



# D.E.C. & Y Network

## Diocese in Europe Children & Youth Ministry

Growing young, faithful disciples, active for God,  
and the next generation of church leaders!

# Newsletter 2

## March 2025

**Hello again from Lisbon.**

Welcome to DECAF! If you are new and just taken up working or volunteering in this important ministry, THANK YOU. We value ALL your hard work and dedication.

In this addition there is an activity for you and your young people to complete for **NICEA 1700**.

There are some reminders **as well as some useful resources for you to use and a summary of the recent research.**

***If you know someone who is not yet on the network, but should be, please do tell them to get in touch with me***



These meetings are held every 5 or 6 weeks and they are an opportunity for anyone who has a passion for, and works or volunteers with, children and young people aged 5-30, to meet other like minded people. We meet for about an hour, pray together, share stories & resources and offer training.

**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL WELCOME Joy Van Stalduin, in Rotterdam, who works with a number of chaplaincies in the Diocese and will be sharing with us about “engaging young people in hard questions!”**

**Network  
meetings**



**To join the network  
e-mail Rev Iain Bendrey**

[iain.bendrey@europe.anglican.org](mailto:iain.bendrey@europe.anglican.org)

**Our next meeting is**

**Thursday 3rd April**

**17h30wet/18h30cet/19h30eet**

## CELEBRATING NICEA

Get  
involved

The Diocese would like to put a video together of different individuals and groups reciting the Nicene creed. Either 1 line or the whole thing. **IS THIS SOMETHING YOU COULD DO WITH YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE?**

Click the link and you will be taken to the website which will give you further information about what to do <https://www.europe.anglican.org/nicene-creed-aloud>

If you do something maybe you can post it on our Facebook Page (see below) or send to me to post. **Of course, please remember to get the appropriate permissions from parents if required**

## STILL PLACES AVAILABLE - 20TH to 27th JULY

Road trip  
to Taizé



**There are still places available for anyone between 18 & 30.  
Contact Iain if you have people interested.**



### OUR VOICE MATTERS gathering

This is a gathering we are holding in PRAGUE from the 6th to 8th June. It is an opportunity for young people between 18-30, in the Eastern Archdeaconry, to get together and share their views, opinions and dreams for the future of the church. There will be an opportunity to meet with Senior staff and Bishops from the Diocese and ask questions.

**If you are in the Eastern Archdeaconry and have young people who might be interested please get in touch with Iain.**

This is a pilot which I hope to replicate in other archdeaconries.

### REGIONAL ONLINE GATHERINGS

I am still hoping to establish an online regional gathering for 14 to 18 years olds. This will give them an opportunity to talk about their experiences in Europe, the struggles they experience in their faith and how the chaplaincy, the Diocese or the National Church can support them. **Please do get in touch if you have young people that would like to take part.**

The voice  
of young people

## Do you have someone who might be interested in a future volunteering or working with children or youth?

Maybe they could consider a Future Youth internship.

This is an opportunity to spend 9 months in a chaplaincy working alongside the children and youth team, supporting their work and learning from them. There will also be national training online and in person in how to deliver successful children and youth ministry.

**FUTURE  
YOUTH**



Opportunities exist in Amsterdam, Eindhoven and Paris.  
Accommodation is provided and the Diocese offers living expenses.

**Anyone interested should contact Iain**

## DON'T FORGET TO POST ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES ON OUR DEDICATED FACEBOOK PAGE AND ENCOURGE OTHERS WITH THE WORK YOU DO .

Facebook Page [Diocese in Europe Youth Network | Facebook](#).

On the subject of resources do check out our resources page on the Diocese in Europe website: [Children & Youth Resources](#)

If you have any resources you would like to share then please e-mail me with the name and link and he can add it to the site [iain.bendrey@europe.anglican.org](mailto:iain.bendrey@europe.anglican.org)

## Social media & resources

### NATIONAL RESOURCES

Just some information and links in relation to resources that I have received about initiatives at a National Level.

### THY KINGDOM COME

**Children's resources** – 4 brand new episodes of the Cheeky Pandas- presented by CBeebies Gemma Hunt & guests- exploring different ways to pray and additional resources for use in schools, homes and at church;

**Youth resources** - including the Digital Detox Youth Prayer Journal and accompanying study guides for youth leaders/ teachers/ parents as well as content from the Way UK, including a special podcast episode / Bible study on the Lord's prayer and accompanying study plan.

Visit the website for more info <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/new-2025>

**CHURCH SUPPORT HUB** - is your chaplaincy registered with this hub which is full of ideas and resources for recruiting volunteers and delivering Children and Youth Ministry?

**Check is out here** <https://churchsupporthub.org/>

## YOUTHSCAPE RESEARCH - WHAT DO WE KNOW?

I just wanted to share with you the summary findings from the survey that was completed by chaplaincies last year in relation to Children and Youth Ministry and how this will impact out strategy moving forward.

Most chaplaincies that have at least 5 young people provide some age-specific ministry. As young people get older the numbers of chaplaincies providing ministry to them decreases. Chaplaincies seem to be providing youth ministry in response to young people attending rather than building ministries to attract new young people in

The main barriers to chaplaincies having plans to develop these ministries were either a lack of young people or a lack of workers

Less than half (43%) of chaplaincies had someone with responsibility for youth ministry

### Challenges

Young people struggle to adjust to different culture, language, bureaucracy – refugees, economic migrants, studying in Europe, GMH & Third Culture

Competing demands for young people's time – life is busy

Young people move around frequently – refugees, migrants?

Boarding school – only around during holidays not term time (seasonal attendance).

Lifestyle of young people (social ability and able to be articulate).

### Barriers

Lack of young people – where are they? Sense of no point developing CYP since there's no young people

Lack of workers – where are they? 57% chaplaincies have no designated CYP worker

Struggle to recruit volunteers? Struggle to recruit CYP workers

CYP not a strategic priority – why? Growth not a focus of chaplaincies – they don't see the CYP as key

**Join the next network meeting to find out what the plans are to try and address some of these barriers and challenges!! THURSDAY 4TH APRIL!**

## Keep in touch!

Well that is all for now. But if you have any questions, ideas for training, resources or just want to let us know what you are doing, then please keep in touch. **I would love to hear from you.**



### Rev Iain Bendrey

Head of Strategy, Children and Youth Ministry  
Young Vocations Champion

[iain.bendrey@europe.anglican.org](mailto:iain.bendrey@europe.anglican.org)



**Diocese  
in Europe**