

# GENERAL SYNOD 2016

## Report of the Church of Ireland Youth Department Proposer: The Revd Nicola Halford

**Embargoed Against Delivery  
Check Against Delivery**

My name is Rev Nicola Halford. I am a representative for Standing Committee on the central board for the Church of Ireland Youth Department. Before I propose that this report be adopted I would like to highlight some of the activities which the Church of Ireland Youth Department have been involved in over the past year.

Firstly, the new confirmation book – *'I Believe'* – which has been launched at this Synod is a most welcome resource for those who prepare young people for confirmation. This book is specific to the context of the Church of Ireland and our confirmation service. It is a twelve-week course examining the essentials of our faith and what we believe, drawing on aspects of our Creeds, the Ten Commandments and Church Catechism. As someone who has had the chance to pilot this programme with the young people of my own parish, I commend this programme to you for use in your parish. The young people I am preparing have found the material to be very accessible and they enjoy the optional games and the interactive style of learning. No one resource will fit every church on this island perfectly but this is a very solid base and an extremely helpful resource for us to have.

CIYD have implemented and run a number of training initiatives for paid and voluntary youth leaders and diocesan youth officers. Throughout the year there have been a number of training events which focus on equipping and supporting those who work with young people. These training sessions are an excellent way for youth leaders to gather resources and ideas as well as develop friendship and support with other leaders. A personal highlight for me was the training done in partnership with Tearfund and Irish Aid which focussed on poverty and justice issues. The training was done over two days and we were given help, resources and ideas with how to engage our young people on these issues. All who attended found it most helpful and I would urge leaders and clergy involved in youth ministry to engage with these training initiatives.

In the past year CIYD have run and been involved with numerous residential weekends and days away for young people. Both Amy McCrea and Andrew Frame speak regularly at diocesan events and confirmation retreats throughout the country. Some of the larger events which CIYD have been involved with are worth noting.

- The Anois residential weekend, held each October bank holiday, has seen further growth of young people. Approximately 160 young people from all parts of Ireland attended in 2015.
- At the New Wine conference in Sligo, CIYD run the youth programme which ministers directly to 150 young people and in 2015 had over 20 youth leaders on the team.
- The Hub in Belfast, is an inter-denominational youth event which involves over 500 young people every other second month. CIYD are a part of the organising team.
- Summer Madness continues to be a highlight in the calendar for CIYD and the Connect café is a welcome chill out venue for youth leaders.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of CIYD for their excellent work throughout the past year: Southern Region Development Officer Amy McCrea, Northern Region Development Officer Andrew Frame, and office manager Barbara Swann. The work of CIYD is very dependent on building and maintaining relationships with people scattered across the country. We are sincerely grateful for the work that they do and the passion and enthusiasm in which they do it.

It gives me great pleasure in proposing that the Church of Ireland Youth Department report for 2016 be adopted.