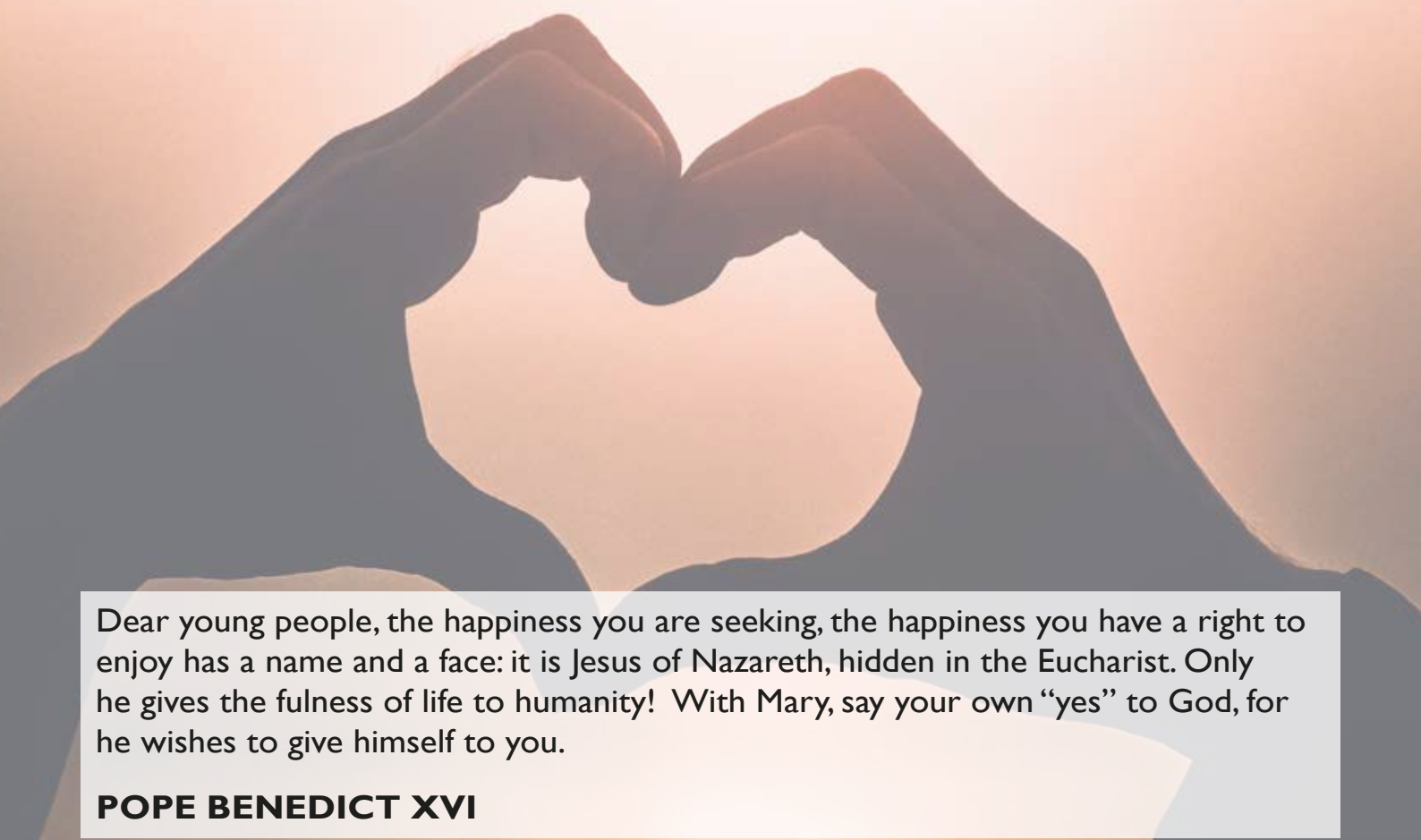




“Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” Eph 4:15

Diocese of Plymouth Youth Events, 2022

A review of activities and events offered to the youth of the Diocese of Plymouth in 2022



Dear young people, the happiness you are seeking, the happiness you have a right to enjoy has a name and a face: it is Jesus of Nazareth, hidden in the Eucharist. Only he gives the fulness of life to humanity! With Mary, say your own “yes” to God, for he wishes to give himself to you.

POPE BENEDICT XVI

Youth Events aims to....

- accompany young people through the transition of their child faith to take ownership of their faith
- offer opportunities for young people to recognise God in their lives and explore their relationship with God
- develop an understanding of the church and its teaching

Youth Events aims to achieve this through 4 phases:

- **Come and See** - a chance for people to see, observe and experience
- **Explore** - time to investigate, question and understand
- **Connect** - the transition where the action comes from understanding and love rather than an expectation
- **Being a Disciple** - an active choice where young people choose to act for those around them rather than themselves

These phases are not exclusive to young people. It is recognised that developing ones relationship with God is often a cyclical process, touching on the different phases at different times.

