

New resource breaks the mould to help young Christians

A ground-breaking youth work resource from Church House Publishing's Emmaus portfolio has been launched, following the success of the first Youth Emmaus resource. Youth Emmaus 2 - Big Issues and Holy Spaces offers a bright, fast-moving programme of ready-made interactive sessions using discussion, film, and music. The 14-part course, designed by a team drawn from the cutting edge of youth ministry, aims to accompany young people as they develop and deepen their faith.

Church challenged to put children at its centre

The first in an eagerly-awaited series commissioned to follow the major impact of the Mission-shaped Church report has been published, hoping to extend the visionary influence of the original book to the Church's work with children.

Written by the Church's leading specialist in the field - Margaret Withers, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Officer for Evangelism among Children - Mission-shaped Children: moving towards a child-centred church surveys some of the obstacles currently preventing growth in children's work across the Church - and offers effective strategies to help overcome them.

Christian activity holidays for young people have a major spiritual impact

That is according to newly-published results from Christian Research. Nearly 800 young people were surveyed before and after a sample of 65 holidays which took place last summer. On almost every measure, their faith and practice grew significantly as a result of the holidays: they read the Bible more, their self-esteem improved, and they had greater belief in doctrines such as life after death. One in eight, 12%, had found faith on a Christian activity holiday.

Those who gained the most spiritually were the children of Christian parents in their early teenage years with little or no personal faith. The study found that holiday leaders were key to the spiritual impact of the events, and that most young people needed to come back several times to gain the full benefit. The survey was sponsored by a consortium of providers of Christian holidays. A parallel survey was also conducted of children attending Christian activity centres during term-time with their schools.

Launch of English Heritage's Inspired! Campaign welcomed

The Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres, has welcomed Inspired!, the English Heritage five point plan to assist historic places of worship. Speaking at the launch at St Mary Magdalene Paddington, the bishop said: "The funds being requested are very modest but Inspired! has set out some important principles. There is no need for any new bureaucracy to administer these funds, rather the theme is capacity building amongst those already caring for the churches. This distribution of funds through networks on the ground is an important principle and is a key part of this stitch in time approach."