

# Our Youth and Children's Ministry Values

Here at TBC we value Youth and Children's ministry which is:

## PARTNERED

- Working with parents and carers: supporting, encouraging and respecting the fact that God has given responsibility for their children to them.
- Working within the church family, encouraging the children and young people to recognise their own valuable place within that community.
- Working with other churches, schools and other organisations wherever that is beneficial.

## HOLISTIC

- Encouraging the children and young people to develop as healthy people mentally, emotionally, physically and socially as well as spiritually.
- Encouraging the children and young people to identify, develop and use all their gifts both within and outside the church, including in leadership roles where appropriate.
- Challenging the children and young people to be responsible global citizens, aware of issues of justice, the environment and politics.
- Setting clear boundaries and responding consistently to unhelpful behaviour to foster an environment of mutual respect.

## INSPIRING

- Modelling and teaching a life-defining relationship with Jesus and habits which will feed that relationship.
- Encouraging the children and young

people to demonstrate the love of Christ through compassionate social action and unashamed witness.

- Cultivating an environment of faith in which the children and young people expect God to speak, guide, empower and transform them.

## RELEVANT

- Presenting Christian truth and life in ways relevant to the culture and world our children and young people inhabit.
- Teaching and modelling what it means to live out a committed Christian faith in today's world.

## RELATIONAL

- Creating supportive communities of faith where children and young people can share, encourage and be real together.
- Creating an environment where every child and young person can come as they are and know that they will be accepted, valued, welcomed and protected.
- Promoting the highest standards of safeguarding throughout our ministry as laid out in the TBC Safeguarding policy.

## SUPPORTIVE

- Valuing team. Working together effectively, serving the same vision and motivated by a love for God and the children and young people.
- Caring for all who serve within this ministry and providing them with guidance, training, resources, support and clear expectations.

# YOUTH-WORK at TBC

how the pieces fit together

Our youth ministry is one of the most exciting, vibrant areas of church life here at TBC. There's a lot going on but each group and activity plays a unique role in the broader plan.

This leaflet serves to explain what purpose each element of our youth ministry serves and how they all fit together to form a cohesive strategy.



## The Big Picture

There are three central strands to our youth strategy, each of which offers something that the others cannot. They are not intended to be three alternatives to choose between, but to work together like three strands of a rope to provide a healthy and balanced youth-work diet when young people join in with all three. The three strands are Large Group, Small Group and Youth Club. Alongside these are our youth

residential and all age services, which both play their own vital role.

Inside you will find an explanation of what each of these strands contributes to our work with young people and our desire to "present everyone fully mature in Christ" (Colossians 1). On the back page you can read our youth and children's work values which underpin every aspect of our youth and children's ministry.

## Come and chat...



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## Large Group

This is where young people learn to worship together, pray for one another, respond to God in a service-type setting and where we can provide teaching in an up-front format. The large group is where youth-work comes closest to Sunday church and it helps the young people to feel comfortable “doing church” independently and to learn the Christian life-skills of how to relate to God in this kind of environment.

## Small Group

For young people, just like adults, small groups provide a place where we can share, discuss, be real and open and support one another in our Christian journeys. They are great places to learn how to study the Bible, to pray and to ask the difficult questions that we are wrestling with.

For our year 6 to 10 young people, “Transform” provides a small group

## Residentials

Our Encounter youth weekends and summer youth camps are the times that God seems to turn the heat up. The three strands of large group, small group and youth club are all present in our residential activities, and God always seems to do so much in a short space of time. We



Large group youth-work only functions with a large group and so we provide this through the monthly “Encounter” youth services which we run here at TBC in partnership with a number of other like-minded local churches. There is huge social and spiritual value to meeting together and worshipping with other young Christians and we see significant growth in faith in those who come.



during the service each Sunday morning. They join in worship with the whole church family for the first 15 minutes and then head out for their own activities. For our year 10+ young people we have a midweek group which at the moment is simply known as “midweek youth” where we meet together with young people from another church in an inter-church small group setting.

see young people coming to faith and growing spiritually but also we see young people coming out of their shell socially, growing in confidence and so on. They are always the highlight and pinnacle of the youth-work year and we recommend them without reservation!

## Youth Club

Our youth work isn't just about the spiritual life of our young people, we want to see them develop into healthy adults socially, physically, mentally and emotionally and so our youth-work offers a broad range of activities to encourage holistic growth. Obviously we don't phrase it like that to the young people, as far as they are concerned it's all just fun and games and, usually, food. But within those activities we are encouraging them to develop social confidence, team-work, creative skills, appreciation of diversity and a whole range of other important life-skills, *as well as* having fun and food. These groups are often also a great place to bring friends who might not be interested in the more spiritually

## All Age Services

One of our strongest principles is that Christian youth-work should support and not undermine the role that God has given parents to nurture faith in their own children. So attempting to run youth-work in complete isolation from the rest of the church family and especially from the young people's own families would be quite unhealthy.

Our all age services provide an environment in which all generations can encounter God together. More importantly, they allow children and



focused large and small groups... yet!

That's not to say that Youth Clubs have no spiritual value. At the most basic level they allow us to build relationships which enable us to share faith and to invite young people to other evangelistic youth events. In the past this has included Youth Alpha and currently it includes the post-Youthy “Explore” group which offers an optional half hour chat about life and faith after Youthy each Friday.

As well as Youthy on a Friday evening and there is also a midweek Transform get together which functions as a small youth club too.

young people to experience meeting with God alongside their parents and learning to pray, worship and engage with God as a family together. We recognise that some prefer the “biscuits, games and banter” environment of the youth group, so these services can be a challenge. But we believe in the importance of families worshiping God together and of young people learning to be part of a mixed age congregation. The benefits make the challenge worthwhile!