

Huyton Deanery Youth Ministry Strategy

Sep 2025 – Sep 2027

Context Statement –

Currently there are three youth groups being led by local parishes across our Deanery.

Spirit and Flame at St Gabriel's Church are led by Rebecca and Rev Lynne (Associate Vicar).

Sunday Youth Group at St Bartholomew's working with St Luke's and St Jude's Church which is led by Rev Jonty and Rev Kate and volunteers.

The Deanery can be rightly proud of what it has achieved through its investments in Youth Ministry so far.

At St Gabriel's Church we have two youth groups: Spirit and Flame. Flame is for those in Year Five to Year Eight and Spirit is for Year Nine and upwards. Our youth groups provide a safe and supportive environment where young people can grow in their faith. Also a space where they are heard, loved and cared for by their Church.

Spirit has been running for over seven years, and Flame is a new youth ministry for those moving from Primary into Secondary Education. Weekly sessions include teaching on the Bible, prayer, and key themes of Christian faith. We ask the young people what they would love to learn more about to ensure their voices are heard. This year the young people would love to learn more about the Bible therefore we are planning a Youth Bible Course. This year at St Gabriel's we are holding Confirmations and four of our young people are candidates for confirmation.

The Sunday Youth Group at St Bartholomew's is led by clergy and lay leaders from St Bart's and St Luke's and St Jude's Church on Sunday evenings. Their youth group is for young people from Year Six to Year Eleven. Their weekly attendance is twelve to fifteen children from across the two churches and also Whiston and outside of the Deanery.

There are also some challenges for Youth Ministry across the Deanery. These include:

The Geography of the Deanery – Over a number of years we tried various configurations to sustain a Deanery wide Youth Group. This provided useful learning around the difficulty of operating across such a vast area with little to no transport, not all young people having access to cars and inconsistent 'buy in' from the Churches. In addition the recruitment of enough volunteers was challenging with many preferring a local focus again rather than a Deanery commitment as a whole.

Communication across the Deanery for Youth Ministry was also challenging in that it relied on encouragement and sign posting which did not always lead to engagement.

Youth Ministry: DLT Vision

For all Young People across Huyton Deanery to have a place in the Church where they can grow in their faith as disciples of Jesus, to have their voices heard and for them to be able to shape the future of Huyton Deanery.

The average age of our young people in our youth groups starts at age ten to eighteen years. This is from years five in primary school to college or sixth form in school.

Moving forward, we aim to build on our learning from these challenges through the following priorities:

- Refresh a Map of Youth Ministry across Huyton Deanery – including all young people in various groups which include Youth e.g. Servers, Choir, Volunteers and Youth Groups
- Convene a gathering of those ministering in Youth Ministry across our Deanery twice a year to offer support, pray together and share ideas. This would also provide us with an opportunity to discuss resources and how the Deanery Academy might support their ministry.
- Develop and collate resources e.g. Youth Bible Courses and Youth Bibles for Youth Ministry across our Deanery, encouraging our young people in our churches.
- Develop a Youth Ministry Page on the Deanery Website to include the Dynamic Map of Youth Ministry which are represented across our Deanery.
- Recruit volunteers to create additional capacity for Youth Ministry across our Churches and provide additional training opportunities e.g. Scripture Union/ Youthscape.
- To explore the possibility of additional youth resources being located in Huyton Deanery as part of the Diocesan Investment Programme so that we play our part in the National Church determination to grow ‘younger’ and more diverse. (General Synod, July 2022)
- Organise a Deanery Youth Conference alongside the Schools Conference once every three years underlining the Deaneries commitment to Youth Ministry.
- Ensure the Deanery Leadership Team remains updated throughout the strategy period including any ongoing adjustments required and a review beginning Q3 in year two.
- Implement the strategy according to revised youth work budget overseen by the Deanery Operations Lead.

Outcomes –

All Churches throughout the Deanery will be clear about what Youth Ministry resources the Deanery has to offer and encouraged.

- From 2025-26 establish two annual gatherings for all involved in Youth Ministry across the Deanery. Involving the chapter to ensure all Youth Ministry is encouraged. Feedback from these meetings to continuously shape delivery through ongoing adjustments.
- Dedicated up to date digital resources and presence on the Deanery Website.
- Have a confident, trained cohort of volunteers supporting Youth Ministry across the Deanery. Overseen and supported by Rebecca.