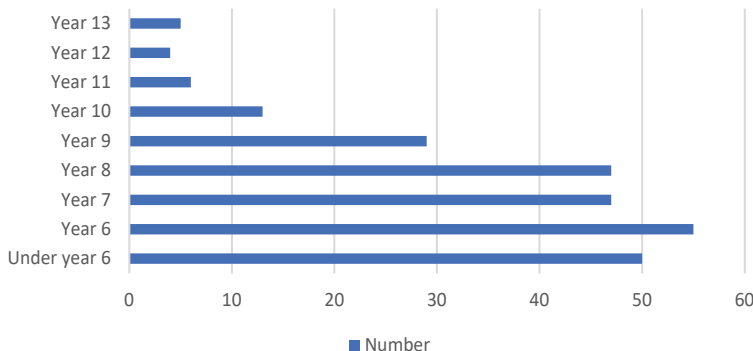


Summary of statistics and thoughts

Points of Interest

- Statistics from the last 3 years show a progression of a group who were Years 6/ 7 now in Years 9/10 who have continued to support Youth Events. These age groups are slowly growing. The same pattern is developing with the younger groups.
- Heatree Residential is the most talked about event. Many young people secured friendships or made new ones.
- Sing from the Heart generated a lot of interest. The event will return in 2023.
- The chocolate making workshop was over subscribed.
- Years 5 and 6 are the most enthusiastic and keen to participate in Diocesan Youth Events.
- I feel that Years 9 & 10 remain linked to Youth Events because they have built friendships
- Early 2022 events had around 15 signing up, by the autumn they were averaging 25. This could be linked to factors such as confidence in living with COVID and more people being aware of Diocesan Youth Events.
- Youth Events E-Newsletter has a subscription of 203
- Event locations were chosen according to demand from the young people and areas where groups of young people were signing up for events.
- The Rise Theatre events were deliberately spread across the diocese to generate interest amongst our youth and begin to encourage our youth to gather.
- The male, female ratio is fairly evenly divided, Overall 45% male vs 55% female attended events
- Year 6 is the largest age group that attended events. Closely follow by Years 7 and 8.

Age range of participants attending Youth Events activities



- Young people from Sidmouth and Totnes attended the most events.
- Events reached to young people from all backgrounds. They were very inclusive. Disabilities included those who are neuro diverse, with a visual impairment and mobility issues.
- Most people attended an event near their parish community. There were some who travelled across the diocese.

Come and see, explore, connect and become disciples

Youth Events 2022: events

Rise theatre in: Plymouth, Exeter, Torquay and Weymouth

'You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is part of it' Corinthians 12:27



5 events, offered in each deanery across the diocese for young people aged 11-14. It reached over 80 young people, with the biggest group being in Torquay. The biggest age group attracted was Year 8.

Feedback, what did the young people enjoy:

Acting and making music together
 Sense of fun Playing games with everyone
 I was surprised I liked art as I normally don't
 Just brilliant. lots of different roles Food
 The creative ideas gave me things to think about
 I found it fun, all of it, nice and calm Acting
 Doing art, I had my friends around me, it was fun
 Meeting new people Working together with strangers
 Happy I have new friends Creating collage
 Encouraged to make new friends Group discussions
 Talking to others Liked games and interaction with others

Heatree residential

We love because He first loved us, John 4:19

Parents comments:

*We only experienced one afternoon but wow.
 They were all so contented and happy
 E was buzzing and couldn't stop talking about it
 Thanks so much for organising a great weekend for the boys, they were buzzing all the way home.
 M slept for days he was so exhausted
 It was a great way to round off a week of SATs*

28 young people from all deaneries came together at Heatree Activity Centre. Around 50% had attended another Youth Event. The largest age group was Year 6. There were young people from Year 11. Young people still talk about the friendships that were formed during this weekend.

Young peoples favourite moment:

*It was great being outside in so much space Making new friends
 Everyone was so kind and looked after each other
 Bonfire was a really fun experience The opportunity to sit and chat
 Everyone was so encouraging, especially when I found the high ropes tough
 I enjoyed meeting and making new friends. It was good to explore my faith
 Kayaking and spending time with friends The high ropes*



Youth Rally

Love your neighbour as yourself. Luke 10:27

Around 80 young people from 7 years old came to the Youth Rally. This event has been running in the diocese since the 1960s. Young people represented around 16 parishes. They mostly booked as individuals and were grouped with neighbouring parishes to make teams. The biggest age group was Year 7, closely followed by Years 4 & 5.

Young people shared what they liked about the event

*It was amazing Liked meeting new people The bubble prayers
 Loved being with my friends The penalty shoot out Everything
 So much to do The obstacle course Making new friends
 Craft station Tug of war The assault course and being with my friends
 Loved doing so many different things Making the paper boat*

Young people were also asked: 'Where was God in your day?'

*In my heart God has been with me all day
 In my friends In the amazing helpers
 In the community In the happiness
 In 141*



run or supported by Youth Events.

Canoeing on the Exe

Then Peter got out of the boat, walked on water towards Jesus M 14:29

This activity encouraged a wide range of abilities, disabilities and those on the neurodiverse spectrum. 24 young people came from 8 different parishes, mostly across South Devon. Nearly 60% of the participants were female. The biggest age group was year 8. Around 60% of the group had attended a previous youth event.



