



D.E.C. & Y Network

Diocese in Europe Children & Youth Ministry

Growing young, faithful disciples, active for God,
and the next generation of church leaders!

Newsletter 3

May 2025

Hello again from Lisbon.

Welcome to DECAY! As always a HUGE THANK YOU for all you do. Believe it or not, the Church of England is in a panic! Where are all the Young People in our churches? Why have they declined? How do we address this problem? ONE ANSWER - **The 30K project!! - with a target to recruit 30,000, (yes, you read that right) children and youth workers, of which 3,000 are paid!!** And suddenly there is a rush of national initiatives! And training institutions are developing training courses for youth workers!



But there is good news! There is a quiet revival taking place amongst 18-30 year olds, which is consistent with what I see and hear is happening across our Diocese. Read the Bible Society report here! <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/research/quiet-revival/download>

In this addition there is an information about parenting courses, training for children and youth workers, about spicing up your Messy Church and a whole lot more! **CHECK OUT THE NEW YOUTH ALPHA IN THE RESOURCES AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER!!**

If you know someone who is not yet on the network, but should be, please do tell them to get in touch with me

These meetings are held every 5 or 6 weeks. They are an opportunity for anyone who has a passion for, or works/volunteers with children and young people aged 5-30, to meet for an hour, pray together, share stories & resources and take part in training.

At our last meeting we welcomed Kate Irvine from Parenting for Faith, sharing about some of the courses they offer when it comes to supporting parents and even grandparents. Copy the link below to see the great resources Kate talked about.

https://1drv.ms/v/c/899c03186333d3f6/EfzDzhy4DltLuyjjZ_i0jb4BPmyXb1LOzdmNFpqIKc_b3mQ?e=z6bebr



**To join the network
e-mail Rev Iain Bendrey**

ian.bendrey@europe.anglican.org

Our next meeting is

**Thursday 17th July
17h30wet/18h30cet/19h30eet**

In my travels around the Diocese, many people talk about help to support parents nurture their children's faith. Especially when distance means that they may only be able to attend church occasionally.



Parenting for Faith helps parents spiritually nurture children and teens to have a lasting, vibrant two-way relationship with God.

Parenting Courses

Through ground-breaking courses, events and training, resources and a thriving social media community, they help thousands of parents and carers to grow. **Check out the recording from the meeting below.**

https://1drv.ms/v/c/899c03186333d3f6/EfzDzhy4DltLuyjjZ_i0jb4BPmyXb1LOzdmNFpqIKcb3mQ?e=z6bebr

<https://www.brf.org.uk/what-we-do/parenting-for-faith/>

The Youthscape Research has indicated that a number of chaplaincies and workers would value support in recruitment and training.

If you are looking to recruit volunteers, do check out

<https://www.churchofengland.org/JOIN>

RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

TRAINING

A lot of training is being offered nationally at the moment and more is in the pipeline.



One of the training courses is a 10 week course offered by Youthscape, for those who would like to volunteer with 14-18 year olds. **FREE! Chaplaincies can deliver the training themselves, or group together online or in person.**

The other course is developed by Theology X, and is a 10 week course designed to work with those who want to volunteer with 5-11 year olds. I HAVE 25 FREE PLACES AT to pilot this training across the Diocese! Watch the promo here https://f.io/14_EJX8n

If this training is something you might be interested in, join me online for 30 minutes to find out more

WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE @ 18H30 CET

<https://anglican.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5375ca11ce598769378eb2670&id=267629d7df&e=9fb432edbd>

Messy Momentum focuses on enabling and supporting Messy Churches to grow their engagement with young people, through piloting new approaches.

These will be aimed specifically at young people aged 9+ years old, who have grown up through Messy Church, encouraging them, together with their parents and carers, to grow in their Christian faith, deepen their relationship with God and their peers, and use their gifts in the church.



**Messy
Church**

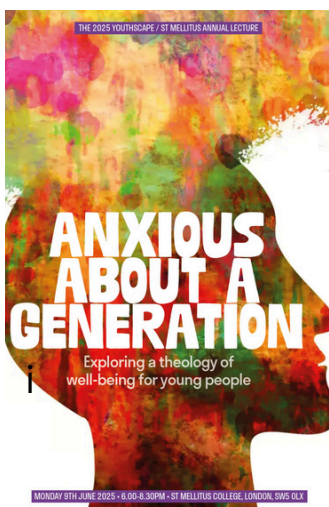
If losing young people is an issue for your Messy Church, come and hear more about Project 'Messy Momentum' and sign up to one of our launch meetings, where you'll hear an explainer of the six approaches that we are looking to pilot with 25-30 Messy Churches.

