

HOW FRIENDSHIP IS SO IMPORTANT

Ideas shared at the Where Does the Future Lie? Conference 12-11-08

A positive response resulted in an attendance of some forty five Christians from various churches meeting last Wednesday to discuss 'Where Does the Future Lie? How do we, as Christians become relevant to young people and older people in our communities?'

This opportunity was part of a 'Churches Together In Penzance area' – an evening Conference held at the Penzance YMCA.

To help us with our thinking there were two speakers, Andrew Nicholson, Cornwall Methodist Youth Enabler and Sister Peggy Boynes from the Church Army based in Bath, both introduced by the CTIP Chairman, Reverend Bob Senior

Andrew shared the various major Christian youth events which have the capacity to change young people's lives, such as:-

- attending a Taize event held in a monastery in France,
- visiting Greenbelt in Cheltenham,
- experiencing 'Soul Survivor, or 'Hill Song.'

But there are regular events in Cornwall such as:-

- those in Truro,
- the 'Revolution Youth Cafe'
- the 'Engage Festival,'
- the 'Lacey Theatre Company'

to name but a few. Andrew suggested that those interested should try the website www.kernowyouth.co.uk where much of youth worship in Cornwall is listed.

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On the other hand, Sister Peggy's interest was of older people, some of whom she described as 'drifting.' She gave us, through her wonderful humour, examples of how this 'drifting' takes place – through lack of transport, illness, loss of contacts, 'It's not like it used to be' or 'It is like it used to be', or to be socially isolated.

She suggested forming a Holiday Club (a variety of events planned for different days) for older people based in Penzance with activities geared to their needs – that way they could still sleep in their own bed at night!!.

She found that many older people are more neglected during the Summer months, but the key to all success is befriending and the creation of lasting friendships.

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