Sing from the heart

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord Eph5:19

26 young people from 15 different parishes signed up. Most parishes were in South and East Devon. Someone from Truro signed up. Quite a few young people brought their musical instruments, others said they wished they had. 60% of the group were females. It mostly attracted young people from Year 6. There were a few older siblings who attended the event and enjoyed participating.

Feedback:

Learning new songs Meeting old friends
Meeting new people Loved singing
Great to meet others Playing the drums
A chance to think about the words in the hymns
Learning new songs Playing musical instruments
Loved singing with other young people Singing
Seeing people from other parishes in the diocese
Just singing together Great to meet others

Chocolate Making

Along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a "culture of care" which permeates all of society. Laudato Si #23 I

Around 55 attended the workshops. The largest age group was Year 7, closely followed by Year 5, 9 and 10. People from 18 different parishes attended the events. 60% overall were female. The Yelverton event attracted people from across Devon and a few from Cornwall. Weymouth was supported by parishes in the immediate area.



Summer camps



Summer camps are organised and run by a group of volunteers. The committee is chaired by Deacon Mike Turnbull. Youth Events support the volunteers with their planning and delivery of the camps. They run 3 camps; Junior (Years 3-6), Senior (Years 7-11) and St Petrocs (16 - 18 year olds). In 2022 around 40 young people joined in prayer and a wide range of activities.

Training and support for volunteers supporting our Youth

In 2022, 2 sessions were offered to volunteers who work with our youth. In January a group of 8 volunteers gathered to share their experiences of youth ministry in their parish. It was a chance to learn from each other and pinch ideas. The day included a talk on safeguarding and risk assessments. It was a great opportunity to hear about the challenges parishes were facing.

In November, a second training session was offered. This was aimed at supporting our youth who are neuro-diverse. 21 volunteers came from 13 parishes in both Dorset and Devon.





JESUS

Future Events and Plans

Feedback and comments from the young people show that they are gaining spiritual nourishment from these events. Young people talk about enjoying building relationships in their parishes and the wider communities. I hope the combination of our youth developing relationships in their parishes and amongst peers will result in a commitment to the communities where they live.

In recognition that many parishes have small youth communities it is important that the diocese offers events for our young people to deepen their understanding and explore their faith with others. These events are designed to complement parish and volunteer events that are currently being run.

To be able to respond to the increasing demand from our youth, and to reach out to those who have not yet responded, it is important that Youth Events continues to offer a wide range of events regularly. Youth Events needs to continue to develop a team of volunteers to support events. The COVID pandemic has seen a change in the number of volunteers supporting parish events. Many have chosen to retire or offer their time in other ways. The number of events we can offer is dependent on the number of leaders we have. There is a clear demand for more.

Offering more events encourages young people to flow through the phases. 2022 focused more on the **Come and See** but started to move into the **Explore**. Plans for 2023 are to focus more on the Explore phase but still offer some **Come and See**. There may be opportunities to support young people to begin with the **Connect** phase, but this will depend on the individuals journey. I hope to train some of our young adults to accompany our youth at events, in particular the residential. They will be in the best position to accompany our youth through these phases.

I feel it is important that events continue to be varied in their style and types of activities in order to reach out to a wider audience. Complex Catholicism, (a Camino publication) talks about reaching out to those who are already active in the church, those who call themselves catholic but do not participate in the church and those who are yet to discover their faith. Through offering events that cover a wide range of interests I aim to reach a broader audience.

Come and see, explore, connect and become disciples

2023 Events

- **January:** Bowling for Plymouth Deanery
- **February:** Formation day for World Youth Day
- **March:** Flame and Sing from the Heart
- **April:** WYD formation day; Stations of the Cross (Dartmoor)
- **May:** Heatree Residential
- **June:** WYD formation day
- **July/ August:** WYD Pilgrimage; Catechetical Summer camps
- **September:** Youth Rally
- **October:** Social Justice Residential

In addition to the above events, I am hoping to offer training for volunteers who work with the youth sometime during the year along with training for young adults to become accompaniers to our youth. There will be parish events happening which I am not aware of, therefore have not placed in this publication.

Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila

Lord Jesus,
I give you my hands to do your work.
I give you my feet to go your way.
I give you my eyes to see as you do.
I give you my tongue to speak your words.
I give you my mind that you may think in me.
I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.
Above all,
I give you my heart that you may love in me
your Father and all mankind.
I give you my whole self that you may grow in me,
so that it is you, Lord Jesus,
who live and work and pray in me.

Amen

How to get in touch

To volunteer or find out more about Youth Events, contact, Saskia: youth@prcdtr.org.uk

To find out more about catechetical summer camps, contact: summercamps@prcdtr.org.uk

Follow Youth Events:

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dop_youth/

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DofPYouthEvents>

Thank you to:

Supporting Parishes,

Volunteers,

Parents/ Guardians who encourage and bring young people to events.

Young people

Trustees

Those who pray for Youth Ministry

Groups and individuals who have sponsored events/ individuals



Diocese of Plymouth, Youth Events publication.

Contact Saskia, youth@prcdtr.org.uk for further information