocesan Certificate in Liturgy and Collective Worship following their studies last year. This year, we led the Chaplaincy Team Certificate for schools again; a chance for our Lay Chaplains to accompany delegates from their student Chaplaincy Team as they learn. Topics include presentation skills, Catholic Ethos, budgeting and planning, before students in school use this learning to plan a project. Although the course was cut short by the pandemic, we will be picking the course up again as soon as possible!

This year's INSET included Theology of the Body training in preparation for the new regulations around relationships and sex education in schools, as well as studying the youth Synod. Again, our programme 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 troubleshoot. These invaluable meetings happen 6 times a year and provide crucial training and catechesis for Lay Chaplains.

In April, Virtual Coffee Mornings for Lay Chaplains began: a valuable time for Lay Chaplains who were working to pastorally support their school communities in difficult circumstances. These online sessions will continue into the new academic year. ●

"I REALLY APPRECIATE THE SERVICE THAT THE LAY CHAPLAIN PROVIDES TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY...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

Below Chaplaincy Team Certificate training day



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