

GENERAL SYNOD 2018

Church of Ireland Youth Department Report Seconder: The Revd Nicola Halford

**Embargoed Against Delivery
Check Against Delivery**

Before I second the report from the Church of Ireland Youth Department I would like to highlight the role CIYD has in training and resourcing youth leaders throughout the island. Our youth workers, both paid and voluntary, are vital to the youth ministry of the church and CIYD has put a lot of effort into supporting them and equipping them for this ministry. This support is offered through training days, retreats, workshops and practical resources. I have attended a number of these training days and workshops in the past and I can assure you clergy are very welcome and I have always come away feeling inspired and enthused about things to do in my parish.

The Aurora course, which is about to begin its second year, is an accredited course in youth ministry and offers a wonderful opportunity for youth workers to gain professional certification in this area. A part-time youth worker I spoke to in the last year told me that they loved doing this work and would be sorry when they would have to get a 'real' job. It is sad that youth work is not often seen as a viable profession. Perhaps that is a bigger question however, and something we need to reflect on as a Church.

I would like to commend to you some of the resources which are currently available in CIYD. Firstly, the *Justice Sessions* booklet which was produced by both the International Justice Mission and CIYD. This is a five-part study series for youth groups which help the young people to explore what God has to say about injustice. Each session has icebreakers, games, discussions and Bible studies 'ready to go'. It is a very usable and worthwhile resource that can be adapted to many parochial situations.

The *Fuel* Bible study and journal is another great resource which can assist parish youth ministry. During the 40 days of Lent it encourages the reader to make their way through John's gospel and leaves space each day for reflections. I have given a book to each of my confirmation students and although we are taking a little longer to get through it, they are enjoying it. Older parishioners have also asked for a copy of this book from me.

Each of these books are available from CIYD free of charge. All of the resources, training days and work of CIYD seek to equip youth leaders, to give to them confidence and encouragement so that they, in turn, can help young people in our churches to grow and develop in faith.

I would like to finish by thanking the staff of CIYD – Simon, Steve and Barbara – for the enormous amount of work they do each year. They are extremely passionate in all that they do and a pleasure to work alongside. It gives me pleasure to second the report of the Church of Ireland Youth Department and ask that it be approved.