

# Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage 2011

A group of young people from St Michael and All Angels, Abbey Wood, and from St Augustine, Belvedere joined forces for the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage in August.

## Peter Baker and Paul Stead report:

After many hours in a minibus we finally arrived at the campsite. A warm and sunny day allowed us to set up our tents in a short space of time.

After dinner we went to the "Big Top" Marquee with 700 other young people for the first service during which we were introduced to the Ministry Team who performed a sketch of the creation story from Genesis. The evening concluded with a barbeque.

Tuesday began with a fried

breakfast and, after washing up, a bible study on the Annunciation led by Bishop Lindsay, the Administrator of the shrine. That was followed by Mass in the Big Top at 10.30am. The theme was "1061" - the year that Mary appeared to Richeldis and instructed her to build a replica of the Holy House of Nazareth in Walsingham. To illustrate this there was a garden shed in the middle of the Big Top which represented the Holy House.

Lunch saw the Bishop of Rochester join us for a "medieval banquet". That evening, after dinner, we walked down to the slipper chapel where we gathered to walk the "Holy Mile" to the Shrine by candlelight. At the shrine we had benediction and were sprinkled Holy Water. Then we went back to the campsite.

On Wednesday some of us went to the Bible Study on the Crucifixion. At Mass the theme was 1538, the year that the Shrine was destroyed by Henry VIII. Appropriately it was the Good Friday Liturgy, comparing the destruction of the shrine to the destruction of Jesus on the cross. In the afternoon there were activities like face painting, rock-climbing, football skills and other things. That evening there was a Late Night Liturgy with opportunities for confession, anointing, laying on of hands - followed by an all-night intercession relay.

On Thursday, after breakfast, a faithful few went to Bible Study, which was on the road to Emmaus. At Mass the theme for that day was 1931, the year that the shrine was re-established by Fr Alfred Hope Patten. They had rebuilt the shed, which had been destroyed before Wednesday's service.

That evening all the groups were to make one long table down the campsite and have a Birthday Party for Walsingham's 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the vision to Richeldis. Unfortunately because of the bad weather, this got moved into the Big Top.

On Friday Mass was moved forward to 9.30am to allow people who came from faraway lands, like Wales, to get home at a reasonable hour. The Theme was "2011", Pentecost, as we were being "sent out" from our pilgrimage field back to our parishes. After Mass, and taking down the last of the tents we left at about 1pm.

In all a good, enjoyable, but tiring, week.

# What's the connection between Lancelot Andrewes and a Blackberry?

This year during the leaver's services at Southwark cathedral, children celebrated 400 years of the King James Bible and 200 years of church schools.

## Cathy Davie writes:

Children processed with a bible that was special to them, which ranged from family heirlooms and bibles in various languages to a Blackberry!

The bibles were placed on the high altar near the tomb of Bishop Lancelot Andrewes one of the scholars involved in translating the bible into English 400 years ago and general editor of the project.

'Celebrating Distinctiveness' was the theme and more than 2000 children attended over four days. They were asked to write out what was special to them about their church school and each class voted for their favourite bible verse. The statements were read out and each child was presented with a bookmark showing the most popular verse - Proverbs 3:5, 6: 'Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths'.

Contributions of dance, music and drama from the



schools demonstrated that the bible is well learnt, understood and applied in our church schools. These result in a 'specialness' known as 'church school distinctiveness'.

The following are some of the children's statements: *We are taught to follow in the footsteps of the Lord. We always stick together as one, helping each other, showing love and peace.*

*There are lots of different faiths and we respect each other and our religious beliefs. We believe in forgiveness, we forgive each other when we make mistakes. We are valued for who we are not just what we achieve. We are given the opportunity to learn about the values of life.*

*We have been part of a caring family supported by our church beliefs.*

*We are concerned for others. We 'help the weak' and know 'its more blessed to give than receive'.*

*Religious Education has the same priority as English and Maths.*

*We apply what we learn in Religious Education to our own lives.*

## Cathy's last

This was the last Leaver's Service to be organised and led by Southwark's primary school RE Adviser Cathy Davie. She is becoming a freelance consultant including acting as part time RE Development Officer for the National Society.

The young people with the Bishop of Rochester the Rt Revd James Langstaff (centre)



## Southwark Diocesan Association of Readers EXTERNAL REVIEWERS FOR READERS

The Readers' Board, with the approval of the Diocesan Bishop, is launching a Review Scheme for Readers in the Diocese.

We are therefore seeking to recruit a team of people to conduct between 3-6 two-hour interviews a year, in their part of the diocese, to support Readers in their ministry.

If you are ..

- lay or ordained
- supportive of the ministry of Readers
- able to demonstrate good listening skills
- willing and able to be trained
- able to maintain sound confidentiality
- willing to respond to direction and supervision

and would like to be considered as one of the team of External Reviewers then please write for more details and an application form to:

Christine Flowerdew, Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW e-mail: christine.flowerdew@southwark.anglican.org

*If you have previously been a participant in this Scheme and would like to be involved with the creating of the new one please would you be kind enough to re-apply*

Closing date for applications: Friday 30 September 2011

# Opportunities

To advertise a vacancy call 01474 852474 or email: [kcpres@btinternet.com](mailto:kcpres@btinternet.com)

**Dynamic? Self Motivated?**  
This could be the job for you.



## PARISH/CENTRE ADMINISTRATOR

A unique opportunity has been created to join the team at St Andrew's Church, to provide centre management and administrative services at the start of its new community centre venture, following a £1.5million redevelopment.

Salary: up to £25,000 depending on experience  
Hours: 37.5 hrs/wk  
Location: St Andrew's Church, Croydon

Further information and an application pack will be available to download from our website from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, please visit our website [www.standrewscroydon.co.uk](http://www.standrewscroydon.co.uk).

We are an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community. An enhanced CRB disclosure will be required.

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