At the meeting you will find out what this could look like for your Messy Church and what training and resources are available to support your team.

INTERESTED - CONTACT ME FOR THE DATES AND ZOOM LINK

The Youthscape / St Mellitus College Annual Lecture

The epidemic of poor mental and emotional well-being among teenagers is well documented, and the causes much debated.



Jonathan Haidt's book 'The Anxious Generation' and Netflix' series 'Adolescence' have cut through into public discourse, but how might we think theologically about what is going on?

Is it possible that the pursuit of expressive individualism, fuelled by the mantra that you can be anything you want to be, alongside immersion in the projected perfectionism of online influencers, is setting young people up to be unfulfilled, anxious, or angry?

MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2025 - 18H30 - 20H00 (UK TIME)

Sign up at www.youthscape.co.uk/lecture

CELEBRATING NICEA

There is still time to do your recording. **IS THIS SOMETHING YOU COULD DO WITH YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE?**

Click the link and you will be taken to the website which will give you further information about what to do <https://www.europe.anglican.org/nicene-creed-aloud>

If you do something maybe you can post it on our Facebook Page (see below) or send to me to post. ***Of course, please remember to get the appropriate permissions from parents if required***

Taizé



STILL PLACES AVAILABLE - 20TH to 27th JULY

for anyone between 18 & 30.

Contact Iain if you have people interested.



*****OUR VOICE MATTERS -PLACES STILL AVAILABLE*****

This is a gathering we are holding in **PRAGUE from the 6th to 8th June** for young people aged between 18 & 30. It is an opportunity to get together with other young Christians from the Anglican Church in Europe.

Accommodation is provided (at a hostel) together with food. You just need to pay travel. There is space for 2 males and 1 female. HAVE AN INTERESTED YOUNG PERSON? Contact Rev Iain at iain.bendrey@europe.anglican.org

**The voice
of young people**

REGIONAL ONLINE GATHERINGS

I am still hoping to establish an online regional gathering for 14 to 18 years olds. This will give them an opportunity to talk about their experiences in Europe, the struggles they experience in their faith and how the chaplaincy, the Diocese or the National Church can support them.

Please do get in touch if you have young people that would like to take part.

DON'T FORGET TO POST ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES ON OUR DEDICATED FACEBOOK PAGE AND ENCOURGE OTHERS WITH THE WORK YOU DO .

Facebook Page [Diocese in Europe Youth Network](#) | [Facebook](#).

On the subject of resources do check out our resources page on the Diocese in Europe website: [Children & Youth Resources](#)

If you have any resources you would like to share then please e-mail me with the name and link and he can add it to the site ian.bendrey@europe.anglican.org

Social media & resources

THY KINGDOM COME - 29th May to 8th June

Children's resources – 4 brand new episodes of the Cheeky Pandas- presented by CBeebies Gemma Hunt & guests- exploring different ways to pray and additional resources for use in schools, homes and at church;

Youth resources - including the Digital Detox Youth Prayer Journal and accompanying study guides for youth leaders/ teachers/ parents as well as content from the Way UK, including a special podcast episode / Bible study on the Lord's prayer and accompanying study plan.

Visit the website <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/new-2025>

*****CHECK OUT THE NEW YOUTH ALPHA. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING A COURSE ONLINE, GET IN TOUCH****

<https://alpha.org.uk/alphayouthseries>

CHURCH SUPPORT HUB - is your chaplaincy registered with this hub which is full of ideas and resources for recruiting volunteers and delivering Children and Youth Ministry?

Check is out here <https://churchsupporthub.org/>

Keep in touch!

Well that is all for now. But if you have any questions, ideas for training, resources or just want to let us know what you are doing, then please keep in touch. **I would love to hear from you.**



Rev Iain Bendrey

Head of Strategy, Children and Youth Ministry
Young Vocations Champion

ian.bendrey@europe.anglican.org



**Diocese
in Europe**